



# Backwell School Weekly Bulletin

Friday, 28 November 2025

Dear Parents, Carers, Families and Friends,

As we wrap up Week 4, we're officially over the Term 2 hump and heading full speed toward an exciting end to the term in just 15 school days – and doesn't every one of them count so please make sure they attend!

There has been so much to celebrate this week—and even more to look forward to. On the horizon are several flagship events: our Winter Concert on 16 December, the Drama and Dance Showcase on 12 December, and a number of theatre trips taking place over the coming weeks. We are also thrilled to launch our brand-new breakfast offer, available to all year groups from 8:15am in the Lower School canteen. (This week's menu can be found later in the newsletter.)

A huge well done to Year 11 for completing their trial exams over the past fortnight. Their effort, focus, and resilience have been outstanding. As one set of trials ends, another begins—Year 13 begin their A Level trial exams on Monday, with the summer exams now just over 14 school weeks away. During demanding stretches like these, we are reminded of the saying: *"A farmer doesn't dig up his seeds every day to check they are growing. Growth takes time beneath the surface before it is seen above it."* It's an important reminder for all of us—progress isn't always visible, but with patience, support, and consistency, it inevitably comes. Please continue to trust the process, make use of the excellent support systems we have here at Backwell, and know that every bit of effort is helping those seeds of knowledge flourish.

We were delighted to welcome Dr Chris Spencer from UWE into school last week. Dr Spencer delivered an enriching lecture to our A Level Geographers on the links between the carbon cycle, water cycle, and natural hazards. These university-style sessions provide invaluable insight into higher-level study, and we are extremely grateful to Dr Spencer for sharing his expertise.

Some of you may have spotted our recent social media post celebrating the selection of Henry S for the 2027 World Scout Jamboree in Poland. Henry is one of three students, along with Emily P, and Emma F selected. This global event brings together thousands of young

people to celebrate unity, adventure, and cultural exchange. Each student must raise £3,500 to attend, with a significant portion supporting Scouts from less advantaged

countries to join the experience. Many of our students volunteer across local Beaver, Guide, and Rainbow groups—if one of these students has supported your child along the way and you'd like to contribute to their fundraising, QR codes are available later in the newsletter.

It has also been another strong week on the music and sporting front. Firstly, congratulations to all of our singers who took part in the Nailsea Festival of Music at the weekend. Our MadriGALS choir won their group with great feedback from a West End musical director adjudicator. We also had great solo performances from Zoe P (y12), Sienna S (y10), Martha N (y10) and Daisy LA (y9). On the sporting front we have had yet more excellent performances in rugby, football, hockey, and basketball. A special mention firstly to our U18 basketball team who had a great win against Sidcot School in a very close fixture winning 45-42. Under the coaching of Mr Gouda it was wonderful to see so many younger players representing the school, many of whom came

through the KS3 Academy squad coached by our very own Sixth Form volunteers! Secondly, a huge congratulations goes to our Year 8 boys, who finished runners-up in the North Somerset Schools Rugby Tournament, showcasing an exciting brand of running rugby and an impressive spread of 11 different try scorers!

Finally, a highlight of my week was visiting the Kitchen Table Homework Club, where students from across the school work alongside one another in a warm, supportive environment. It was wonderful to see Sixth Form students studying side by side with Year 7, 10, and 11 students, all supported by Mr Newell and Mrs Jenkinson. If you feel your child would benefit from this atmosphere of focus and encouragement (with biscuits and Hot drinks and squash included!), please do encourage them to pop into the library after school on Tuesday and / or Wednesday.

Have a wonderful week ahead, thanks as always for all of your support and remember, it is by working together that *'we are Backwell'*.

With warmest regards,



Will Penny  
Headteacher

## This week in pictures

### Rugby and Basketball



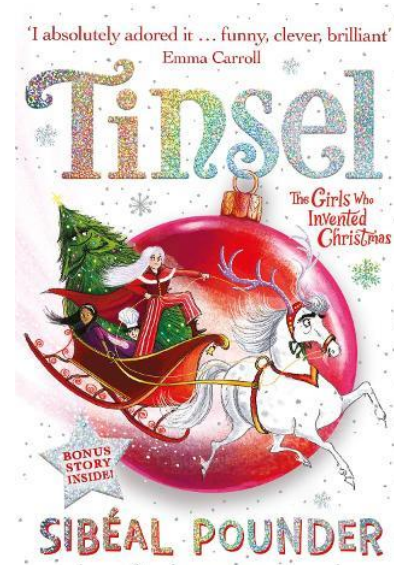
### Book of the Week

#### Tinsel: The Girls Who Invented Christmas by Sibéal Pounder

What if somewhere along the way we've all got the Santa story a bit wrong...?

