Backwell School Weekly Bulletin

Dear Parents, Carers, Families and Friends,

We were absolutely delighted to receive the following message on Thursday — a perfect snapshot of what makes Backwell School such a special community:

"FAO Headteacher
Congratulations on the behaviour of your students attending 'To Kill a Mockingbird' at Bath Theatre Royal last night. My wife and I sat at the inner end of a row of your boys who behaved extremely well and clearly engaged with the play. A special word for Oscar who responded so well when talking with us about his interest in stage lighting - he was articulate and enthusiastic. Best wishes for the success of your school - it is good to see Comprehensive School students setting such an example."

Messages like these truly capture the spirit of Backwell School. They remind us what a privilege it is to work in a community where students consistently demonstrate curiosity, enthusiasm, and respect. It is through our shared values and collaboration that our young people become exactly as described — *articulate, enthusiastic, and exemplary ambassadors* of the school.

Speaking of values, we are continuing our work with our community to develop our refreshed school values. If you haven't yet completed the short survey where you can rank our shortlisted seven values I discussed in last week's newsletter, we would still love to hear from you. Please do take a few minutes to share your voice — every response shapes the direction we take as a school!

We're thrilled to share that Backwell School has been recognised by the North Somerset Healthy Schools Network for continued development of our PSHE programme. Working closely with the network, we remain committed to supporting both the physical and emotional wellbeing of our students — a cornerstone of their growth and success.

It has been another great week for Backwell sport! Mr Newell was delighted to report the fantastic performance of the Year 9 girls' rugby team at the U14 Bristol Schools Cup. On a very chilly Wednesday, the girls won all their group matches and narrowly missed out in the Cup Final to Oasis Academy. Their determination, teamwork, and resilience were

outstanding. We're also extremely proud that Mr Newell has been selected to coach the Bristol Schools U14 Girls' Rugby Team this season — with strong representation from Backwell students! Also, a huge, good luck to Isobel H (Year 11), who will be representing Bristol City Women's Academy on Wednesday 26 November against Aston Villa. We are cheering you on, Isobel!

It has been a week full of energy and dedication across the school. Our Year 11s have shown impressive focus and resilience as they continue their Trial GCSE exams. Well done to all of them for their effort and maturity. On Wednesday's INSET Day, our Sixth Form students filled the school with music and creativity as they rehearsed for their upcoming production of Footloose (coming January!). Entirely produced by the students — from staging to costume to choreography — the show promises to be a fantastic celebration of collaboration and talent. All proceeds will go to charity, and we'll share ticket information very soon! Also, a huge thank you to everyone who supported last week's bake sales run by Year 7, Year 8, and Cotswold House. Together, you raised over £500 for Children in Need — a wonderful achievement demonstrating our school's generosity and community spirit.

Finally, to help you plan ahead, please note that on the final day of term, Friday 19 December, school will finish slightly earlier at 13:15, with coaches departing at 13:30.

Thank you for your continued support, kindness, and commitment to making Backwell School the vibrant and positive community it is. Have a wonderful week ahead and remember, it is by working together that 'we are Backwell'.

With warmest regards,

Will Penny
Headteacher

Healthy Schools Network North Somerset

North Somerset Secondary PSHE Award

This is to certify that

Backwell School

has benefited the school community by engaging with North Somerset's PSHE Secondary Programme in the 2024-25 academic year, improving aspects of PSHE provision for pupils.

