



Backwell School Weekly Bulletin



Friday, 28 November 2025

Dear Parents, Carers, Families and Friends,

At the start of this week, I spent three days in a school on the south coast as part of a quality assurance programme in which Backwell School participates. Visits such as these offer valuable opportunities to learn from the practice of other schools and to bring back ideas that can help us further improve what we do here. They also serve as a reminder of what an exceptional community we have. A school is only ever as strong as its students, and by Wednesday evening I was genuinely looking forward to returning “home” to Backwell and its happy, vibrant and friendly environment—something none of us should ever take for granted.

As always, there has been a great deal to celebrate this week but also to look forward to. Our Year 13 students have now completed their trial exams, and we have seen fantastic generosity through our advent calendar collections, donations to the local food bank, and ongoing efforts across the school. Rehearsals continue in earnest for both the Charity Concert (Friday 12 December, 19:00 in the Theatre) and the Winter Concert (Tuesday 16 December, also 19:00). In addition, the Backwell Community Choir will be performing carols around the Christmas Tree in Nailsea Town Centre at 11:00 on Saturday 20 December. We would love to see many of you there, lending your voices to what promises to be a joyful community event.

Our sporting teams have also enjoyed another busy and successful week. Last Friday, the Year 9 boys’ football team secured a hard-fought victory against a strong Beechen Cliff side, winning in extra time to progress to the next round of the English Schools FA tournament—congratulations to the whole team, and especially to Oli H for the decisive goal. On Tuesday, we proudly hosted the North Somerset Netball Tournament in some decidedly wet weather! Fourteen teams took part, and our Backwell players rose to the challenge brilliantly. The A team finished as overall winners with six victories and a draw, while the B team placed third in their group. A special commendation goes to Eva W, who led by example and was named Player of the Tournament. Finally, our Year 11 girls’ netball team played with impressive pace, spirit and positivity in their National Cup match against Churston Ferrers Grammar School. Though they narrowly missed out on a win, they should be extremely proud of their performance.

One of my toughest tasks this week was judging the annual Christmas Card Competition. We received so many wonderful entries from across all year groups, making the decision incredibly difficult. You will find many of these fantastic designs featured in this week's newsletter and next week's edition. Congratulations to our winners in Key Stage 3 Aston F and Oscar R and Key Stage 4 Alice H. Well done to everyone who took part.

As we head into the final ten days of term, it is important that we make the most of every one of them. Over the weekend, I read a piece on mindset that particularly resonated with me, focusing on the importance of finishing the year strongly in order to launch successfully into the next. I will be sharing the following message with students on Monday: *"We have ten days that will decide whether this year was growth or just another blur. This isn't the time to slow down; it's the time to lock in. We've been through the distractions, the self-doubt, the lazy phases. Forget perfect plans, just show up every day. The world won't remember the times you almost tried; it'll remember the stretch where you refused to quit. Cut the noise, tighten your focus, and give these last week's everything you've got. Because how you end the year says a lot about how you'll start the next. Give it everything. No breaks, no pity, no excuses."* I encourage us all, students, staff and families alike, to take this message to heart. If we show up each day and give our best over these final ten days, I am confident that 2026 will be a year we look forward to with excitement and purpose.

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

With warmest regards,



Will Penny
Headteacher



Sporting Round-up

Mariella comes 2nd in the completion.

Mariella B (Year 11) flew to Spain to take part in the Sky Sports Junior European Open, last week. A fabulous success story with Mariella coming 2nd in the completion. Many congratulations to Mariella.



Football

On Friday, 28 November, our Year 9 Boys football team won a hard-fought game against a strong Beechen Cliff School team, taking them through to the next stage of the English Schools FA tournament.

This victory takes the team to the last 64 from 676 teams who entered the tournament. The score was 2-2 at full time (Herbie D and Arthur G on the scoresheet), but with grit, teamwork and determination the boys scored in extra time to seal the win (Well done Oli H).

Players of the match were Edward O and Bertie DL who did a sterling job in defence. Well done lads, and good luck in the next round!



