



# Backwell School Weekly Bulletin

Friday 24 October 2025

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

Half term is here! As with any holiday, this is a welcome opportunity to pause, reflect, and recharge after what has been another busy and rewarding term. Over the past eight weeks, there has been so much to celebrate, and looking back at all that has featured in our newsletters reminds me just how much our school community has achieved together.

Some of that reflection came while watching the magnificent Year 7 Concert this week—a wonderful showcase of talent and collaboration, with Year 10 GCSE Music students supporting our newest performers. It continued during last night’s vibrant Sixth Form Open Evening, where we proudly shared all that our Sixth Form has to offer.

Above all, my main feeling has been one of pride—pride in everything we have accomplished as a community. From success on the stage and the sports fields to adventures in the Welsh mountains and local hills, from department trips such as Geography and Business Studies to the rich cultural exchange with our visiting Spanish students and teachers—there has been so much to celebrate. Add to that the more than 10,500 lessons delivered by our dedicated teaching staff, and the ongoing improvements to our school site (the new astroturf is only weeks away!), and it’s clear that this has been a term full of growth, energy, and achievement.

At the end of last week, we were delighted to host a School Experience Day for individuals considering a career in teaching—whether as their first step after university or as a new professional direction. We are always proud to offer these opportunities, as they allow us to showcase the excellent teaching and learning that take place every day here at Backwell. The feedback from our visitors was truly heartwarming and reflected both the energy and enthusiasm of our students and the dedication of our staff. Comments such as, *“I can’t believe the range of exciting activities that take place in just one lesson,”* *“Speaking to the students was a real pleasure—they clearly love this school,”* and *“The staff and students have been so welcoming—thank you,”* capture the vibrant spirit of our school community.

As Headteacher, hearing such comments fills me with immense pride in everything that makes Backwell such a special place.

This term, I have often spoken to students about the importance of “*grasping opportunities*” as they arise, both in and out of school, while also encouraging them to “*dream big.*” This week has been a perfect example, with many students seizing opportunities and receiving recognition for their achievements beyond the classroom. We are incredibly proud of Aoife (Year 11), who has been invited to represent The Girls’ Brigade England and Wales at the National Cenotaph Remembrance Parade in London on Sunday 9th November—we’ll be watching during the coverage of the event! Equally, we celebrate Isobel (Year 11), who has been selected for the Bristol City Women’s Football Club U21 Squad, reflecting her dedication and talent on the field.

It was also wonderful to hear from one of our alumni, Max C-S, who left us last year. A few weeks ago, Max won the UK Windsurfing Nationals in both the Under-19 and overall senior adult categories. This week, he is proudly representing the UK at the European IQ Foil Championships in North Sardinia. What an incredible achievement! And secondly, congratulations to Holly B who has been selected in the England Under 18 rugby training camps in London this month. We hope to see Holly representing England in the Six Nations later this year. We are all so proud of them both and wish them the very best for the future.

Finally, to everyone who attended our Sixth Form Open Evening last night—thank you. These evenings give us the opportunity to celebrate and share everything that Backwell offers our Sixth Form students. This includes our broad and exciting range of subjects, with new courses coming in September 2026 such as Criminology, Applied Science, and Politics. It’s also a chance for parents to gain a better understanding of the support available to students during this next phase of their education, from pastoral care and careers advice to the wide variety of extra-curricular opportunities. These include local and international subject trips, such as visits to Berlin and France, a ski trip to Italy, University Experience Days, and collaborations with other Sixth Forms in the Lighthouse Trust—offering an unrivalled experience in the local area. For more information about the courses on offer, our Sixth Form Course Guide can be found [here](#).

Thank you, as always, for your continued support—we simply couldn’t achieve all that we do without it. It’s by working together that truly “*we are Backwell.*” Wishing you all a wonderful half term—stay safe, enjoy the break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 3rd November, ready and raring for Term 2!

With warmest regards



**Will Penny**  
Headteacher

*Our Year 7 students performing at their Musical Showcase earlier this week*





### **Backwell Sixth Form - Wear it Pink!**

On Wednesday 22 October, our Sixth Form students decided to 'Wear it Pink'. The Charity Committee organised a Bake Sale raising funds for Breast Cancer Research, selling sweet treats with a 'PINK' theme. Many students took part to show their support and spread awareness



Today our Sixth Form students, along with our Sixth form team have adorned fancy dress to celebrate the end of term 1 and all things Halloween dress up! Funds were raised towards Sixth Form events such as the end of year celebration ball.

Groups were dressed up in several themes including Toys Story characters, The Barden Bella's from Pitch Perfect, Super Mario Bros...

We even spotted our Head of Sixth Form, Miss Haywood looking fabulous as Maleficent

## Backwell V Nailsea Netball Fixture

Congratulations to our Netball teams from Years 7, 8 and 9 who won all their recent fixtures against Nailsea School. This is a brilliant start to the school year.