July 2025

Advanced Public Health Practitioner

Healthy Schools Advisory Teacher

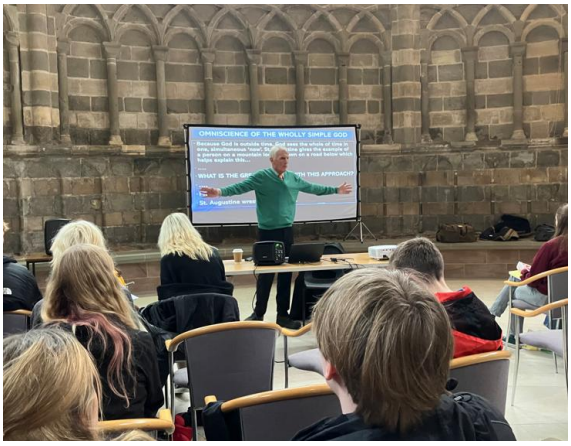
Girls Under 14 Rugby

Congratulations to our Girls Under 14 Rugby team who were runners up in the Bristol Schools Cup. On a very chilly afternoon we won our Pool matches and in the Cup Final lost narrowly to Oasis Academy.

We won't look back in anger but know we played brilliantly, especially as we had an incomplete squad, meaning we had less players, as the match clashed with inset day. Congratulations girls. You rock!

P and R A-Level Conference

On Wednesday, 12 November the Year 12 and 13 Backwell Philosophy and Religion classes, along with students from Gordano attended a sixth form conference called 'Athens or Jerusalem'. It was exploring the relationship between Greek philosophical reasoning (Athens) and monotheistic faith (Jerusalem). Dr Peter Vardy, a scholar whose books are on our reading list, lead the sessions, exploring the arguments for the existence of God and the relationship between faith and reason. It was a thought-provoking day, finishing with a debate with students from across the region. It was a great opportunity for the students to extend their learning and gave a taster of what studying philosophy at university is like. The conference was held in the historic setting of the Chapter House at Worcester Cathedral.



Children in Need

The bake sales were a huge success last Friday, raising money for Children in Need. Thank you to all students who baked for and purchased sweet treats to help fundraise. It was a brilliant success on a damp day!
Our Sixth form students and team donated money to wear their PJ's to school for the day, to support Pudsey's fundraising!

The totals are in, and we are pleased to announce that more than £627.00 was raised towards Children in Need.

Thank you!

Year 10 Parents and Carers' Evening – Thursday 27 November

Bookings are now open for the Year 10 Parents and Carers Evening, which will be held on Thursday 27 November. Details on how to book appointments can be found in the letter sent home on 12 November, which can also be found by clicking the following link:

Year 10 Parents / Carers Evening: Thursday 27 November 2025

Book of the Week

Super-Frog saves Tokyo by Haruki Murakami

'What you see with your eyes is not necessarily real.' A lavishly illustrated edition of Murakami's classic story.

Katagiri found a giant frog waiting for him in his apartment. It was powerfully built, standing over six feet tall on its hind legs. A skinny little man no more than five foot three, Katagiri was overwhelmed by the frog's imposing bulk.
'Call me "Frog,"' said the frog in a clear, strong voice.
Katagiri stood rooted in the doorway, unable to speak.
'Don't be afraid. I'm not here to hurt you. Just come and close the door. Please.'
Briefcase in his right hand, grocery bag with fresh vegetables and canned salmon cradled in his left arm, Katagiri didn't dare move.
'Please, Mr. Katagiri, hurry and close the door, and take off your shoes.'

Fully illustrated and beautifully designed, this special edition of Murakami's celebrated short story sees the bewildered Katagiri find meaning in his humdrum life through joining forces with Frog in an effort to save Tokyo from an existential threat.

Winter Music Concert - Tuesday 16th December 7pm

Our winter music concert is an opportunity to hear the full range of music from our choirs and bands at Backwell. This is always an entertaining and varied night of music. There will be a bar provided by the BSA! Book early as there are lots of students involved! Click on the link below to purchase your tickets. Tickets are £5 for adults and £3 for concessions.

Backwell School Winter Concert Tickets

Charity Arts Event - Friday 12th December 7pm

A group of students has put together an evening of entertainment that will feature a variety of acts including solo singers, dancers and bands. The finale of the show will be an original comedy piece devised by a group of year 11 drama students. There will be a bar provided by the BSA! Click on the link below to purchase your tickets. Tickets are £4 for adults and £2 for concessions.