Year 8 Netball Success

On the afternoon of Tuesday, 02 December we hosted the North Somerset Netball tournament. 14 teams took part in some pretty wet weather!

Our Year 8 teams played brilliantly, and the A-team finished as overall winners (6 wins and 1 draw), with the B-team coming in a very respectful 3rd place in their half of the competition.

Congratulations to both teams.

Special shout out to Eva W.... who led by example for the tournament as Backwell Captain and was also our player of the tournament!

Well done to all the girls.



U16 Netball Sisters in Sport

The U16 Netball team battled through their latest round of the 'Sisters in Sport' national Netball competition but sadly the result didn't go our way! The girls worked hard to try and equal the score line before half time but Churston Grammar School from Devon simply were a well-oiled machine, and that took their game play up a notch in the second half. Well played girls - on to the next round. POM: Maisie Evans.



Term 3
(new intake)

Limited to 10 places
Sign up with Student Services

Year 7 Table Tennis



club

Mondays 3.15-4.15pm, Old Gym
Run by Table Tennis England coach Mr Fitzpatrick

CLAY CLUB

TUESDAYS 3.15-4.15PM
IN AR2 WITH MR SARE




OPEN TO
YEARS 7-9




SIGN UP ON PARENTPAY -
£12 PER TERM
(NEW INTAKE AT THE START
OF EACH TERM)

Photography Club Term 3



Photoshop and
Photography Club



- Layers
- Effects
- Blending
- Cutting & Pasting
- Filters

Who: Years 7 - 9
When: Wednesday 3.15-4.15pm
Where: AR3 with Mr Sare
Cost: £10 on ParentPay

Clubs in Term 3

Updated school club schedules for Term 3 will be shared next week. In the meantime, there are some spaces available in Term 3 for the following after-school clubs:

| Club | Day/Time | How to sign-up |
|------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Table Tennis | Mondays – 3.15-4.15pm | No cost Email or speak to Student Services Limited spaces – first-come, first-served |
| Clay Club | Tuesdays – 3.15-4.15pm | £12 on ParentPay Limited spaces – first-come, first-served Will go live on Friday 12 Dec at midday |
| Photography Club | Wednesdays - 3.15-4.15pm | £10 on ParentPay Limited spaces – first-come, first-served Will go live on Friday 12 Dec at midday |

Christmas Card Competition Winners

We recently held a competition to design a Christmas Card for the school to use to send to our friends and local stakeholders.

Once again, we were blown away by the quality of entries we have received. We have selected 2 winning designs from KS3 and two from KS4.

Congratulations to Aston, Oscar and Alice.



Winning KS3 designs from Oscar R and Aston F



Winning KS4 designs from Alice H

Each winner will receive 8 printed cards of their winning design and a chocolate selection box.

Our runners up:

Bibi G & Mya S in Year 7 and Bethany L, Edward H and Isaac S in Year 10. Congratulations.

Book of the Week

Waterstones [Thriller of the Month](#) for November 2025

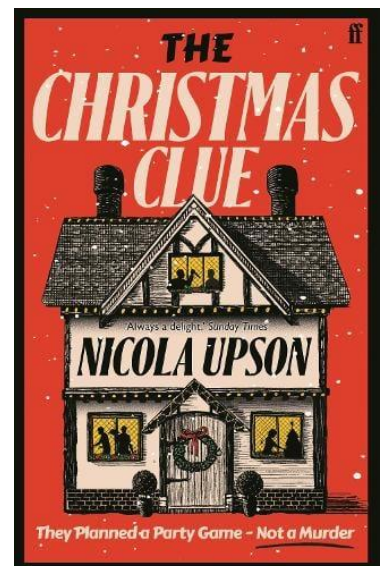
The Christmas Clue by Nicola Upson

Christmas Eve, 1943. Anthony and Elva Pratt arrive in a snowy English village to run a murder mystery game - and instead discover a real murder.

The Pratts had planned for festive cheer, despite the wartime shortages: with Elva's map of the hotel and Anthony's prop weapons to use as clues, the guests in their parlour game would move through the rooms to figure out whodunnit.

