



Backwell School Weekly Bulletin



Friday 07 November 2025

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

Welcome back to Term 2! I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable half-term break, and that you and your families are ready for the challenges and excitement that the coming weeks will bring.

As always, it's remarkable how much we manage to fit into this next half term. Over the next six weeks we have Year 11 and 13 trial exams, school performances in both the Main School and Sixth Form, the (hopefully!) first use of our new astroturf pitch, a full calendar of sports fixtures, school trips, author visits, fundraising events, and music concerts—as well as opportunities to support our local community. With so much happening, I would also like to remind families of the wide range of clubs and activities that take place after school each week. Please do encourage your child to get involved—our learning and development certainly do not stop at 15:10!

Next week marks National Anti-Bullying Week, with the theme '*Power for Good*'. It has been wonderful to see our students embracing this message so positively as the school has clicked back into top gear. There is so much good happening across our classrooms every day. I was lucky enough to witness a real “wow” moment in Year 7 Design Technology when students used the belt sander for the very first time—their excitement was infectious! The same energy can be seen across Science lessons, where students are testing reactions, and in Photography, where students are developing and proudly sharing their portfolios. Their enthusiasm and curiosity perfectly reflect the *Power for Good* theme.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the extensive support systems in place for any student facing challenges. Support begins with your child's tutor and extends to their House or Year team, as well as to our SEND department and wider pastoral teams. Please don't hesitate to share any concerns so that, as a school community, we can truly live out the idea of being a *Power for Good*.

This week I met with Councillor Bridget Petty and Abbie Edbrooke from the Somerset County Council Sustainable Travel and Road Safety Team to discuss ways to improve the safety of journeys to and from school. We will share more information in the coming weeks, but in the meantime, I would like to ask all parents who drive their child to school to drop them off safely and considerately, being mindful of our neighbours and local roads. If possible, consider dropping your child a little further from school so they can enjoy a short walk and some fresh air before the day begins. For those students who walk or cycle, please ensure they can be seen—especially as the mornings and afternoons get darker. Cyclists should wear bright clothing, use working lights, and wear helmets. When crossing roads, please encourage the use of designated safe crossing points.

Can I take a moment to remind everyone of the importance of excellent attendance. Being in school every day makes a huge difference to your child's education and progress. To put it into perspective: a 95% attendance rate across the first two terms—around 70 days of school—means a student will have missed 3½ days or 21 lessons. Every missed lesson impacts learning. During the half term, I came across a quote from NFL coach Bill Walsh that really resonated with me: *"The most underrated skill in life is to keep showing up, even when you don't feel like it."* Please continue to support your child in *showing up* each day. If they do, they will achieve wonderful things at this great school—and they'll also be developing one of life's most valuable skills.

If you have a child in Year 11 then please remember that our Sixth Form application process is now open. The course guide, which includes exciting new subjects from September such as Criminology, Applied Science, and Politics, is available on our [website](#). Please take some time to explore the guide and discover more about the first-class Sixth Form experience that we are proud to offer here at Backwell School.

As we approach Remembrance Day this weekend, I hope everyone takes a moment to pause, reflect, and honour those who have served and sacrificed in conflicts past and present. This time of year, is always a poignant reminder of the importance of remembering those who gave so much so that we may live in peace today, as well as of those who continue to serve in the armed forces around the world. On Tuesday, we will hold a short act of remembrance, including a two-minute silence, to pay our respects as a school community. I would also like to extend my thanks to all students taking part in local Remembrance Services over the weekend and on Tuesday, and to members of our local Combined Cadet Force groups, who continue to provide such valuable experiences and opportunities for our young people.

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*."

With warmest regards,



Will Penny
Headteacher



The poster features a blue and yellow color scheme with various icons like lightning bolts and arrows. At the top left is the Anti-Bullying Alliance logo. At the top right, it says 'With the support of' followed by the 'Andy and the Odd Socks' logo. The main text reads 'This ANTI-BULLYING WEEK we are holding ODD SOCKS DAY on MONDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2025'. Below this is the 'Odd Socks Day' logo with a large 'O' and a pair of socks. To the right, it says 'Come to school wearing your odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique!'. A yellow arrow points to the text 'If you're worried about bullying you can speak to ...'. Another yellow arrow points to the hashtags '#OddSocksDay', '#AntiBullyingWeek', and '#PowerForGood'. At the bottom, there is a photo of five diverse young people in a band setting. The footer contains logos for the Anti-Bullying Alliance, Power for Good, and Andy and the Odd Socks, along with small text about the National Children's Bureau.

ANTI-BULLYING ALLIANCE

With the support of **Andy and the Odd Socks**

This **ANTI-BULLYING WEEK** we are holding

ODD SOCKS DAY on
MONDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2025

Odd Socks Day

Come to school wearing your odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique!

