



Backwell School Weekly Bulletin



Friday, 23 January 2026

Dear Parents, Carers, Families and Friends,

As we reach the halfway point of Term 3, it is a good moment to reflect on just how much this term has already packed in—not only in terms of learning in the classroom, but also the rich experiences taking place beyond it.

This week has been no exception, with our Year 11 Spanish Exchange students departing from Bristol Airport for Northern Spain. Over the course of the week, students will be living with their exchange partners, attending school, visiting local sites and fully immersing themselves in Spanish culture. They will also, we hope, be enjoying weather that is slightly kinder than what we are experiencing here! This exchange is a relatively unique opportunity that we are proud to offer as a school, and one that we hope our younger students will look forward to taking full advantage of when they reach their GCSE years.

Looking ahead to the penultimate week of term, from 4–6 February, we are excited to be hosting our inaugural Raising and Giving (RAG) Week. Throughout the week, a variety of activities will take place to raise money for several local charities, including The Alfie Nick Foundation, The Backwell Environmental Trust, Bristol Refugee Rights and Children's Hospice South West. Activities will include the opportunity to send a Valentine's gift to a loved one, a clothes swap event where students can trade or purchase items, lunchtime fair games such as hook-a-duck, and the week will culminate in a much-anticipated "Sponge the Teacher" event on Friday lunchtime. All activities will require cash to participate, so we would appreciate your support in ensuring students bring some coins with them. Friday will also be a non-uniform day, with a £2 contribution payable via ParentPay, and all proceeds going to Children's Hospice South West.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the 25 business professionals who generously gave their time to support our Year 10 Mock Interview Day on Thursday. This invaluable experience gives students a real taste of a rigorous interview process and helps prepare

them for future opportunities. The day plays an important role in developing students' confidence, presentation and public speaking skills, and we are extremely grateful to all the volunteers who made it possible. Indeed some of the feedback from the employers was delightful and a true reflection of our wonderful students, comments such as, "*what an amazing group of young people*" and "*I would employ any of the students I interviewed*" and finally, "*you should be very proud of them*" – I can assure you of the final comment, we really are!

Also, this week we had a team taking part in the Oxford Schools Debating competition. The competition provides students with a fantastic opportunity to build their confidence and skills in public speaking, structured argumentation, and analytical problem-solving, all while engaging with some of the brightest young minds from across the local area. We hope to be one of the top-performing teams who get to go on to compete in Finals Day, held at the historic Oxford Union!

It was wonderful to celebrate further success for the Backwell Equestrian Team, who, despite competing in challenging conditions of darkness and rain last weekend, qualified for the Winter Championships in Wales this coming March. Lola B, Briony W, Leah H and Hattie M performed superbly, securing a team 1st place alongside individual 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th places across the 90cm and 1m competitions. We are incredibly proud of their resilience and achievements and very much look forward to seeing them '*bring home the ribbons*' in March.

Finally, as I have said before, we simply could not do what we do as a school without your continued support. By working together, we ensure that every child is able to find and achieve their own version of exceptional.

Thank you, and I wish you all a wonderful weekend.



Will Penny
Headteacher





Members of Backwell School Equestrian Team braving the wet winter conditions to qualify for the Winter Championships held in Wales, in March 2026

Book of the Week

Powerless By Lauren Roberts

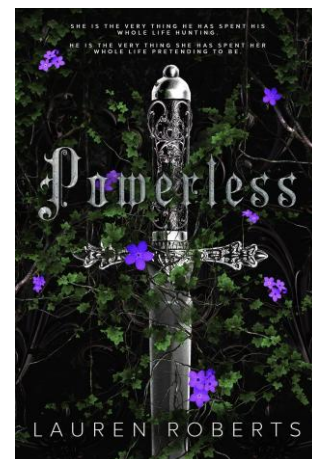
*She is the very thing he's spent his whole life hunting.
He is the very thing she's spent her whole life pretending to be.*


Only the extraordinary belong in the kingdom of Ilya—the exceptional, the empowered, the Elites.

