



# Backwell School Weekly Bulletin

Friday 10 October 2025

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Dear Parents, Carers, Families and Friends of Backwell School,

“The bad news is time flies. The good news is you’re the pilot.” This quote from Michael Altshuler perfectly captures the start of our year here at Backwell. It’s hard to believe that we are already at the end of Week 6 — time really has flown! Our wonderful students are truly the pilots of their own journeys, navigating each school day with positivity, energy, and ambition. They continue to uphold the world-class basics we spoke about at the start of term, dreaming big and showing kindness in all, they do. As we approach the final stretch before half term, the challenges naturally grow — energy levels dip, and the holiday feels just out of reach. Now is the time for our pilots to show self-discipline and determination, ensuring we “land” at half term in the best possible shape — with excellent attendance and the highest standards maintained across the school.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the importance of regular school attendance. Traditionally, the first few weeks of the school year see the highest attendance rates — a great foundation to build upon. While 95% attendance is considered very good, it still equates to missing 10 days of school, or around 60 lessons, over the course of a year. The impact of lower attendance, such as 90% or below, is even more significant. We ask for your continued support in helping us ensure that every child is in school, every day. By doing so, we can provide the best possible learning experiences, helping each student achieve fantastic things here at Backwell and ensuring their journey — their learning “flightpath” — remains smooth and successful. Equally important is the online safety of our students; please take a moment to read Mr Sills’ message later in this Newsletter.

This week has been full of fantastic experiences, from the stage, the kitchen with the Great Quantock Bake Off to the sports field, and even out in the mountains over the weekend. I thoroughly enjoyed watching the Oliver rehearsals on Monday — the choreography, developed in such a short time, was incredible and a testament to the students’ hard work, perseverance, and practice. Equally impressive was the singing and the accent work, transforming our Year 7 and 8 students into authentic cockney characters of the time!

On the sports front, Mr. Budd was extremely proud of the Year 9 boys football team, who triumphed 3-2 against Gordano and equally proud was Mrs Rae of the Year 9 girls who won their second round ESFA fixture 6-1. They praised both teams for showing “real character and togetherness” to overcome a very strong opponent. It is these kinds of experiences — whether on stage, on the pitch, or even on a mountain — that help our students develop skills that lessons alone cannot. If your child has not yet joined a club this term, please encourage them to explore the wide variety of after-school opportunities and give something new a try after half term!

Finally, we are excited to announce our Sixth Form Open Evening on Thursday 23rd October. Families are warmly invited to visit the school and discover everything our magnificent Sixth Form has to offer. During the evening, you will have the opportunity to hear from Miss Hayward, our Head of Sixth Form, speak with subject teachers about our courses — including exciting new options for September 2026, such as Criminology and Applied Science — and meet our current students. To allow time for setting up the site and preparing for the evening, the school will close early at 14:15 at the end of period 5. All coaches will depart at the earlier time of 14:30.

Thank you as always for your continued support and remember that it is by working together that *‘we are Backwell’*.

With warmest regards,



**Will Penny**  
Headteacher



## Book of the Week

### *Heart Breaker* By Anika Hussain

A feisty enemies-to-lovers romcom from the YA Book Prize shortlisted author of *This is How You Fall in Love*. Perfect for readers of Jenny Han, Joya Goffney and Adiba Jaigirdar!

HE BROKE HER BEST FRIEND'S HEART. NOW SAACHI PLANS TO BREAK HIS.

MAY THE BEST HEARTBREAKER WIN . . .

Saachi would do anything for her best friend. So, when school bad boy Fahim breaks Mona's heart, Saachi is hellbent on getting revenge. It's time to put him in his place once and for all.

And so, begins Operation Heartbreaker: Saachi will make Fahim fall in love with her and then pull the plug on him - just like he does to every girl he's ever dated. Simple.

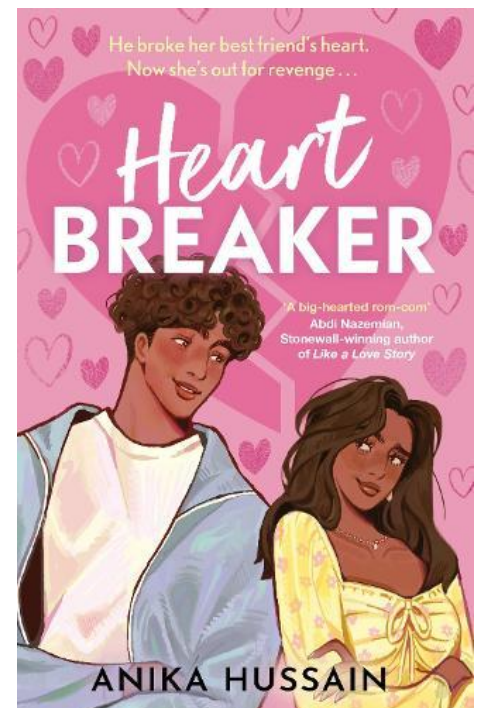
Except as she spends more time with Fahim, against her better judgement, she finds herself falling for him. Unable to talk to Mona about her mixed emotions, and with the mission veering dangerously off course, Saachi will have to embrace her role as a heartbreaker or potentially end up with her own heart broken . . .

