



Backwell School Weekly Bulletin



Friday 14th November 2025

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

Another busy and exciting week has flown by here at Backwell School!

Our Head Student Team has truly stepped into the spotlight this week, leading assemblies across our Houses and Year Groups. They shared their vision for the year ahead, focusing on two key goals firstly, bringing fresh energy to the school's fundraising efforts and secondly, encouraging every student to connect, share ideas, and collaborate to make Backwell School an even better place for all. We are thrilled about their new initiative — “Raising and Giving Week (RAG Week)” — which will take place next term. Watch this space for more information as the excitement builds!

The team also touched on an area that I am developing during the first half of this year: the creation of our Backwell School Values.

These values will sit at the heart of everything we do — guiding behaviour and decision-making, promoting a positive culture, and preparing our students for life beyond school. Whilst being directly linked to our statement: “We are Backwell.”

Staff have already discussed their ideas and shortlisted seven potential values. Now, we would love to hear from you! Please take a few minutes to share your views by completing our [Microsoft Form](#), ranking the seven values from your 1st to 7th choice. Please only select one value per option! (Students will also be completing their own version next week.) We look forward to sharing our values soon!

Congratulations to our brilliant Geography students, who achieved 4th and 5th place overall in the Geographical Association's World Wise Quiz at the University of Bristol this week! Our team was the top-performing state school, which is an incredible achievement. Mr Sales was quick to note that we were just nine points behind the winners from King Edward's School, Bath — a fantastic result!

Our Year 11 students have been working diligently through their trial GCSE exams, demonstrating focus and determination that will serve them well for their real exams after

Easter. Meanwhile, our A Level Philosophy and Ethics students experienced university-style learning at a subject conference this week — an excellent opportunity to deepen their knowledge and prepare for the summer exams.

A huge well done to our Year 7 students who took part in the Just Dance House Competition on Wednesday lunchtime. The performances were fantastic, and the positive atmosphere and support from their peers made it even more special. We also saw great participation in the Children in Need bake sale, organised by Cotswold House, alongside a bake-off competition for Years 7 and 8. The cakes were spectacular — making the judges' job quite the challenge! Thank you to everyone who baked, bought, or donated, including our Sixth Form students, who joined in the fun by spending the day in pyjamas for a good cause.

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.

A quick reminder that Wednesday is our Lighthouse Trust Partnership INSET Day, and school will be closed to students.

As always, thank you for your continued support — we truly couldn't achieve all that we do without our wonderful school community. I look forward to reading your responses to the values survey next week. Together, we continue to show that “we are Backwell.”

With warmest regards,



Will Penny
Headteacher

Just Dance!

Wednesday's high-energy school Just Dance competition was an unforgettable highlight of the week, filled with excitement, music, and enthusiastic support from students and staff.



The atmosphere was electric as teams showcased impressive choreography, confidence, and creativity on stage.

Cotswold were crowned the overall winners, earning well-deserved applause for their standout performance. Year 7 amazed the audience with their enthusiasm and teamwork, while Year 11 delivered a polished, powerful routines that drew huge cheers. The event brought the whole school together in a vibrant celebration of talent, spirit, and community pride, leaving everyone buzzing long after the final dance.

U14 Somerset Cup Success

Our U14 Girls yet again pulled off a fantastic performance in the Somerset Cup. Their second-round game saw them play Kings Of Wessex at home, in some pretty awful weather. That did not stop them as they very quickly went 3-0 up. By half time it was 8-0 with goals from Amelie K x3, Matilda H, Amelia S x2 and Maisy C. After moving things around a little they played well in the second half with the final result being 9-0 to Backwell. Oppositions player went to Tara H and coaches player went to Jess W.



Well done to the whole squad for yet another superb performance. On to the next round!

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 continue on Monday, 17 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.

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**](#)

Message from local residents of The Crescent, Station Road, Backwell

Hello, we are the families who live on The Crescent.

Our road is usually very peaceful - except during the twice-daily rush of cars at school drop-off and pick-up. Over the years, there have been several near-misses, instances of speeding, cars mounting the pavement, blocked driveways, and even a vehicle driven directly into the telegraph pole. Some of us have had to pull children out of the path of reversing cars. A number of residents now avoid stepping outside during school-run times due to verbal abuse received after politely asking drivers to slow down. We are not being difficult — we are trying to prevent a serious accident.

Backwell School has over 1,000 pupils, and if even a small proportion of parents choose The Crescent for drop-offs, the road becomes unsafe very quickly. This is why the school has repeatedly asked parents not to use The Crescent for drop-off - it is our home, not a designated zone - and why safer alternatives exist nearby.