Charity Arts Event

Backwell Christmas Community Choir

The first rehearsal of the Backwell Community Choir took place this week. 50 people (students, parents, staff and locals) came along to sing together on Tuesday evening to create some great music. We're having just 2 more rehearsals before we go out and sing in the community on Saturday, 20 December. There is still time to join us if you would like to be involved in some uplifting festive joy.
Rehearsal dates are as follows:

- Wednesday 10 December at 6pm
- Thursday 18 December at 6pm

It would be incredible to have a few more male voices join us, to 'beef up' the tenor/bass lines.
If you would like to join us, please email mailbox@backwellschool.net for further details.
Thank you to Steve Clark for amazing arrangements and bringing us together with this special festive event.

GCSE Certificate Collection – Year 11 leavers 2025

Calling all Year 11 Leavers 2025…. your GCSE Certificates will be available for collection from school during the week commencing Monday, 08 December 2025. We hope to see as many of you in person as possible, but if you are unable to come in that week, you will find details of the other options available to you in this **form**.

Flu Vaccinations - Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11

Sirona Care and Health (part of the School Immunisation Team) will be in school, during school hours, on Monday 08 and Tuesday 09 December 2025 to offer flu vaccinations, via nasal spray, to all children in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

You will find all the information you need in the letter sent by Sirona in the link below.

The letter includes a link to the consent form (also given below) relating to the vaccination, either to give or withhold permission, this **must be completed by midnight on Wednesday 03 December.**

Vaccinations will only be administered to those students whose parents have returned a positive consent form.

Click here to download the letter from Sirona Health Care

Click here to access the Sirona Consent Form

If you have any questions relating to the flu vaccination, please contact the School Immunisation Team directly on 0300 124 5515 or email sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net

Clevedon District Foodbank Christmas Appeal – Together with Trussell

We continue to collect 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 on the next page.
Please send your donations in with your child/children and ask them to bring them to their Year group/House office (or Reception) 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/

We have just one more week to add to our donation collection. Any items are gratefully received and will really help make a Merry Christmas for other local families.
Thank you in advance for your continuing support.

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

Other items you can donate include...

- Tinned soup
- Coffee
- Hot Chocolate
- Jam and spreads
- Shower gel
- Shampoo/conditioner
- Deodorant
- Toilet rolls
- Washing up liquid
- Laundry detergentpods
- Feminine hygieneproducts
- UHT milk

- Tinned Ham
- Tinned Salmon
- Tinned fruit
- Sponge/rice puddings
- Christmas Puddings
- Christmas Cakes
- Mince Pies
- Long-life juice
- Biscuits
- Selection Boxes
- Chocolate and Sweets

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Quick Links

- School Uniform and Equipment Guidance
- Financial Support
- Careers Bulletin - Friday 21 November 2025
- Sixth Form Bulletin

Letters Home This Week

- Year 10 Parents / Carers Evening: Thursday 27 November 2025
- Year 11 GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition
- German Exchange 2026
- Year 13 English Literature Additional Trial Exam - 02 February 2026