The powers these Elites have possessed for decades were graciously gifted to them by the Plague, though not all were fortunate enough to both survive the sickness and reap the reward. Those born Ordinary are just that—ordinary. And when the king decreed that all Ordinaries be banished in order to preserve his Elite society, lacking an ability suddenly became a crime—making Paedyn Gray a felon by fate and a thief by necessity.


Surviving in the slums as an Ordinary is no simple task, and Paedyn knows this better than most. Having been trained by her father to be overly observant since she was a child, Paedyn poses as a Psychic in the crowded city, blending in with the Elites as best she can in order to stay alive and out of trouble. Easier said than done.

When Paedyn unsuspectingly saves one of Ilyas princes, she finds herself thrown into the Purging Trials. The brutal competition exists to showcase the Elites' powers—the very thing Paedyn lacks. If the Trials and the opponents within them don't kill her, the prince she's fighting feelings for certainly will if he discovers what she is—completely Ordinary.





RAG WEEK
4th February – 6th February



All proceeds go to our selected charities as voted for by students. Cash only!

Full information will be sent out to students in tutor time and assembly, next week.

Wednesday 04 February – Sixth Form Theatre at lunchtime

Clothes Swap raising money for Backwell Environmental Trust £1 per item (cash only).

Thursday 05 February – Main Theatre at lunchtime

Bake Sale and Games raising money for Bristol Refugee Rights. Costs 50p - £1 each per item (cash only).

Friday 06 February – Muster Courts at lunchtime

‘Sponge the Teacher’ raising money for Children’s Hospice South West.

Friday will also be a non-uniform day, raising funds for CHSW. It will cost £2 to wear non-uniform for the day and will be payable via ParentPay from next Friday, 30 January.

The Sixth Form Charity Committee will also be selling Valentine’s Day Love Hearts throughout the week, raising money for the Alfie Nick Foundation



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.

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!](#)



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

Quick Links

- [School Uniform and Equipment Guidance](#)
- [Financial Support](#)
- [Sixth Form Bulletin](#)
- [Careers Bulletin - 23 January 2026](#)

Letters Home This Week

- [Parent Governor Election](#)
- [GCSE German Vocabulary Book](#)

Dates for your Diary

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



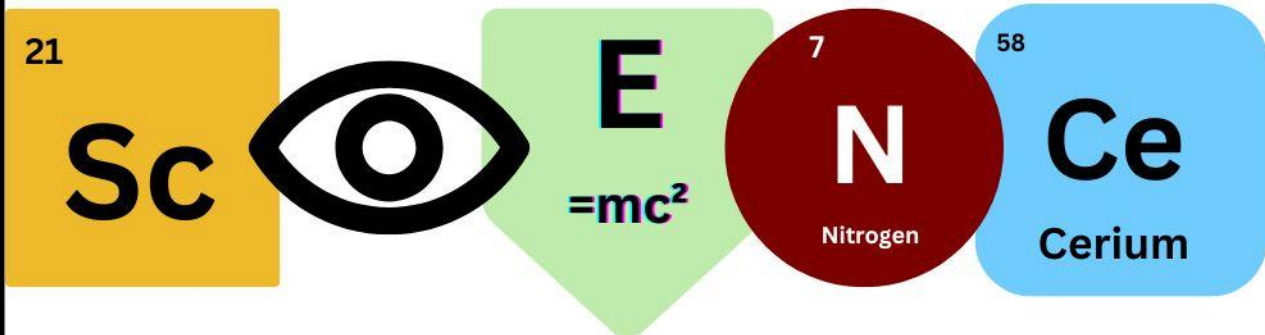
We have an exciting opportunity for a new science teacher to join Backwell from the 1 September 2026. Applications from all specialisms welcome. Please see full details here:

<https://www.eteach.com/careers/backwellschool/>



Are you as positive as a proton?

Backwell School is looking for a Teacher of



All specialisms welcome
Closing date Sunday 1st February
Full details on our vacancy page

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



CAREERS FAIR

TUESDAY 3RD MARCH

12:50PM - 4:00PM, NEW SPORTS HALL

Discover your career possibilities, and get connected with top employers.