Players of the match were as follows:

- Year 7 – Bea D
- Year 8 – Fatima E
- Year 9 – Meg P



## Somerset Cup – Year 8 Football

Congratulations to our Year 8 boys Football team, who beat Worle CSA on Tuesday, with a finishing score of 6-2. Goals scored from Jude H (3); Sam W (2) and Sam F. The team are in the last 16 of the Somerset Cup, with the next round at home later in the year.

## Alumni Success

Having completed A-Levels studies this summer, former student, Max C-S recently won the UK Windsurfing National Competition (both Under 19s & adult categories).

This week Max is representing the UK in the European IQ Foil Championships in Northern Sardinia, which runs all week and finishes this Sunday. We wish Max every success this week and for his future. We look forward to hearing all about your future successes.



## Alumni Success

Holly B left Backwell in the summer, having completed her GCSE studies.

Holly has joined Hartpury College to pursue further studies in Sports. Having always been a highly talented sports person, it was great to hear that Holly has settled in well at Hartpury and has been selected into the England U18 Rugby Camps. The first of these has taken place this month in London.

Holly should be playing in the U18 Six Nations Rugby competition in Spring 2026.

We are so proud of Holly's success and wish her the best of luck for her future. We look forward to seeing her on the pitch and hearing more about her future success!



## Reminder - Year 11 Trial Exams

Families of Year 11 students, please be reminded to read the letter regarding [Year 11 trial exams](#). These will be taking place from Monday 10 November to Monday 24 November, mornings only. These exams play a crucial role in preparing the students for their real GCSE exams in the summer and students should be preparing for these using the revision techniques taught at school to best prepare themselves for the exams in the next few weeks. All Year 11 home learning will be subject specific revision-based activities, until the end of these trial exams.

Students will be given this information in upcoming SMSC lessons and via their tutor. A PowerPoint with key reminders will also be available on Frog.

## Student Council – Term 1

The Student Council held its first meeting on the 9th of October. The team of 2025-2026 was able to meet one another and discuss our previous agenda which included feedback on rewarding attendance and ideas for future charity fundraisers. Representatives from Aspens (the school food provider) came to our meeting and asked for feedback on improvements in their food especially any ideas for new breakfast options. This created a lot of important discussions including favourite food items that were discontinued, increasing variety and how to cater for different dietary requirements. Our council decided on the new plan for this academic year which included the Sixth Form members sharing a proposal for a charity fundraising week in term 3. There is an action outstanding for the Lower School to come up with a proposal for a charity event that could be run by students.  
Meredith H – Joint Chair and Head Student

## Clevedon District Foodbank

The local foodbank is looking ahead to Christmas and is welcoming donations to help make the festive season special for families who may be struggling across the district. You can find details of the suggested items for donation on their website [here](#), and donations can be dropped off at any of their foodbank centres in Portishead, Clevedon, Nailsea or Yatton or at the donation points in many local supermarkets.



## Anika Hussain Author Event

Thank you to all students who have signed up to attend a talk with the author, Anika Hussain. We still have some spaces available on the session for Sixth Form students to join.

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.



Please contact the library staff in person or via email [librarystaff@backwellschool.net](mailto:librarystaff@backwellschool.net). Spaces are limited so book early.

## Reminder - Christmas Community Choir

Many thanks to those students, staff and families who have already signed up to join the Christmas Community Choir.

Mr Clarke from the Music Department is inviting the Backwell School Community to join a brand-new Christmas Charity Choir. This opportunity is open to any interested students and their parents/carers/siblings who may like to take part.

The choir has been invited to perform between 11am and 12pm in Crown Glass Shopping Centre, Nailsea on **Saturday 20th December** to raise money for Cancer Research UK. They

will team up with the Nowhere Fundraisers for CRUK (Cancer Research UK) and the U3A Music for Fun Group.

There will be just 3 rehearsals with a band on the following dates at Backwell School:

- 1| **Tuesday 18 November at 6pm**
- 2| **Wednesday 10 December at 6pm**
- 3| **Thursday 18 December at 6pm**

Ideally, it would be great for anyone interested to commit to all 3 rehearsals but at least 2 if possible.

We're considering some more contemporary festive music such as:

- Songs from Nativity (the film)
- Somewhere in my Memory (from Home Alone)
- Candy Cane Lane or Snowman by Sia
- Cold December Night by Michael Buble

If this is something you'd like to get involved in, please complete this form to express an interest!

## Christmas Community Choir Form



### **Reminder – Student Absence and Appointments**

All absence messages notifying us of illness or medical appointments should be emailed to [absence@backwellschool.net](mailto:absence@backwellschool.net). This will help us ensure they are viewed in a timely manner and actioned appropriately. Emails sent to the mailbox address will be forwarded, but this may not be until later in the school day.