Dates for your Diary

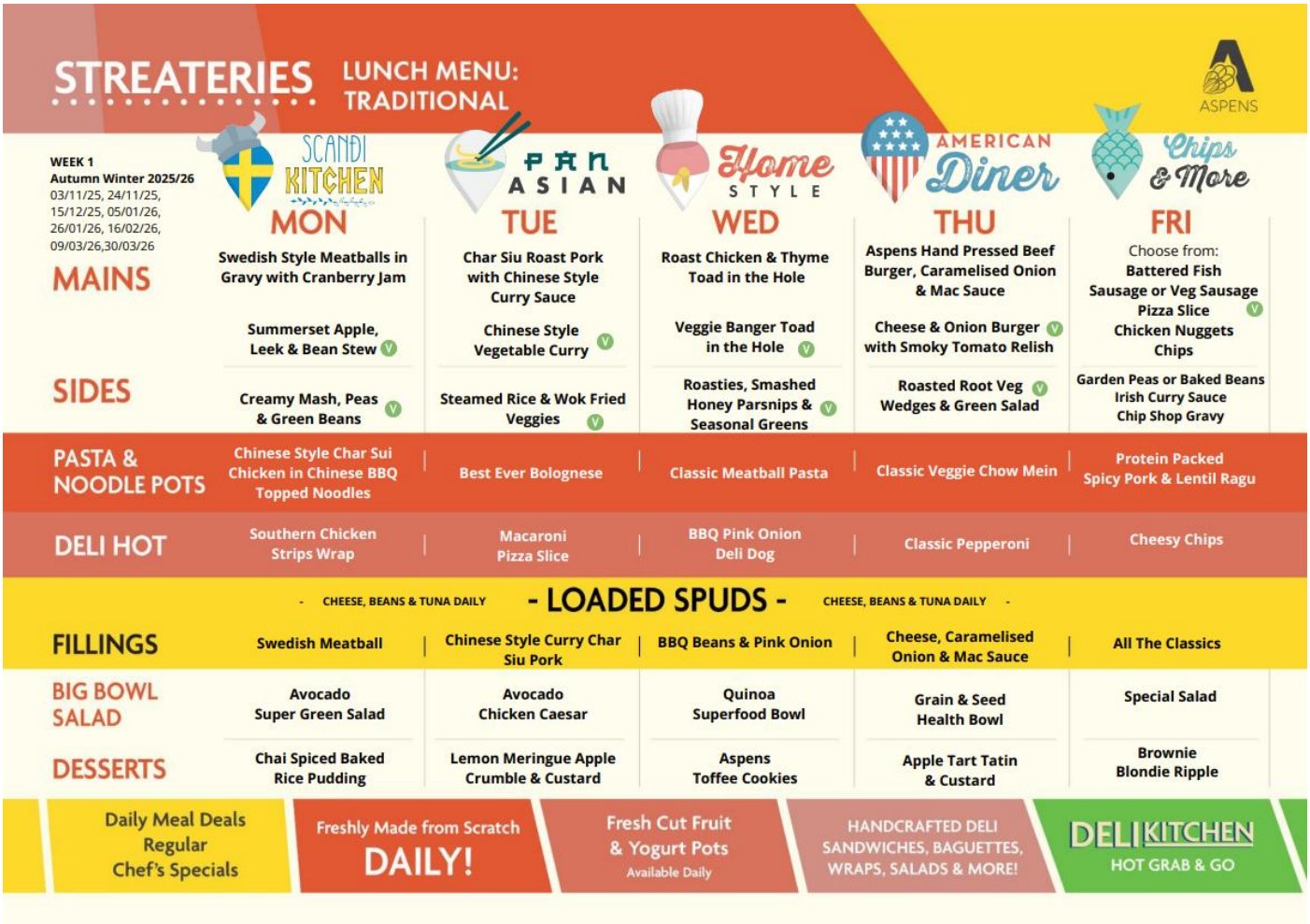
Thursday 27 November	Y10 Theatre Trip - Christmas Carol Goes Wrong Year 10 Parents' Evening (online)
w/c 01 December	Year 13 Trial Exams
Monday 08 December	Flu vaccines in School – Years 7-11 inclusive
Tuesday 09 December	Flu vaccines in School – Years 7-11 inclusive
Friday 12 December	Charity Arts Event – 7:00pm in Main School Theatre - Tickets available
Tuesday 16 December	Winter Music Concert – 7:00pm in Main School Theatre – Tickets available
Friday 19 December	Last day of Term 2 – Early finish at 1.30pm

Catering Menu for Week commencing:

Monday, 24 November

ASPENS Menu - Winter 2025-2026

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



STREATERIES LUNCH MENU: TRADITIONAL

ASPENS

WEEK 1
Autumn Winter 2025/26
03/11/25, 24/11/25, 15/12/25, 05/01/26, 26/01/26, 16/02/26, 09/03/26,30/03/26