### **Anika Hussain Author Event**

We are pleased to announce that Anika Hussain will be visiting Backwell School on Wednesday, 05 November to provide two talks with our students (Year 9 - 13). Anika will be discussing her latest books, literary journey and offering advice and tips on how to get into the literary business.

Anika is a local writer, living in Bristol and graduating from Bath Spa University and will be able to provide our students with the tools and knowledge needed to pursue their literary ambitions. Last year Anika's novel 'Desi Girl Speaking' was nominated for the Bristol Teen Book Award and was loved by multiple Backwell students who took part.

If students would like to attend a talk, please ask them to contact the library staff in person or via email [librarystaff@backwellschool.net](mailto:librarystaff@backwellschool.net). Spaces are limited so book early.



## BSA update

This Tuesday the BSA met for our AGM. We discussed the year that has just passed where we raised over £9,000 for the school through a range of activities, including bars at school events, uniform sales, quiz night, mufti day and **Easyfundraising**. In the last year, the BSA has given nearly £20,000 towards the new outdoor equipment and planting outside the new sports hall, which has been well utilised by pupils, as well as basketball hoops, books for tutor time and support for the motorbike club.

We plan to raise a lot more in the year ahead as we are supporting the student reward scheme whereby students swap green buttons for hot chocolates and the school is looking for support to fund more canopies/ outdoor shelter for students among other things.

If you can please get involved - helping on bars at school events is fun and a great way to meet other parents and is incredibly helpful for us. This involves helping at 6pm for setting up, running the bar during interval and then tidying up after.

You can also support the BSA by using **Easyfundraising** when you shop [Click here to sign up](#) – Retailers include **Amazon, Ebay, Booking.com and M&S** – if you're thinking about half term holidays, or Christmas(!), then you can raise money by going to those sites via the **Easyfundraising** app.

Contact us on [mailbox@backwellschool.net](mailto:mailbox@backwellschool.net). We have a WhatsApp group for planning if you want to be added let us know.

We hope to see you soon

Ruth MacNeill

Chair of BSA



## Year 7 Music Showcase Event

All of our year 7 families were sent a communication about the year 7 music showcase events happening in the final week of this term. If you haven't already done so, please can you complete the form below to indicate whether you will be attending.



## Lost Property

Since the start of term, we have accumulated a large amount of unnamed school uniform including 13 coats and 15 jumpers. The lost property area is located outside of student services and is easily accessible to students. Please note that any unclaimed items will be removed at the end of term.

## Quick Links

- [School Uniform and Equipment Guidance](#)
- [Financial Support](#)
- [Year 13 Key Dates](#)
- [Careers Bulletin - 10 October 2025](#)



## Letters Home This Week

- [Sixth Form Bulletin](#)
- [Year 11 - GCSE Photography Main Coursework Project](#)
- [Year 11 2025-26 Art, Craft & Design Main Coursework Project](#)
- [Year 11 - GCSE Mathematics Exam Preparation Material](#)
- [IMPORTANT PLEASE READ - Whatsapp Group Notification & Concern](#)
- [Years 10 and 11 Squash Lessons](#)
- [Years 7 and 8 Swimming Lessons](#)

## Dates for your Diary

<b>Monday 06 October</b>	School Production of Oliver – Rehearsals in DTH 15:15
<b>Tuesday 07 October</b>	Sixth Form Production of Footloose – Rehearsals in DTH 15:15 BSA Annual General Meeting – 18:30 (School Conference Room)
<b>Wednesday 08 October</b>	School Production of Oliver – Rehearsals in DTH 15:15
<b>Thursday 09 October</b>	Sixth Form Production of Footloose – Rehearsals in DTH 15:15
<b>Thursday 23 October</b>	Sixth Form Open Evening – 17:00-19:15
<b>Friday 24 October</b>	End of Term 1
<b>Monday 03 November</b>	Start of Term 2



## Backwell School Sixth Form



# OPEN EVENING

**Thursday 23 October 2025 5pm - 7.15pm**

Arrive anytime between 5pm and 6.45pm

Visit curriculum areas, meet teachers and current students, seek advice from the Sixth Form Team

Presentation from Sixth Form Leadership Team at 5pm and 6pm



Application Deadline 5 December 2025

Visit our school website [www.backwellschool.net](http://www.backwellschool.net) for more information

## We hope you enjoy our 10 top reasons to choose Backwell Sixth Form



### 10 Reasons To Choose Backwell Sixth Form



#### 1. Expert Teachers

Every teacher at Backwell Sixth Form is a subject specialist.

They are experts but they are also approachable: "I really like that teachers treat us like adults in the sixth form. They go out of their way to help us at lunch time and respond quickly via email. The lessons are really interesting and enjoyable." Meredith, Head student.

#### 2. Flexible Days

'Study Periods' and 'Home Study' give sixth formers the freedom to choose when and where they get their work done.

Students can go to the local shops or study at home, our fantastic transport links make it possible even if you don't live close to the school.