Join Blanche Claus as she aims to deliver a Christmas gift to every child on Earth. With help from her best friend Rinki and an aspiring chef called Santa, it's a funny festive sleigh ride you'll never forget!

From Sibéal Pounder, bestselling author of the Witch Wars and Bad Mermaids series, this tale of friendship and mince-pie feasts is the perfect book to curl up with this winter. Funny, feminist and with a huge heart, it's a gloriously Christmassy adventure that will delight even the biggest Grinch.



## Winter Music Concert - Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> 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](#)

## Backwell School Charity Night - Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December 7pm

Prepare for a fun filled evening packed full of **home-grown talent, excitement and laughter!**

This variety event showcases performances from **all across the school**, from singing to dance and to comedy. All of the **ticket** proceeds will go to the **Grand Appeal** who are an amazing charity representing the Bristol Children's Hospital.

The finale of the show will be brought to you by a company of year 11 GCSE drama students presenting an original Cold War Comedy piece titled **At Least Nobody Panicked!** There will also be a bar provided by the BSA.

**Click on the link below to buy your tickets now.** Tickets cost **£4 for adults and £2 for concessions.** Looking forward to seeing you there!

### [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.

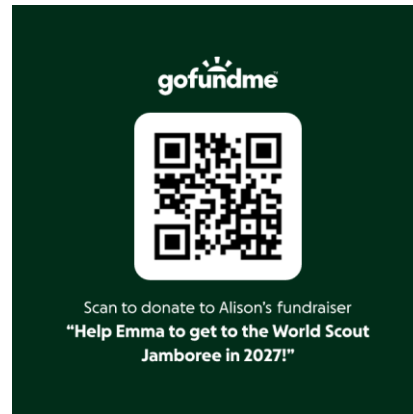
If you would like to join us, please email [mailbox@backwellschool.net](mailto:mailbox@backwellschool.net) for further details.

## 2027 World Scout Jamboree in Poland

As mentioned in Mr Penny's introduction, if you would like to sponsor either Henry or Emma in their fundraising efforts for the Scout Jamboree then please do so through the QR codes below.



Henry



Emma

## Clevedon District Foodbank Christmas Appeal – Together with Trussell

**Last call for donations – To be delivered to school on Monday morning, 01 December.**

This is our final push to collect donations for the local Foodbank Christmas Appeal. There is still time to 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) on Monday morning, **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.



## Christmas appeal



### Help support your food bank this Christmas

Thank you for supporting the foodbank. Please drop off your donations by 1<sup>st</sup> 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.clevelanddistrictfoodbank.org.uk](http://www.clevelanddistrictfoodbank.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 detergent/pods
- Feminine hygiene products
- 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

## Exciting changes to catering

With the cold weather upon us we have been working closely with Aspens to tailor our food offering across the school site.

## From Monday 01 December

We are all aware that breakfast is extremely important to our students and their readiness to learn. As such we are proud to announce a new breakfast service in the lower school canteen. This is open to all students and food will be available between 8.15 and 8.45 every school day. Students can continue to access the canteen space from 8am each morning and escape the cold and poorer weather.

This new breakfast offer features 8 options, all for £1.40 or under – [click here](#). To further support this, all pupil premium students (in receipt of financial assistance) will have an increased allowance of £1.40. This increase will take effect from Monday morning. All other allowances remain unchanged.

A different breakfast selection will continue to be sold in the 6<sup>th</sup> form canteen as usual. This canteen remains open to students from 8am with food being served from 8.15am. Free porridge continues to be available from both canteens.

## From Monday 08 December

We will be moving to a simplified one-week [Streateries Lunch Menu Autumn/Winter 2025/26](#). Students told us that the old three-week rotating menu was overly complicated and didn't allow them to plan their meals; it also led to food wastage which we are keen to minimise. The new menu keeps all of the old favourites and adds in some new ones besides.

This full menu is available in both the lower school canteen (serving years 7 and 8) and the house block canteens (serving years 9, 10 and 11). Sixth formers can also purchase these items via the house block serveries from 12.30 each day or the lower school canteen from 12.50. This is in addition to the more café style food offering available in the sixth form canteen throughout the day (details below).

## Sixth form canteen

One of Aspens' Development Chefs has been working on site for the past few weeks. He and the team have developed a new offering for sixth formers which is more of a café-style selection – [menu attached](#). We are also launching lunchtime meal deals with cost savings if students buy selected products together – [menu attached](#). As mentioned above, other streateries and breakfast items remain accessible to sixth form students in the other canteens if they prefer.

