



Backwell School Weekly Bulletin



Friday, 12 December 2025

Dear Parents, Carers, Families and Friends,

As we arrive at the penultimate Friday before the Christmas break, the excitement around school is truly beginning to build. Our sporting house matches have been in full flow with students fully committing themselves to the cause! The music department has been alive with festive music from rehearsals drifting down the corridors, and our students are eagerly counting down the days to a well-earned break. It's a wonderful time of year to pause, reflect, and celebrate all that has been achieved this term. In this week's newsletter, you'll find updates on our seasonal activities, important reminders for the final days of term, and a look ahead at the celebrations still to come.

Last week, I challenged the students to end the term in the same way they hope to begin the next one: full of energy, enthusiasm, and commitment to learning. It has been wonderful to see them take this on so positively. Attendance and punctuality have been excellent, and students have remained fully engaged in their lessons. The idea that every lesson counts is especially important at this time of year. Whether students are in examination year groups or still working towards them, the learning never stops, and every day makes a difference. I ask once again for your support in ensuring your child attends school for the final 4½ days, which include 26 valuable lessons.

Next week is shaping up to be full of enjoyable events. Christmas lunch will take place on Thursday for Year 7 and on Wednesday for all other year groups. There is no need to book in advance, but please encourage your child to buy a lunch and enjoy a festive meal of roast turkey, pigs in blankets, potatoes, and plenty of gravy as we near the end of term. On Tuesday evening, our Winter Concert will be held in the main theatre starting at 7pm. Students from across all year groups will be performing, and the event promises to be lively, energetic, and full of festive spirit.

Also on Tuesday, we will welcome back the Class of 2025 as they return to collect their A Level certificates and additional awards linked to their post-16 studies. It will be lovely to see our former students again, along with their families, and to hear about their first few months at university, in the workplace, or on their Gap Year.

Friday will be our final day of term and includes a number of special activities. It is a non-uniform day, and we will be raising money for the Trussell Trust, which works to ensure no one in the UK is forced to rely on a food bank. Until that goal is achieved, the charity provides emergency food and support for people in crisis. We are proud to be supporting this important cause, and we hope you will donate £2 so that your child may wear festive non-uniform on Friday. To donate £2 please [Click here](#).

We will also hold our whole-school assembly on Friday, a new and growing tradition at Backwell. This assembly will celebrate all that we have achieved during the first two terms. There will be live music and singing from one of our choirs, raffles linked to green button rewards, and thoughtful messages from our Head Student team.

As a reminder, Friday is an early finish. Students will leave at 13:15, and buses will depart at 13:30.

Our final festive event of 2025 will take place next Saturday morning, when our wonderful community choir, led by Mr Clarke, will gather around the Christmas tree in the centre of Nailsea to sing a joyful selection of carols and seasonal songs. We warmly invite all parents and carers to come along, share in the festive spirit, and enjoy this cheerful celebration with us.

In other news, and slightly less festive, it has been exciting to see the new 3G astroturf nearing completion this week. The sand and rubber crumb base has been laid and carefully swept into the carpet, and the finishing touches are being added to the surrounding area. The astro will be officially handed over to us on 18th December. More information will follow about the formal opening, but for now we are hugely grateful to our specialist contractors, S&C Slatter, for their expertise in creating this fantastic space for both our school and the wider community to enjoy. Further details about using the astroturf will come from Mr Moore. Students wishing to use it will need rubber-studded football boots or astroturf-style shoes, as metal-studded boots or blades will not be permitted on the surface.

Finally, this week marked the completion of an exciting student project, in which several of our students restored a beautiful Blu Roc Legend 125cc under the guidance and patience of Mr Trevitt. The project involved fully dismantling the bike, restoring the engine and bodywork, and then reassembling it. After passing a successful MOT, the motorbike has been sold to Mr and Mrs Gardner for £1,400 – photos will appear later in the newsletter. The funds will be reinvested into another motorcycle restoration project, which will begin after Christmas. Any students interested in joining this project are encouraged to speak to Mr Trevitt.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership—especially during this busy and joyful time of year. Wishing you a warm and festive weekend ahead.

With warmest regards,



Will Penny
Headteacher



*One of our wonderful Runner's Up Christmas card designs
by Bibi G Year 7*

This week in pictures



Our incredible 3G pitch – Almost completed



Students competing in a sport at a representative level

As part of our annual Sports Awards Evening, we like to acknowledge the sporting achievements of our students both inside and outside the school gates, many of whom take part in sports outside of the traditional school curriculum. We would, therefore, be very grateful to hear about any student who is competing in a sport, or representing a team, at **County Level or higher**. Please email details, including a photo (& video if appropriate) of them in action, to Mr Budd at cbudd@backwellschool.net



Non-Uniform Day Christmas Jumper Theme for Trussell Trust – Friday, 19 December 2025



To help start the festivities, the last day of Term 2 will be a non-uniform day with a Christmas jumper theme. We will be raising funds to support The Trussell Trust in Clevedon.