	MON (Scandi Kitchen)	TUE (Pan Asian)	WED (Home Style)	THU (American Diner)	FRI (Chips & More)
MAINS	Swedish Style Meatballs in Gravy with Cranberry Jam	Char Siu Roast Pork with Chinese Style Curry Sauce	Roast Chicken & Thyme Toad in the Hole	Aspens Hand Pressed Beef Burger, Caramelised Onion & Mac Sauce	Choose from: Battered Fish, Sausage or Veg Sausage, Pizza Slice (V), Chicken Nuggets, Chips
	Summerset Apple, Leek & Bean Stew (V)	Chinese Style Vegetable Curry (V)	Veggie Banger Toad in the Hole (V)	Cheese & Onion Burger (V) with Smoky Tomato Relish	
SIDES	Creamy Mash, Peas & Green Beans (V)	Steamed Rice & Wok Fried Veggies (V)	Roasties, Smashed Honey Parsnips & Seasonal Greens (V)	Roasted Root Veg (V) Wedges & Green Salad	Garden Peas or Baked Beans, Irish Curry Sauce, Chip Shop Gravy
PASTA & NOODLE POTS	Chinese Style Char Sui Chicken in Chinese BBQ Topped Noodles	Best Ever Bolognese	Classic Meatball Pasta	Classic Veggie Chow Mein	Protein Packed Spicy Pork & Lentil Ragu
DELI HOT	Southern Chicken Strips Wrap	Macaroni Pizza Slice	BBQ Pink Onion Deli Dog	Classic Pepperoni	Cheesy Chips
	- CHEESE, BEANS & TUNA DAILY	- LOADED SPUDS -	CHEESE, BEANS & TUNA DAILY -		
FILLINGS	Swedish Meatball	Chinese Style Curry Char Siu Pork	BBQ Beans & Pink Onion	Cheese, Caramelised Onion & Mac Sauce	All The Classics
BIG BOWL SALAD	Avocado Super Green Salad	Avocado Chicken Caesar	Quinoa Superfood Bowl	Grain & Seed Health Bowl	Special Salad
DESSERTS	Chai Spiced Baked Rice Pudding	Lemon Meringue Apple Crumble & Custard	Aspens Toffee Cookies	Apple Tart Tatin & Custard	Brownie Blondie Ripple

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

New menus for the Sixth Form Canteen

Please click on the link below to see these new menu updates. Please note, main meals can also be purchased by Sixth Form students from the Lower School Canteen (using ParentPay account/thumb scan).

Backwell Sixth Form Canteen Menus - November 2025

Events, Clubs and Course in our Community

North Somerset HAF

The North Somerset HAF activity days are now available to book via the Eequ booking platform: Eequ · After school. In place of school. Beyond school.

With trips to the theatre and swim sessions for the family, as well as organised activity days and gym sessions for teenagers at Hutton Moor Leisure Centre, there really are some ideas that your teenagers might enjoy. Your child can take a friend for free to the gym sessions, and they can both enjoy some food in the café together. All for free!

Your child is entitled to book up to 4 sessions over the Christmas/Winter holiday. If they haven't tried HAF activity days before then why not give them a go? They are free and your child will have lots of fun, maybe make some new friends as well as enjoy some lovely food.