Please be advised that for our Year 7 students, we ask they are met at main reception (by the parent/carer collecting them) for any appointments and are signed out.

Please be aware - For any student leaving site early/during the school day, the gates at the rear of the school towards the leisure centre will not be open, all students must be leave via the main gate (Station Road entrance).

Many thanks for your continuing support with this.

## Quick Links

- [School Uniform and Equipment Guidance](#)
- [Financial Support](#)
- [Careers Bulletin - 24 October 2025](#)

## Letters Home This Week

- [Sixth Form Bulletin](#)
- [Year 11 Trial Exams](#)
- [Key Stage 3 - Design technology Contribution](#)

## Dates for your Diary

<b>Monday 03 November</b>	Start of Term 2 School Production of 'Oliver!' Rehearsals 15:15-17:00
<b>Tuesday 04 November</b>	Sixth Form Production Rehearsals 15:15-17:00
<b>Wednesday 05 November</b>	School Production of 'Oliver!' Rehearsals 15:15-17:00
<b>Thursday 06 November</b>	Sixth Form Production Rehearsals 15:15-17:00
<b>Monday 10 November</b>	Year 11 Trial Exams begin

## Catering Menu for Week commencing – Monday, 03 November

**STREATERIES** LUNCH MENU: TRADITIONAL

WEEK 1 Autumn Winter 2025/26  
03/11/25, 24/11/25, 15/12/25, 05/01/26, 26/01/26, 16/02/26, 05/03/26, 30/03/26

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
<b>SCANDI KITCHEN</b> Swedish Style Meatballs in Gravy with Cranberry Jam	<b>ASIAN</b> Char Siu Roast Pork with Chinese Style Curry Sauce	<b>Home STYLE</b> Roast Chicken & Thyme Toad in the Hole	<b>AMERICAN Diner</b> Aspens Hand Pressed Beef Burger, Caramelised Onion & Mac Sauce	<b>Chips &amp; More</b> Choose from: Battered Fish Sausage or Veg Sausage Pizza Slice Chicken Nuggets Chips
<b>MAINS</b>				
<b>SIDES</b>				
Summerset Apple, Leek & Bean Stew	Chinese Style Vegetable Curry	Veggie Banger Toad in the Hole	Cheese & Onion Burger with Smoky Tomato Relish	Garden Peas or Baked Beans Irish Curry Sauce Chip Shop Gravy
Creamy Mash, Peas & Green Beans	Steamed Rice & Wok Fried Veggies	Roasties, Smashed Honey Parsnips & Seasonal Greens	Roasted Root Veg Wedges & Green Salad	
<b>PASTA &amp; NOODLE POTS</b>	Chinese Style Char Siu Chicken in Chinese BBQ Topped Noodles	Best Ever Bolognese	Classic Meatball Pasta	Classic Veggie Chow Mein
<b>DELI HOT</b>	Southern Chicken Strips Wrap	Macaroni Pizza Slice	BBQ Pink Onion Deli Dog	Classic Pepperoni
<b>LOADED SPUDS</b>				
<b>FILLINGS</b>	Swedish Meatball	Chinese Style Curry Char Siu Pork	BBQ Beans & Pink Onion	Cheese, Caramelised Onion & Mac Sauce
<b>BIG BOWL SALAD</b>	Avocado Super Green Salad	Avocado Chicken Caesar	Quinoa Superfood Bowl	Grain & Seed Health Bowl
<b>DESSERTS</b>	Chai Spiced Baked Rice Pudding	Lemon Meringue Apple Crumble & Custard	Aspens Toffee Cookies	Apple Tart Tatin & Custard
Daily Meal Deals Regular Chef's Specials	Freshly Made from Scratch <b>DAILY!</b>	Fresh Cut Fruit & Yogurt Pots Available Daily	HANDCRAFTED DELI SANDWICHES, BAGUETTES, WRAPS, SALADS & MORE!	<b>DELI KITCHEN</b> HOT GRAB & GO

[ASPENS Menu - Winter 2025-2026](#)

Click on the above link to see the menu in full on our website

## Events, Clubs and Course in our Community



# Codingbug

*Inspiring the next generation of coders and makers*



### Python club

Learn to code in Python while building games, apps, and real-world projects. Master problem-solving skills that boost creativity and confidence. Explore AI and machine learning, including coding with powerful language models — skills that open doors to future careers.

Suitable for students in Years 7-11

### ONLINE PYTHON CLUB

MONDAYS after school from 5 - 6 pm

Scan to book



### IN PERSON PYTHON CLUB

WEDNESDAYS after school from 5 - 6 pm at Hangstones Pavilion, Yatton

Scan to book



## codingbug.co.uk

Email: [info@codingbug.co.uk](mailto:info@codingbug.co.uk) or call 07909 226520



[facebook.com/codingbug/](https://facebook.com/codingbug/)