



Backwell School Weekly Bulletin



Friday, 16 January 2026

Dear Parents, Carers, Families and Friends,

This week has been dominated, in the very best possible way, by the celebration that has been the Sixth Form production of *Footloose*. Entirely produced, rehearsed and delivered by our Sixth Form students, the show was a true highlight of the year and a wonderful demonstration of all that makes our Sixth Form so special: a community that is supportive, caring and ambitious in what it strives to achieve. It was particularly heartening to hear from a parent who shared how the experience helped her daughter, previously lacking confidence, feel part of a team and truly thrive. On a personal note, watching the performance on Wednesday evening was yet another reminder of how fortunate I am to work at such a special school.

Looking ahead, excitement continues to build as rehearsals intensify for our whole-school production of *Oliver!* With weekend rehearsals underway and tickets selling quickly I can guarantee that you do not want to miss out on this spectacular as there won't be any 'more' (tickets) as the master serving the food famously says to Oliver himself!

I would also like to reassure you that on Monday we will be speaking to students about our school shutdown procedures. This briefing is not designed to cause alarm, but rather to ensure students know exactly what to do in the unlikely event of an emergency—much in the same way that we regularly practise fire evacuations. A shutdown would only ever take place to keep pupils, staff and visitors safe. Situations that may warrant a shutdown include an incident occurring close to the school has the potential to cause harm to, a malicious threat being made against the school or possibly, and most likely for us, a dangerous animal such as a bull, horse or dog being loose in the area.

We would appreciate your support in talking with your young people about staying safe on their journeys to and from school. With darker and wetter mornings, it is vital that cyclists

wear helmets, use lights and remain visible. Please also encourage students to cross busy roads, especially the A370, only at designated crossing points to ensure their safety.

Finally, I would like to finish with a message that was passed to me yesterday evening that stated, *'this afternoon was my first time on a train with your school children at 15:40. I was very impressed by their behaviour on the train and on the platform. Well done and keep it up'*. If your child travels from Backwell Station towards Yatton, please do pass on my congratulations. These everyday acts of courtesy and responsibility make a lasting and positive impression on our local community and are something we are immensely proud of.

Have a wonderful weekend.

With warmest regards,



Will Penny
Headteacher



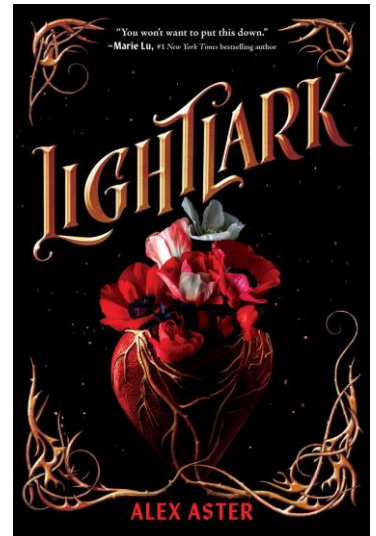
Book of the Week

LIGHTLARK By Alex Aster

Welcome to the Centennial.

Every hundred years, the island of Lightlark appears for only 100 days to host a deadly game, where the rulers of six realms fight to break their curses and win unparalleled power. Each ruler has something to hide. Each curse is uniquely wicked. To break them—and save themselves and their realms—one ruler must die.

To survive, Isla Crown must lie, cheat, and betray. Even as love complicates everything ...



Food For Thought

FOOD WRITING CONTEST

ENTER TO

WIN PRIZES



DEADLINE: 23RD FEB

**SUBMIT TO THE
LIBRARY**

**WRITE A SHORT STORY
(MAX 2 SIDES OF A4) WITH
THE FOCUS BEING FOOD.
CAN BE FICTION OR NON-
FICTION.**

POSSIBLE IDEAS

- The first time you cooked
- Trying new food
- Food you ate on holiday
- Food that is important to you

Karate Congratulations

We would like to send a huge Backwell School 'CONGRATULATIONS' to two of our students; Liam M (Year 12) and Oli H (Year 9) who have recently been selected to represent England at the JKS World Shoto Cup in Brazil this coming summer.