If you're worried about bullying you can speak to ...

#OddSocksDay
#AntiBullyingWeek
#PowerForGood

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ANTI-BULLYING ALLIANCE

POWER FOR GOOD

Andy and the Odd Socks

Children in Need – Friday 14 November 2025

Next Friday, we will be helping to fundraise towards Children in Need. Year 7 and 8 will be hosting a Bake Sale in DTH during lunchtime and students will have the opportunity to purchase CIN merchandise, such as Pudsey pin badges, pens and wristbands.

Cotswold House will be hosting a fundraising Bake Sale and Chocolate Raffle for students in Years 9-11. This event will be held in **Cotswold Common Room** at lunchtime on Friday.

We would like to encourage all students in Years 9-11 to bake/buy a contribution for the bake sale. Please bring donations to your year group/house office on Friday morning (before tutor time).

Prices will be £1 per slice of cake and £1 entry to the chocolate raffle!

Our Sixth Form students will be wearing onesies and PJs to school for the day. ***Sixth Form donations can be made via your ParentPay account from today.***

All students will receive more information regarding the fundraisers in their tutor times, next week.



Please remind all students to bring some cash to school to take part in the fundraising events!

Thank you for your support 😊



Clevedon District Foodbank Christmas Appeal – Together with Trussell



Clevedon District
Foodbank
Together with Trussell

Christmas appeal



Help support your food bank this Christmas

Thank you for supporting the foodbank.
Please drop off your donations by 1st December.

Donate food



Donate an item or two from our shopping list, ensuring we can provide food for people facing hardship in your community.

Donate money



Help to cover the costs of storing and distributing food, as well as developing sustainable projects.

Shopping list

- Tinned Fruit
- Hot Chocolate
- Christmas Cake
- Christmas Biscuits
- Mince Pies dated after 25th Dec
- Selection Boxes
- Sweets / Chocolates
- Tinned Salmon
- Cranberry Sauce
- Tinned Ham

www.clevedondistrict.foodbank.org.uk



Registered Charity in England & Wales 1163153

We are collecting donations for the local Foodbank Christmas Appeal. We very much hope you will join us in supporting this essential local service. Please see the list of requested/desired items above. Please send your donations in with your student and ask them to bring them to their Year group/House office before the 01 December. These will then be collected and delivered to the Clevedon District Foodbank. Further information will be given to students in tutor time and on the Frog platform.

To make a financial donation, please click on the following link:

<https://clevedondistrict.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/more-than-food/donate-money/>

Thank you in advance for your continuing support.

Reminder - Year 11 Trial Exams

Trial exams for Year 11 students start on Monday, 10 November until Monday, 24 November (mornings only). Please ensure you have read the [Year 11 Trial Exams letter](#). These exams play a crucial role in preparing the students for their real GCSE exams in the summer and students should continue to prepare for these using the revision techniques taught at school.

Use of AI in assessments/coursework/NEA components - For parents/carers of Y10-13 students

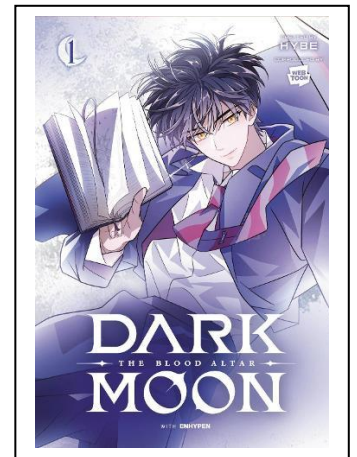
Please click on the link to read the attached information about the use and misuse of AI in assessments

It is very important that all students and their parents/carers are fully aware and follow these regulations regarding the use of AI: [JCQ-AI and Assessments Guide for students](#)

Book of the week

Dark Moon: The Blood Altar

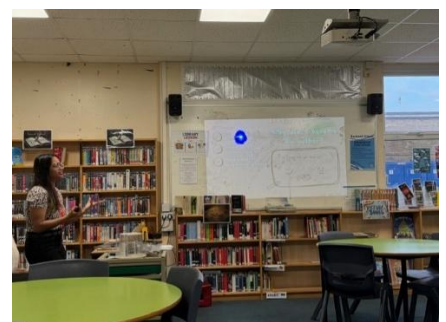
The seven most popular boys at Decelis Academy all share a secret—they're vampires. Keeping their identities concealed and dealing with their werewolf rivals is trouble enough, but the appearance of a mysterious new student only further complicates things. The girl, Sooha, also has hidden powers, and the boys can't help but feel an inexplicable attraction to her. As Sooha and the vampires find themselves increasingly drawn toward each other, murky pasts and intertwined futures threaten to turn their world upside down. Just what fate awaits them under the dark moon...?