#### 3. Sixth Form Facilities

The library is sixth form only during lesson time, the common room, where the canteen is open all day, is reserved for sixth formers only and the sixth form building has its own classrooms, study room and state-of-the-art music studio.

#### 4. Independence

At Backwell Sixth Form, your independence is respected.

There is no school uniform and your privileges extend to other areas, such as use of mobile phones and access to wifi across the school site.

#### 5. Community

Years 12 and 13 form one community. Fun and competition are combined in events like 'University Challenge' and the 'Paarlauf', where sixth formers dress proudly in purple, pink and orange to represent their Houses (which are Rock, Paper, Scissors!)



### 10 Reasons To Choose Backwell Sixth Form



#### 6. Leadership Opportunities

Student leadership matters here. You can join committees focused on areas such as diversity, charity and the environment or on social and sporting events. You can train to be a Peer Educator or even work with the Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form as part of the Head Student team.

#### 7. Performance

There are so many opportunities to get involved in performance be it music, sport or drama, the sixth form Production is the highlight. Every year, students put on a show that they have planned, rehearsed and directed themselves to raise money for a charity of their choice.

#### 8. Trips and Events

From the Sixth Form Ball to the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award, there are many opportunities that you will remember at Backwell Sixth Form. Some highlights are even part of your subject studies, for example the History trip to Berlin or the Biology trip to We the Curious.






#### 9. Support

Students have a dedicated team of staff that support them in many aspects of their Sixth Form lives and beyond. Students tell us that they feel confident approaching their Head of Year for academic or wellbeing support. Our Careers advisor, Mrs Ball, works closely with the Sixth Form Team and will meet with every student to provide independent advice for Future Plans.

#### 10. Results & Destinations

Year on year, our students attain excellent results and go on to exciting destinations. There is expert tailored support alongside a variety of Careers related events and activities whichever post-18 choice you are considering: Apprenticeship, Gap Year, University, Oxbridge, Medicine/ Veterinary Science or any other pathway.

## Catering Menu for Week commencing – Monday, 13 October

STREATERIES		LUNCH MENU				ASPENS
		TRADITIONAL				
<b>WEEK 2</b> 28/04/25, 19/05/25, 09/06/25, 30/06/25, 21/07/25, 11/08/25, 01/09/25, 22/09/25, 13/10/25		 <b>MON</b>	 <b>TUE</b>	 <b>WED</b>	 <b>THU</b>	 <b>FRI</b>
<b>MAINS</b>		Smoky Beef Enchilada with Sour Cream	Classic Chicken Pie	Glazed Gammon Roast, Yorkshire Pudding with Gravy	Mild Chicken Korma with Steamed Rice	Choose from: Battered Fish Sausage or Veg Sausage (battered or plain) ✓ Margherita Pizza ✓ Chicken Nuggets Chips ✓
<b>SIDES</b>		Smoky Bean Fajitas ✓ with Sour Cream	Honey & Thyme Glazed Veggie Bangers ✓	Open Cheese & Potato Pie with Crispy Garlic & Onion Crumb ✓	Vegetable & Chickpea Korma ✓	Minty Peas, Baked Beans, Gravy or Curry Sauce ✓
		Corn Salsa Salad Sweet Potato Fries	Mashed Potato Seasonal Vegetables	Skin on Garlic Roasties Roasted Root Vegetables	Steamed Rice Coconut Green Beans	
		ITALIAN TOMATO PASTA DAILY	- PASTA & NOODLE POTS -		ITALIAN TOMATO PASTA DAILY	
		BROCCOLI, SPINACH, PEA & PESTO (PASTA)	CHINESE CHICKEN CURRY (NOODLES)	CLASSIC CARBONARA (PASTA)	SWEET & SOUR VEG (NOODLES)	PROTEIN LEAN CHICKEN BOLOGNESE (PASTA)
<b>DELI KITCHEN</b> HOT GRAB & GO		FRENCH CROQUE PIZZA SLICE	SWEET CHILLI CHICKEN & EDAMAME BURRITO	TIKKA BUTTERMILK CRUNCH WINGS	ORIGINAL CHICKEN WRAP	CRISPY CHICKEN BURGER
<b>BIG BOWL SALAD</b>		CAJUN PASTA & ROASTED SUMMER VEGETABLE	CAJUN PASTA & ROASTED SUMMER VEGETABLE	JERK CHICKEN & PINEAPPLE	JERK CHICKEN & PINEAPPLE	SALAD SPECIAL
<b>DESSERTS</b>		Aspens Cookies	Treacle Sponge & Custard	Brookie (Brownie Cookie Mix)	Apple Crumble & Custard	Marble Cake
Daily Meal Deals Regular Chef's Specials		DAILY - JACKET POTATOES - BEANS - CHEESE - TUNA MAYO OR SIMPLY PLAIN		Freshly Made from Scratch <b>DAILY!</b>	Fresh Cut Fruit & Yogurt Pots Available Daily	HANDCRAFTED DELI SANDWICHES, BAGUETTES, WRAPS, SALADS & MORE!