This is an absolutely incredible achievement, and we wish them every success and for their peers joining them from Bristol Karate Academy.

IMPORTANT - Summer 2026 Examination entries

Students taking examinations in May/June 2026 will receive an email to their school email account on Friday, 16 January requesting they check and confirm their exam entries. The same request will also be sent to their parents/carers (to the email address they have registered with the school) asking them to also check and confirm their child's exam entries.

Please note:

- **It is important you read all the information in the email.**
- **Click on the 'magic' link at the end of the email.** This will take you straight to the exam entries tab on the exam portal without having to sign in.
- You can view, check and confirm your entries.
- **Please confirm your entries by the deadline by 26th January.** Any late adjustments to entries may be chargeable to you.
- Instructions for the Exam Portal will be attached to the email if you have not registered/confirmed entries previously.

Free Cycling Proficiency Course

Life Cycle UK is running a free Level 3 Bikeability cycling proficiency course, for Years 7 & 8, out of Backwell School during February half term. (Note: Students should have completed their Level 2 Bikeability before doing Level 3). Please see the flyer at the end of this bulletin for details and how to book.



Scan to book

Book now!
<https://bit.ly/48Ai378>
Registered Charity Number: 1077575

YEAR 11 PARENTS – PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO ORDER A LEAVERS HOODIE FOR YOUR YEAR 11

This year, the students' hoodies will be an 'over the head' style with black writing, the colour choice is Ash (light grey) which has been decided by a student survey that was conducted on frog.

Sizes as follows:-

Small -	34 to 36 inch chest
Medium -	38 to 40 inch chest
Large -	42 to 44 inch chest
Extra Large -	46 to 48 inch chest
XXL -	50 to 52 inch chest

Students wishing to buy a hoodie will have their names (forename and surname – as appears on our school records) shown in the number '26' design on the back. The cost of each hoodie, including printing is **£20.00**

If you would like to order a hoodie for your young person, please make payment via www.parentpay.com by **4 February 2026** - please note that **LATE ORDERS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED**. In addition to this, please indicate in the notes box the size you would like to order.

Pupil Premium

If you are in receipt of Pupil Premium allowance to place your order, please email studentservices@backwellschool.net with the student's name and size by **4th February 2026**. Please note that **NO LATE ORDERS CAN BE ACCEPTED**.

Leavers Hoodies Letter

Fantastic Fund Raising

On the last day of Term 2 we held a non-uniform day, with a Christmas Jumper theme. We were raising funds for The Trussell Trust, who work in association with Clevedon and District Foodbank.

We are elated to announce that so far, we have raised **£2030!** Thank you so much. If you would still like to make a donation, there is still opportunity to do so. This can be done through your ParentPay account.

THANK YOU!

Enrichment Week June 2026 – Year 7, 8 & 9

Student Essential Information

To support the planning and organisation of Enrichment Week, we kindly ask parents/carers to complete a student essential information form (EV5 form).

If you have not already done so, please could you fill this out in the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/e/8WY2UD2fA2>

This should take no more than 5 minutes to complete and will ensure we have the most up-to-date medical information and emergency contact details for your child.

Thank you for your continued support with payment deposits and instalments.

If you have any questions regarding Enrichment Week, please contact Student Services.

Backwell School Production of “Oliver!” – Tickets on sale now!

Tickets are now on sale for our school production of 'Oliver!' which runs from Tuesday 10th February to Friday 13th February. Tickets are priced at £10 for adults and £6 for concessions. Our whole school shows tend to sell out so get your seats quickly to avoid disappointment!