Author Visit – Anika Hussain

This week students from Year 9 - Year 13 were treated to a visit by local author Anika Hussain.

Hussain, known for 'Desi Girl Speaking' and her new novel 'Heart Breaker' spoke to students about her journey as an author and offered advice and tips for students who want to get into the world of writing. Backwell School library would like to express thanks to Anika for illuminating their knowledge on the publishing industry and encouraging students to delve into the world of writing, even if they think they can't.



Reminder - Christmas Community Choir

Many thanks to those who have already signed up to join the Christmas Community Choir. We would like to have a few more students and their families join us for this uplifting seasonal event.

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](#)

Quick Links

- [School Uniform and Equipment Guidance](#)
- [Financial Support](#)
- [Careers Bulletin - Friday 07 November 2025](#)

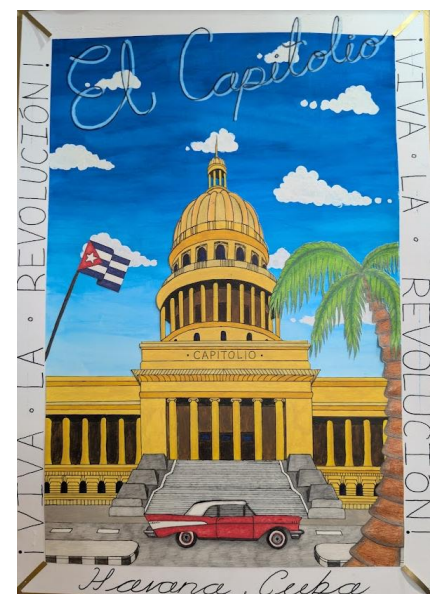
Letters Home This Week

- [Sixth Form Bulletin](#)
- [Year 11 Philosophy and Religion Trip to Backwell Baptist Church](#)
- [Year 10 - NHS work experience opportunity](#)
- [Year 10 GCSE Drama trip to see 'To Kill a Mockingbird' at Theatre Royal, Bath - Weds 19 Nov 2025](#)

Dates for your Diary

Monday 10 November	Odd Socks Day – Wear Odd Socks to school in support of Anti-Bullying Week Year 11 Trial Exams begin School Production of 'Oliver!' Rehearsals 15:15-17:00
Tuesday 11 November	Sixth Form Production Rehearsals 15:15-17:00
Wednesday 12 November	School Production of 'Oliver!' Rehearsals 15:15-17:00
Thursday 13 November	Sixth Form Production Rehearsals 15:15-17:00
Friday 14 November	Children in Need Fundraising Day – See attached information
Wednesday 19 November	Inset day – No students in school
Monday 08 December	Flu vaccines in School – Years 7-11 inclusive
Tuesday 09 December	Flu vaccines in School – Years 7-11 inclusive

Over the next few weeks, we hope to bring you some of our artwork from the 2025 exam season. Today we have the first of our GCSE contributions. We are sure you will agree we have some incredibly talented artists at Backwell School.

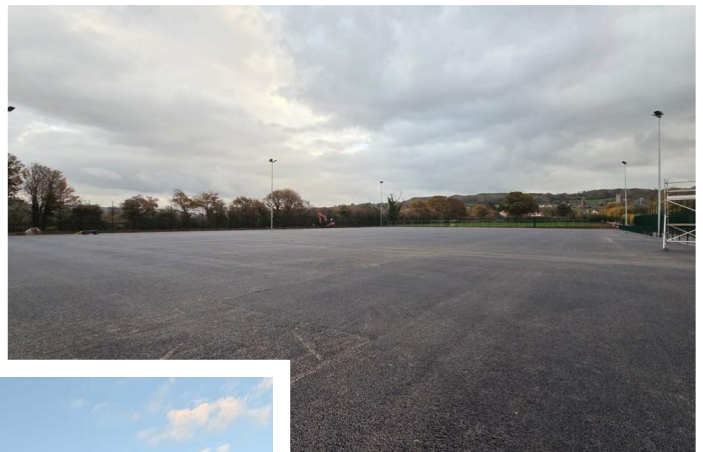


☀️ Exciting News – Our New Astroturf Is Almost Ready! ☀️

We're thrilled to share that our brand-new astroturf is nearing completion! With the shock pad and carpet phase now ready to commence, the transformation is really taking shape.

A huge thank you to the amazing team at **S & C Slatter** for their hard work and dedication throughout the project — their efforts have been outstanding.

This fantastic new facility will be a huge asset to our school, enhancing our PE curriculum and providing even more opportunities for our pupils to enjoy sport and extra-curricular activities. We can't wait to see our students – and the wider local community – making the most of this wonderful new space very soon!