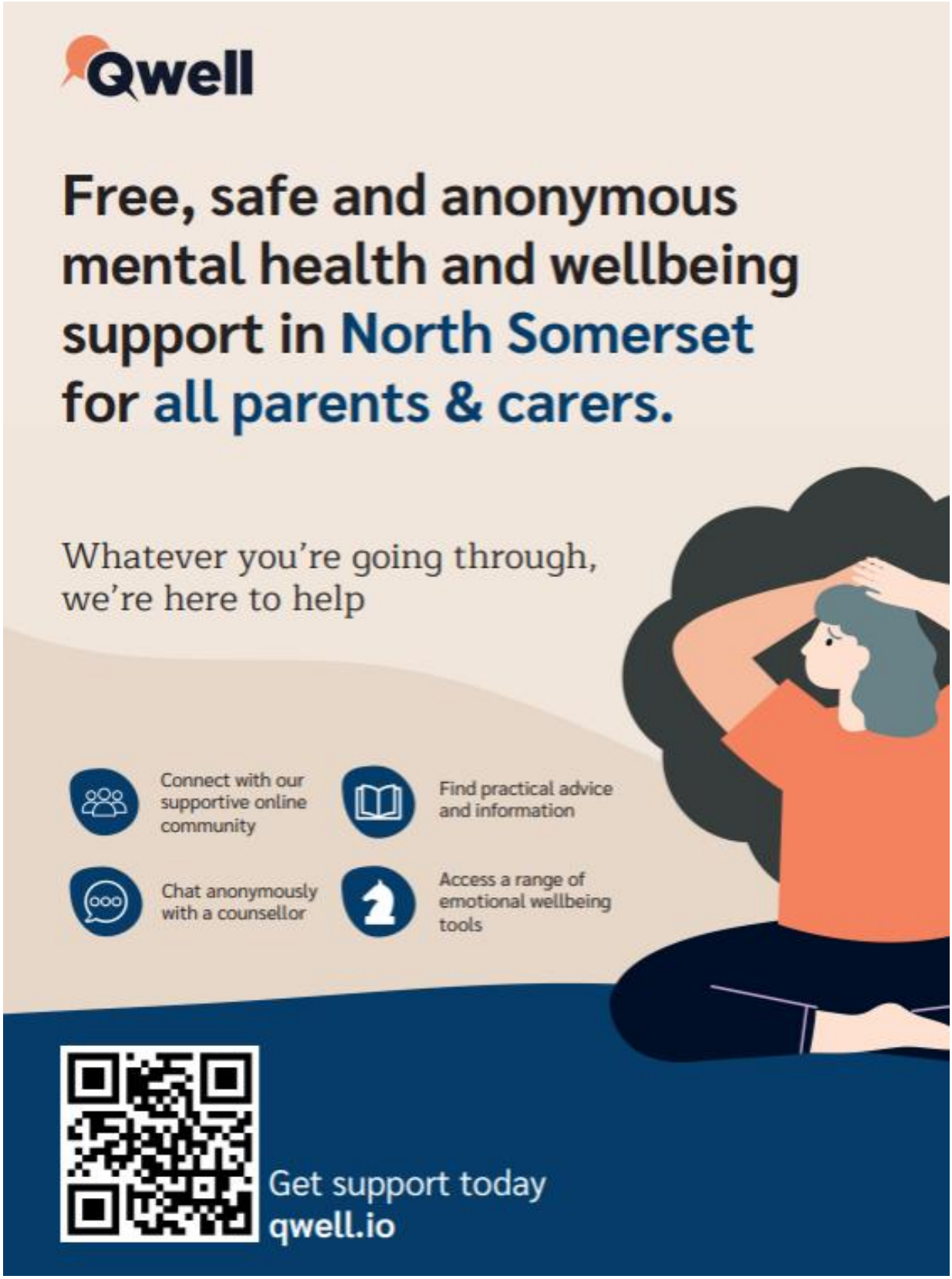
Should you have any queries please email HAF@n-somerset.gov.uk

Best wishes

The HAF Team

HAF NORTH SOMERSET Holiday Activities & Food

Events, Clubs and Course in our Community



Events, Clubs and Course in our Community

WEST OF ENGLAND MUSIC AND ARTS

A musical treat for the festive season!

Holiday Singing Days

Two fun and engaging singing days during the Christmas Holidays. One for children in years 3-6, and one for those in years 7 upwards. With WEMA musician, composer and conductor Joe Galuszka.

Monday 22 December: KS2 Singing Day
Tuesday 23 December: Secondary Singing Day

More Information:
wema.org.uk/music-activities-and-workshops

Events, Clubs and Course in our Community

naccc

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