## Daily Spend

A reminder that our default daily spend limit is £6. With the addition of the new breakfast offer and other improved menus it is possible that more students will occasionally hit this limit. This could mean their options at lunch service are limited. We are happy to increase or decrease this amount at your request – please email [finance@backwellschool.net](mailto:finance@backwellschool.net) who will be happy to assist.

## Christmas Lunch Menu

Please find attached the Christmas lunch menu. Cost is the same as a typical meal deal at £2.75.

### **Wednesday, 17 December**

- Christmas Lunch will be available to years 8 to 11 in their usual canteen spaces. Year 7s will be able to purchase food from the grab and go area and will have space in the drama theatre for inside eating and socialising.

### **Thursday, 18 December**

- Year 7s will have their own Christmas lunch served in the lower school canteen. Year 8s will be able to purchase food from the grab and go area and will have space in the drama theatre for inside eating and socialising.
- Normal service will be provided at all other canteens

**STREATERIES**

# LET'S BEGIN THE FEASTIVITIES!

17th December (Years 8 – 13)  
18th December (Year 7)

## ON THE MENU

### MAINS

Roast Turkey and Stuffing  
OR  
Roasted Vegetable,  
Cranberry and Cheese Puff  
Pastry Wreath

### SIDES

Roasties, Christmas Vegetable  
Medley, Sticky Chipolata and  
Gravy

### DESSERTS

Rudolph's Nose Cookie  
Or  
Cinnamon Popcorn  
Chocolate Brownie

**TUCK INTO THE TASTES OF THE SEASON WITH A FEAST FULL OF WINTER CHEER!**

**DON'T MISS OUR SEASONAL FEAST - WARM, HEARTY AND FESTIVE FLAVOURS!**

## Quick Links

- [School Uniform and Equipment Guidance](#)
- [Financial Support](#)
- [Careers Bulletin - 28 November 2025](#)
- [Sixth Form Bulletin](#)

## Letters Home This Week

- [Year 10 Revision Support for GCSE Science and Triple Science students](#)
- [Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme - Payment schedule](#)
- [Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme - Payment Schedule](#)

## Dates for your Diary

<b>w/c 01 December</b>	Year 13 Trial Exams (Monday 01 – Thursday 04 December inc)
<b>Monday 08 December</b>	Flu vaccines in School – Years 7-11 inclusive
<b>Tuesday 09 December</b>	Flu vaccines in School – Years 7-11 inclusive
<b>Friday 12 December</b>	Charity Arts Event – 7:00pm in Main School Theatre - Tickets available
<b>Tuesday 16 December</b>	Winter Music Concert – 7:00pm in Main School Theatre – Tickets available
<b>Friday 19 December</b>	Last day of Term 2 – Early finish at 1.15pm (School transport departs at 1.30pm)

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Cinnamon Popcorn  
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## Events, Clubs and Course in our Community

### Calling all Aspiring Junior Female Cricketers

Cricket is a sport played by all and MCC has a unique opportunity to positively impact and grow it's reach at all levels.

MCC is the world's most active cricket club. From first-class fixtures to games against schools and clubs celebrating important landmarks, during the high point of the summer, MCC can be found playing in up to fifteen fixtures at one time across the UK. The club also undertakes several overseas tours each year, helping develop the game around the world.

There are MCC Foundation Hubs based across Somerset, and the sessions will be getting underway very soon.

Thriving girls youth cricket sections at local clubs including, Old Bristolians Westbury CC and Bristol Cricket Club

If you have not heard of our programme previously, it is FREE winter coaching, and summer competition for young cricketers who attend state schools. You can see more information on our website here:

<https://www.lords.org/mcc/mcc-foundation/mcc-foundation-in-the-uk>

**The sessions are for Girls aged U11-U14.**

**North Somerset Girls** - Merchants Academy, BS13 9JW– Mondays, 17:00 – 19:00 – Trials: December 15<sup>th</sup>

Sign up: <https://app.upshot.org.uk/signup/f308c8d3/ed1f6b2cdfbc4be4/>



## Events, Clubs and Course in our Community



# Codingbug

*Inspiring the next generation of coders and makers*



### **Python club - Term 3**

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/)

# HOLIDAY ART WORKSHOPS



A WELCOMING SPACE TO INSPIRE CREATIVITY

**BOOK YOUR PLACE!**

- + For Children Ages 6-16
- + Half Day & Full Day Options
- + Watercolour, Clay, Acrylic & More!
- + Open Every School Holiday

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art-k.co.uk/class-southville  
172A Raleigh Road, Bristol BS3 2AR



SPECIAL OFFER!

15% off Winter Holiday workshops with code: **UFYSHG2**

\*Valid until Friday 2nd January 2026\*

# WINTER WORKSHOPS

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AVAILABLE

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online at:  
[www.art-k.co.uk/  
workshops](http://www.art-k.co.uk/workshops)