Catering Menu for Week commencing:

Monday, 10 November

ASPENS Menu - Winter 2025-2026

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

STREATERIES

LUNCH MENU:
TRADITIONAL

WEEK 2
Autumn Winter 2025/26
10/11/25, 01/12/25,
22/12/25, 12/01/26,
02/02/26, 23/02/26,
16/03/26

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
MAINS	Peri Chicken & Macho Pea Pasta Bake Chilli Lime Aioli	Honey Mustard Glazed British Bangers with Roasted Red Onion	Slow Roast Garlic & Rosemary Pork with Apple Stuffing	Chicken Tikka Balti Curry	Choose from: Battered Fish Sausage or Veg Sausage Pizza Slice (V) Chicken Nuggets Chips
SIDES	Peri Crispy Chickpea & Butterbean Pasta Bake (V)	Honey Mustard Glazed Veggie Bangers with Roasted Red Onion (V)	Cauliflower & Broccoli Cheesy Bake (V)	Butternut Tomato Chilli Masala (V)	Garden Peas or Baked Beans Irish Curry Sauce Chip Shop Gravy
PASTA & NOODLE POTS	Zesty Dressed Roast Broccoli (V)	Leek Mashed Potatoes, Mushy Peas & Gravy (V)	Roasties, Savoy Cabbage & Cauliflower (V)	Garlic Rice, Roasted Cauliflower & Green Beans (V)	
	Thai Green Vegetable Noodles	Best Ever Bolognese	Classic Meatball Pasta	Classic Veggie Chow Mein	Super Green Lentil Pesto
DELI HOT	BBQ & Crispy Onion Wings	Crispy Chicken Burger	Thai Curry Pizza Slice	Curried Chicken & Spinach Wrap	Cheesy Chips
	- CHEESE, BEANS & TUNA DAILY - LOADED SPUDS - CHEESE, BEANS & TUNA DAILY -				
FILLINGS	Spicy Peri Chicken & Cheese	Bolognese	Meatball Marinara	Chicken Tikka Balti	All The Classics
BIG BOWL SALAD	Zesty Kale & Tandoori Chickpea	Indian Chickpea Greens & Mint Yoghurt	American Style Cobb Salad	Honey Mustard Chicken Cobb Salad	Special Salad
DESSERTS	Cinnamon Raisin Oat Cookie	Banana Sticky Toffee Pudding & Custard	Custard Tart	Coconut & Pineapple Upside Down Cake	Cheesecake Cookie Slice

Daily Meal Deals
Regular
Chef's Specials

Freshly Made from Scratch
DAILY!

Fresh Cut Fruit
& Yogurt Pots
Available Daily

HANDCRAFTED DELI
SANDWICHES, BAGUETTES,
WRAPS, SALADS & MORE!

DELI KITCHEN

HOT GRAB & GO

Looking for a flexible, casual hours role during school term?

**We are expanding our pool of
Exam Invigilators**

£14.40 an hour including holiday pay

Full training provided.

We are looking for people who can commit to a minimum of 6 sessions per week during exam periods (where 1 session is a morning or afternoon)



Visit the Backwell School vacancy page for full details & application portal.

Exam Invigilator jobs

We are expanding our pool of Exam Invigilators here at Backwell School.

We are looking for people who can offer sessions during the key exam periods which are mainly in May and June each year, but also currently in November, December, January and March.

Visit our school vacancy page here to see full details and make an application

<https://www.eteach.com/careers/backwellschool/job/exam-invigilator-1516388/?lang=en-GB>

Events, Clubs and Course in our Community



Are you a separated parent?

Struggling to agree on arrangements for your children?

Finding it difficult to sort out family time?

Child contact centres can help

NACCC-accredited child contact centres offer safe, welcoming, and neutral spaces where children from separated families can spend time with a parent or family members they no longer live with. They are child centred environments that put the needs of children first.

How are contact visits arranged?

Many centres accept referrals directly from parents. Alternatively, your solicitor, family mediator, or another professional can make the referral on your behalf. Please contact your local child contact centre or visit www.naccc.org.uk for more information.

Your nearest centre is:

**North Somerset
Child Contact Centre
(Nailsea and Clevedon)**
07749 712699
nsomcontactcentre@gmail.com

What are contact centres for?

Families use child contact centres for many reasons, including:

- Reducing children's exposure to conflict
- Rebuilding or maintaining important family relationships
- Providing a stepping stone towards shared parenting
- Supporting arrangements when parents can't agree
- Re-establishing family time after a break
- Enabling contact when parents can't or don't want to meet face-to-face

Scan the following code to find us online



The National Association of Child Contact Centres (NACCC).

Tel: 0115 948 4557 • Email: contact@naccc.org.uk

Web: www.naccc.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 1078636

