



Backwell School Weekly Bulletin



Friday, 19 December 2025

Dear Parents, Carers, Families and Friends,

As the term draws to a close and the festive season properly begins, this week our school has been buzzing with celebration and cheer. It's been a wonderfully busy term, filled with hard work, achievements to be proud of, and plenty of moments that have brought our community together. Today we have had the chance to pause and reflect on these achievements in our final assembly, celebrations from classroom successes to concerts, sporting events, subject competitions, and festive events, our students have shown commitment, kindness, and resilience every step of the way. You will have read about so many of these things in the newsletter, a publication which each week is such a pleasure to write the introduction to.

From a personal perspective, the first two terms have flown by. I hope that, as parents and carers, you recognise just how special our school community truly is. It is a warm, caring, and welcoming place that has embraced me — the now not-so-new Headteacher — from day one. It is the friendly smiles and cheerful greetings, the honesty our pupils share when they are finding things difficult, and the daily words of encouragement or reassuring arm around the shoulder that make our school such a special environment. Combined with the wide range of exciting extra-curricular opportunities available, which so many students have enthusiastically embraced, our school is one that nurtures young people into alumni we will be immensely proud of in the years to come.

This week has been anything but slow, and if anything, the final week of term has showcased the very best of Backwell. Our Year 11 students enjoyed a trip to the Theatre Royal in Bath to see A Christmas Carol, one of their GCSE set texts. We also welcomed eight new trainee teachers from Bristol University, who will have the opportunity to learn from some of the finest teachers in the area while working with our exceptional students. On Tuesday evening, we were delighted to welcome back our A Level alumni and their parents to hear about their first term at university, in the workplace, or on gap years — it was wonderful to hear their stories and reflections on their time at Backwell. The evening also featured our sold-out Winter Concert. The evening was nothing short of exceptional and a true celebration of the talent and dedication within our school. On Tuesday, like most days, the music from rehearsals echoed through the corridors and the students who lit up the stage, from all year groups, performed to an excellent standard. Meanwhile this week, our

food hampers were being collected, rehearsals for Footloose and Oliver continued at full intensity, and the School Community Choir prepared for their performance on Saturday at 11am around the Christmas Tree in Nailsea town centre. Finally, today we held our final celebration assembly, reflecting on the achievements of Terms 1 and 2, while raising funds for the Trussell Trust through our non-uniform day.

Finally, as we bring this term to a close and look ahead to the Christmas break, we hope this special time of year offers everyone the chance to slow down, reflect, and enjoy precious moments with family and friends. Christmas is a time for warmth, generosity, and togetherness, and we hope the holiday brings joy, laughter, and well-earned rest to our whole school community. Thank you for your continued support throughout the year. We wish you a very happy and peaceful Christmas and look forward to welcoming our students back in the new year on Monday 5th January, refreshed and ready for the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead in 2026.

With warmest regards,



Will Penny
Headteacher



Driving GNOME for Christmas!

Charity Concert Success

Huge congratulations to all of the students who got involved in the charity concert on 12th December. There was a terrific variety of singers, bands, instrumentalists, dancers and then the finale comedy piece by a group of our year 11 drama students. Special thanks to Henry S in year 11 who came up with the idea, ran with it and organised a really enjoyable and slick evening of entertainment. We will be sending all of the ticket money to The Grand Appeal, the charity chosen by the student organisers.



Year 13 Christingle

'This week after working hard on their trial exam feedback, Year 13 Philosophy and Religion students spent the last part of their lesson enjoying learning about a childhood Christian Christmas tradition of Christingle.'



Visit to Backwell Baptist Church

Last week the year 11 GCSE Philosophy and Religion classes visited Backwell Baptist Church. It was an opportunity to reflect on what we've learnt about the different forms of Christian worship and to explore one of our local places of worship. We're thankful to Rev Tim and his team for hosting us, sharing with us and answering our questions.



Motorcycle Club

Following on from the successful sale of the BluRoc motorcycle, Mr Trevitt's Motorcycle club have been gifted a motorcycle engine. This will give the students an opportunity to work on an engine, take it apart and rebuild to learn all about the workings and give them a valuable experience. Huge thanks to RJ Motorcycles in Banwell for this very kind donation. This is the company that MOT'd the BluRoc before it left for its new home. The team at RJ Motorcycles commented on how well the bike had been prepared by the students. RJ Motors would like to offer a work experience opportunity. If any Year 10 students are considering a career in the motor industry/engineering, Rob and his team would be happy to have students on work experience to gain an understanding of what happens in mechanical workshops. Many thanks to Rob and the team at RJ Motors.



Term 3 Clubs Schedules

Updated clubs' schedules for next term can now be found on the website:

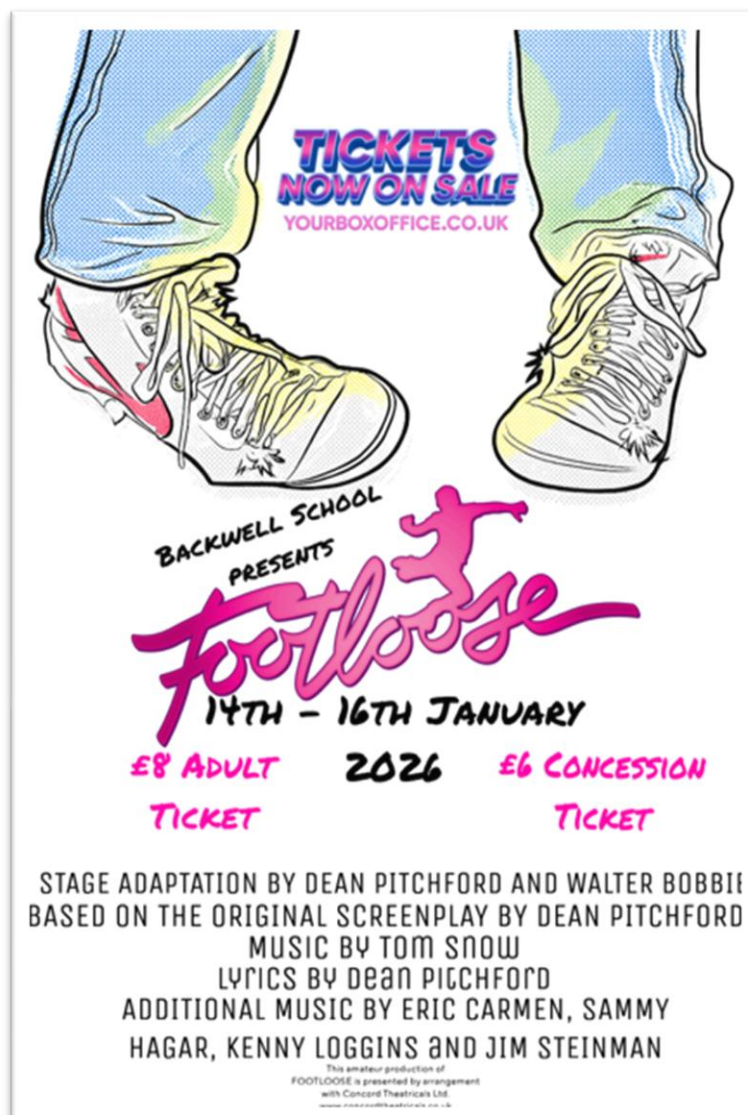
[Clubs and Courses](#)

Please note clubs will start the first week back in January, **except** the Sports clubs which will start on w/c Monday 12 January.

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](#)



Quick Links

- [School Uniform and Equipment Guidance](#)
- [Financial Support](#)
- [Sixth Form Bulletin](#)
- [Careers Bulletin - 19 December 2025](#)

Letters Home This Week

- [Human Papillomavirus \(HPV\) vaccine for everyone in Year 8](#)
- [School Immunisation Sessions – What you need to know](#)
- [Year 9 Parents / Carers Evening: Thursday 15 January 2026](#)
- [Y12/13 A Level Drama trip to see 'Lost Atoms' at Bristol Old Vic - Monday 19 January 2026](#)

Dates for your Diary

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)

Flu Catch up Clinics

Children's Flu vaccination (nasal and injection) catch-up clinics are still available for Reception 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



BACKWELL SCHOOL
PRESENTS
Footloose
14TH - 16TH JANUARY

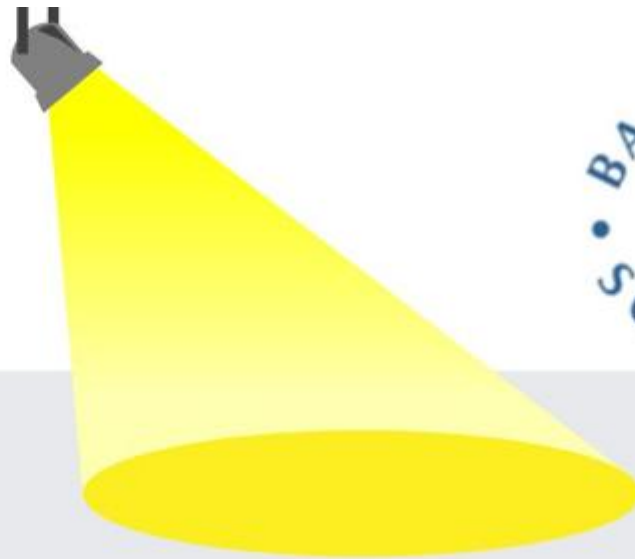
£8 ADULT TICKET 2026 £6 CONCESSION TICKET

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

This amateur production of
FOOTLOOSE is presented by arrangement
with Concord Theatricals Ltd.
www.concordtheatricals.co.uk

Backwell School Support Staff Vacancy

We have a fantastic new opportunity for an Administrator to join the Educational Support Team from the 2 February 2026 onwards, providing admin support to the SEN Co-Ordinator and pastoral team. 20 hours a week, term time only plus 5 inset days. Please see our vacancy page for full details <https://www.eteach.com/careers/backwellschool/>



WE'RE HIRING!

SEND Administrator

20 hours a week

Term time only + 5 inset days

Full time salary £25,583-£25,989 (JG3)

Part time salary £12,146-£12,339.21

Visit our vacancy page on the Backwell website for full details

Closing date: Sunday 11 January 2026



LIGHTHOUSE
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP



**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](https://lsp.org.uk/couldyoubeatrustee)

A DEDICATED SPACE FOR 11 - 16 YEAR OLDS

the **hangar**

HANGOUT

**THURSDAYS
3:15PM
UNTIL 5:15PM**

A RELAXED SPACE TO COME AND LET OFF STEAM, UNWIND,
PERSUE YOUR INTERESTS AND MEET NEW PEOPLE.

GAMES & ACTIVITIES

SNACKS & DRINKS

CHILL AREA

SPECIALIST VISITORS

GYM EQUIPMENT

**LEARN NEW
SKILLS**

THURSDAYS - 3:15-5:15PM

THE HANGAR GYM

1-2 RECTOR'S WAY, BS23 3NP



**COME BEFORE CHRISTMAS TO HELP US SHAPE THE SPACE
TO HOW YOU LIKE IT AND STEER THE DIRECTION OF THE
CLUB FOR THE FUTURE!**