The Trussell Trust is an incredible anti-poverty and local community foodbank. The Trussell Trust work together to ensure no one in the UK needs a food bank to survive, while providing food & practical support, to people left without enough money to live on. 'Please donate a minimum of £2.00 before or on Friday 19 December. Please make your donation through your ParentPay account: [Click here](#)

Thank you for your support.



Year 11 'A Christmas Carol' English theatre trip

A reminder to those signed up to the Year 11 English theatre trip to Bath, taking place on Monday 15 December, that the coach departs at 1.30pm and will return at approximately 6pm. Please arrange for the safe return home of your child at the end of the trip. Full details can be found here:

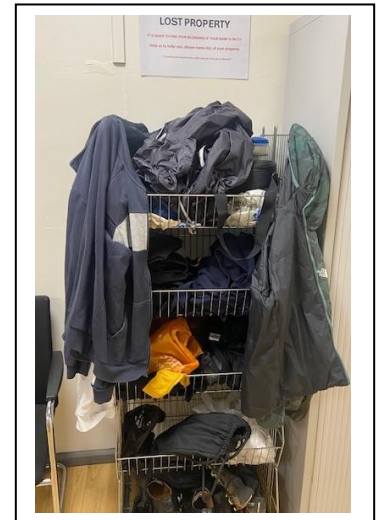
<https://www.backwellschool.net/attachments/download.asp?file=3266&type=pdf>

Term 3 Clubs

The Clubs schedules are still being fine-tuned but will be advertised in next week's clubs bulletin, with updated clubs for the new year.

Lost Property

Since the start of term, we have accumulated a large amount of unnamed school uniform including several coats and jumpers. The lost property area is located outside of student services and is easily accessible to students. Please note that any unclaimed items will be removed after the Christmas holidays.



Winter Music Concert - Tuesday 16th December 7pm – Some tickets still available

Tickets for our winter music concert have been selling fast. The concert is a great 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!

Click on the link below to purchase your tickets. Tickets are £5 for adults and £3 for concessions.

[Backwell School Winter Concert Tickets](#)

Students involved in the Winter Music Concert

Students performing in the music concert on Tuesday 16th December can either go home after school and return for 6:30pm OR they can stay in school where staff will be on site to supervise them.

Please note: Students will need to be in full school uniform for this performance please.



Sixth Form Production of Footloose

Over the last few months, members of the sixth form have been rehearsing for this year's production of the '80s classic, *Footloose*. The talent both on and offstage is incredible, as is the atmosphere for all of us behind the scenes. I think we could all say that you'll see a great deal of that when you come to see us perform in January. Tickets are available now (£8 adults, £6 concession), and all proceeds are going to Alzheimer's Society.

Merry Christmas, and we'll see you in the new year: [Your Box Office - Footloose](#)



BACKWELL SCHOOL
PRESENTS

Footloose

14TH - 16TH JANUARY
2026

**£8 ADULT
TICKET** **£6 CONCESSION
TICKET**

STAGE ADAPTATION BY DEAN PITCHFORD AND WALTER BOBBIE
BASED ON THE ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY BY DEAN PITCHFORD - MUSIC
BY TOM SNOW - LYRICS BY DEAN PITCHFORD - ADDITIONAL MUSIC
BY ERIC CARMEN, SAMMY HAGAR, KENNY LOGGINS AND JIM
STEINMAN

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

Quick Links

- [School Uniform and Equipment Guidance](#)
- [Financial Support](#)
- [Careers Bulletin - 12 December 2025](#)
- [Sixth Form Bulletin](#)

Letters Home This Week

- [Use of Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) and Non Examined Assessments](#)
- [Year 13 2026-2027 Geography, Photography and Science Trip to Iceland](#)

Dates for your Diary

Monday 15 December 2025	A Christmas Carol – English Theatre Trip (see information above)
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)
Saturday 20 December	Backwell Community Choir Performing in Somerset Square , Nailsea 11:00am (outside the Livro Lounge)
Monday 05 January 2026	Term 3 Starts – Timetable Week 1
Thursday 15 January 2026	Year 9 Parents’ and Carers’ Evening (online) 4:00pm -6:45pm
Wednesday 14 – Friday 16 January 2026	Sixth Form Production of Footloose (see information above)

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

**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

Events, Clubs and Course in our Community

Flu Catch up Clinics

Children's Flu vaccination (nasal and injection) catch-up clinics are available for Year 7 to Year 11 students who did not receive their vaccinations at school. Please book an appointment at <https://imms.sirona-cic.org.uk/flu/2025/book?v=4>

If you have any queries please contact the Immunisation Team directly on 0300 124 5515 or email sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net



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



Find out more about becoming a Trustee for
Lighthouse Schools Partnership:

LSP.ORG.UK/COULDYOUBEATRUSTEE