[Your Box Office - Ticket booking for Oliver!](#)



Quick Links

- [School Uniform and Equipment Guidance](#)
- [Financial Support](#)
- [Year 13 Key Dates 2025-2026](#)
- [Sixth Form Bulletin](#)
- [Careers Bulletin - Friday 16 January 2026](#)

Letters Home This Week

- [Year 9 Options Information Evening: Thursday 29 January 2026](#)
- [Year 11 Leavers Hoodie](#)

Dates for your Diary

Monday 19 January	A-Level theatre trip - 'Lost Atoms' 19:00-22:00
Tuesday 20 January	Drama taster session Year 9 in Sixth Form Theatre 15:15-16:15
Thursday 22 January	SECOND HAND UNIFORM SALE 3.30PM – 5.00PM (Conference Room)
Thursday 29 January	Year 9 Options Evening 17:30-19:30 in Main School Theatre
Thursday 05 February	Year 13 Parents' & Carers' Evening (online) 16:00-18:45
Friday 06 February	Non-Uniform Day – Fundraising for RAG week
Tuesday 10 – Friday 13 February 2026	School Production 'Oliver' Performance in DTH 19:00-22:00
Friday 13 February	Inset Day 5 – School closed to pupils End of Term 3
Thursday 26 February	Year 11 Parents' & Carers' Evening (online) 16:00-18:45



**BSA
SECOND HAND
UNIFORM SALE**



22nd January

3.30 - 5pm

Conference Room

Cash or card

Donations gratefully received in Reception
anytime and up to Thursday 22nd January.

**BRANDED ITEMS ONLY - NO TROUSERS PLEASE
CLEAN & GOOD CONDITION**



If your child has special educational needs or disabilities, you know better than anyone how important accessible, timely and compassionate healthcare is...

Survey closes at midnight on Sunday 18 January 2026



We want to know how local healthcare providers are doing - what's working well and what could be improved?



Complete the survey

The three local parent carer forums - Bristol Parent Carers, North Somerset Parent Carers Working Together, and South Glos Parent Carers (SGPC) - come together as BNSSG to make sure the collective voice of parent carers is heard and understood.



Your experience matters.
Help shape change.

Navigating health services can be a challenge for families with children or young people who have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Parent carers are in the best position to highlight what works well and where improvements are needed in the healthcare system. To support this, we are running a **Health Services Survey** to gather valuable feedback on experiences with GPs, hospitals, mental and physical health services, dentists, opticians, audiologists, pharmacies, health visitors, school nurses, and assessment/diagnostic services.

Survey Details:

- **Who can take part?** All parents and carers of a child or young person with any additional need or disability – diagnosed or not.
- **Time to complete:** Approximately 20 minutes.
- **Confidentiality:** The survey is completely confidential.
- **Closing date:** Sunday 18 January, midnight.
- **Link to Survey:** [Click here to complete survey](#)

**Life
Cycle**



**Backwell School
February half term
Bikeability
Level 3**

Bikeability Holiday Courses

Unlock your child's cycling potential!

Cycling confidence, road safety, and planning skills –
taught by Life Cycle's qualified, DBS-checked instructors.

Scan to
book



Book now!
<https://bit.ly/48Ai378>

Registered Charity Number: 1077575



WE'LL LISTEN TO YOU

WELLSPRING LISTENING
MENTORS



Free Service for Ages 11-16 yrs
face to face 35 minute weekly sessions

CALL NOW TO BOOK AN ASSESSMENT

 01275 810879

 www.wellspringcounselling.org.uk



“Please see below flyer explaining how to become a host family for French students visiting the UK for short periods. This is a great opportunity to experience different cultures whilst earning extra money.

Please note, the students are not linked to Backwell School.”



We are looking for host families in your area!

Why choose us?

- Excellent rates
- 24/7 support
- Locally based
- Weekly payments
- 3 or 4 night stays
- Weekends free



How to contact us

07910746108
07956870011

enquiries@bristolhostfamilies.co.uk