Most secondary-age pupils can safely walk a short distance. If your child genuinely cannot, please speak to the school about special dispensation to drop off on site — this is the safest option for everyone.

If you still feel it is necessary to park here, we kindly ask that you:

- Drive slowly when entering and leaving The Crescent — speeding here is extremely dangerous
- Avoid reversing onto pavements — small children are difficult to see, and it is not permitted
- Do not block driveways, even “just for a minute”
- Switch off your engine if waiting — fumes travel directly into our homes
- Allow local children to cross safely — Station Road is particularly difficult and hazardous to cross
- Avoid mounting pavements — they are for children and pedestrians, not vehicles

As fellow parents, we are sure you understand that beginning each day concerned for our children’s safety is something no parent wants - yet for us, it has become a daily reality. Please use the designated drop-off areas and help keep our little street safe for everyone.

The Crescent & Meadow Close Residents

Quick Links

- [School Uniform and Equipment Guidance](#)
- [Financial Support](#)

Letters Home This Week

- [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

Wednesday 19 November	Inset day – No students in school
Wednesday 19 November	GCSE English Literature Theatre Trip – Theatre Royal, Bath
Thursday 20 November	Y12 & Y13 A Level Art, Textiles, Photography Bristol RWA trip
Thursday 27 November	Y10 Theatre Trip - Christmas Carol Goes Wrong
w/c 01 December	Year 13 Trial Exams
Monday 08 December	Flu vaccines in School – Years 7-11 inclusive
Tuesday 09 December	Flu vaccines in School – Years 7-11 inclusive

Catering Menu for Week commencing:

Monday, 17 November

ASPENS Menu - Winter 2025-2026

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

STREATERIES

WEEK 3
Autumn Winter 2025/26
17/11/25, 08/12/25,
29/12/25, 19/01/26,
09/02/26, 02/03/26,
23/03/26

LUNCH MENU: TRADITIONAL



	 Home STYLE MON	 AMERICAN Diner TUE	 Home STYLE WED	 AUTHENTIC Italian THU	 Chips & More FRI
MAINS	Minced Beef Hotpot Topped with Root Veg & Potatoes	BBQ Chicken & Cheese Melt	Maple Glazed Gammon with Crispy Smashed New Potatoes	Pork Ragu Lasagne al Forno	Choose from: Battered Fish Sausage or Veg Sausage Pizza Slice Chicken Nuggets Chips
SIDES	Lentil, Onion & Root Veg Hotpot	Cajun Spiced Bean Burger	Honey Carrot & Apple Wellington	Spinach, Cream Cheese & Roasted Veg Lasagne	Chicken Nuggets Chips
	Savoy Cabbage & Peas	Cajun Rice & Roasted Mediterranean Veg	Carrot & Swede Mash, Green Beans	Crusty House Baked Bread, Roast Carrots or Garden Salad	Garden Peas or Baked Beans Irish Curry Sauce Chip Shop Gravy
PASTA & NOODLE POTS	Teriyaki Chicken Noodles	Protein Lean Chicken Bolognese	Classic Meatball Pasta	Pulled Ham Carbonara	Classic Chicken Chow Mein
DELI HOT	Mexican Hot Pizza Slice	BBQ Cornflake Crunch Wings	Masala Mayo Deli Dog	Chinese Style Chicken Wrap	Cheesy Chips
	- CHEESE, BEANS & TUNA DAILY - - LOADED SPUDS - - CHEESE, BEANS & TUNA DAILY -				
FILLINGS	Beef Mince & Onion	Smoky Spanish Beans & Aioli	Masala Mayo, Cheese & Crispy Onion	Pulled Ham Carbonara Sauce	Loaded All The Classics
BIG BOWL SALAD	Roasted Tomato & Pepper Pasta Salad	Pasta Butterbean, Roasted Tomato & Spinach	California Caprese	Citrus Chicken, Spinach & Mozzarella	Special Salad
DESSERTS	Old School Jam Cornflake Crunch	Baked Cheesecake	Banana Choc Chip Loaf	Maple Apple Pie & Whipped Cream	Aspens Best Ever Chocolate Brownies

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



Free, safe and anonymous mental health and wellbeing support in **North Somerset** for all **parents & carers.**

Whatever you're going through,
we're here to help



Connect with our
supportive online
community



Find practical advice
and information



Chat anonymously
with a counsellor



Access a range of
emotional wellbeing
tools



Get support today
qwell.io



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