But when Anthony discovers the cook's sister Miss Silver beaten to death, they instead find themselves investigating a shockingly real crime. The hotel manager Mr Browning is trying to keep the peace, but the guests are agitated, Colonel Colman is about to take over the hotel for the war effort - and the mysterious Mrs Threadgold hasn't been seen at all.

In games, there's only one victim - but this is real life. Can the Pratts puzzle out this Christmas mystery before it's too late?



Winter Music Concert - Tuesday 16th December 7pm – Tickets selling fast!

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 12th 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](#)

Charity Fundraising



Year 11 student Emelia B is raising money for the Little Princess Trust.

I wanted to let you that I am currently raising money through a just giving page for the Little Princess Trust. I have a childhood friend who is currently undergoing chemotherapy at Bristol Children's Hospital, and she has been supported by this charity with a wig.

On Sunday this week I am donating over 30cm of my own hair for a wig to be made for another child through the charity. I have raised just over £1000 so far, it costs £700 to make a wig.

https://fundraise.littleprincesses.org.uk/fundraising/emelias-fundraising-page184?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=dssb-WA&utm_content=MPC

Aspens - 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!

ASPENS

Price and Buckland Stock take - Notification

Our Uniform providers, Price and Buckland will be having a stock take, which will take place from Thursday 4th to Friday 12th December.

During this period, we will continue to accept orders, but they will not be processed or dispatched until after the stock take is complete. If you'd like to place any orders in advance, feel free to do so and we will do our very best to dispatch them before the closure.

Year 12 Parents and Carers' Evening – Thursday 11 December

Bookings are now open for the Year 12 Parents and Carers Evening, which will be held online on Thursday 11 December. Details on how to book appointments can be found in the letter sent home on 26 November, which can also be found by clicking the following link:

[Year 12 Parents / Carers Evening: Thursday 11 December 2025](#)

Quick Links

- [School Uniform and Equipment Guidance](#)
- [Financial Support](#)
- [Careers Bulletin - Friday 05 December 2025](#)
- [Sixth Form Bulletin](#)

Letters Home This Week

- [Year 12 Parents / Carers Evening: Thursday 11 December 2025](#)

Dates for your Diary

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 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 1.15pm (School transport departs at 1.30pm) |

LSP Trustees – Applications Open

The Lighthouse Schools Partnership are looking for new Trustees to join the Trust Board. Our Trust Board thrives on the richness and diversity of our community, and we're looking for individuals who reflect this to join us as trustees. Trustees play a vital role in shaping the strategy and governance of our schools, and their contributions are central to our ongoing success. The closing date for applications 9.00am Friday 9 January 2026.

More information can be found on the LSP website: [LSP - Become a Trustee](#)



**COULD YOU HELP CREATE A
BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR CHILDREN
AND SCHOOLS IN YOUR AREA?**

Becoming a Trustee is a rewarding and enriching opportunity to assist in shaping the future of our schools and helping staff and pupils to flourish

Events, Clubs and Course in our Community

SilverCloud[®]
by Amwell[®]



FEEL A BIT... MIXED UP?

Low mood or anxiety can leave you in a muddle.
SilverCloud can help you feel like yourself again.
It's free and totally private, right on your phone.

Support for parents and carers is also available.



Provided by NHS Bristol,
North Somerset and
South Gloucestershire
ICB with Northpoint.

feelingmixedup.uk

New online CBT service for local children and young people

The local NHS has launched a new online CBT service, SilverCloud, which offers support for children and young people experiencing low mood and anxiety. Children aged 12-plus can self-refer to the service at feelingmixedup.uk and support is also available for parents of children aged five-plus.

The service is a part of a range of local wellbeing support for children and young people that also includes Kooth and Off The Record. You can find out more about these services in the *Directory of Mental Health and Wellbeing Services for Children and Young People* for your area, available on the local NHS website at

<https://bnssghealthiertogether.org.uk/mental-health/children-and-young-peoples-emotional-health-and-wellbeing/>



SilverCloud
by Amwell*

NHS

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feelingmixedup.uk