Ideal for work experience, post 16, post 18 options and future careers.



Over 40 Employers



Nationwide Universities and Colleges



Local Training Providers

All students can attend at lunch and after 3:10pm.

Year 9 and 11 will be visiting during scheduled lessons.

Sixth Form Students Welcome Anytime.

Parents and Carers welcome after 3:10pm.



BE MORE WITH NAILSEA ARMY CADETS

Looking for a hobby with a difference?

NEW RECRUITS WELCOME TUESDAY and THURSDAY Evenings

The Cadet Centre - Greenfield Crescent Playing Fields
BS48 1HR What3Words: Wire / Swift / Intro



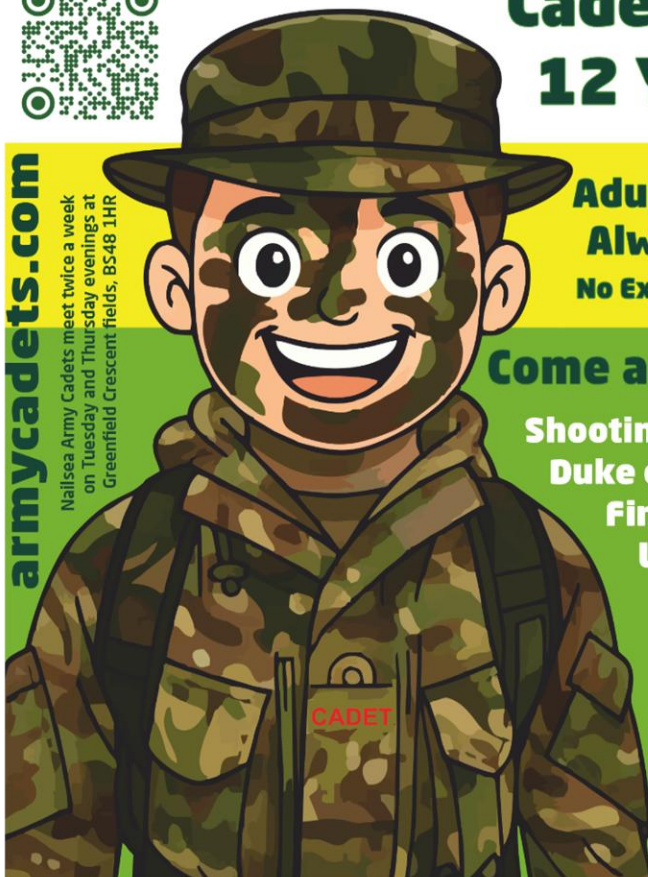
Cadets from 12 Years+



**Adult Volunteers
Always Needed
No Experience Required**

armycadets.com

Nailsea Army Cadets meet twice a week
on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at
Greenfield Crescent fields, BS48 1HR



Come along and meet the team!

Shooting Military Skills Navigation
Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme
First Aid Teamwork Skills
Leadership Training Sports
and lots more skills for life

For more information please email
TRACER@armymail.mod.uk



ARMY CADETS

Parenting village coffee morning



This is a relaxed and friendly drop-in session where parents and parenting specialists will be on hand to share resources, offer support, a listening ear or just spend time talking about what it's like to be a parent.

“It takes a village to raise a child” comes from an old African proverb. It shares the message that it takes many people to provide a safe and healthy environment in which children can flourish.



When? First Friday of each month
Where? Castle Batch Children's Centre,
Bishop Avenue, Weston-super-Mare, BS22 7PQ
What time? 09:30am – 11:00am



When? Second Tuesday of each month
Where? Oldmixon Family Centre, Monkton Avenue,
Weston-super-Mare, BS24 9DA
What time? 09:00am – 11:00am



When? Third Monday of each month
Where? Clevedon Library, 37 Old Church Road,
BS21 6NN
What time? 9.30am - 11am

Scan here to learn
more about our
advanced
parenting groups



Parenting Villages 2026

Upcoming sessions to support parents in North Somerset.

North Somerset Parent Carers - NSPCWT (North Somerset Parent Carers Working Together) support for parents around SEND

Education & Virtual School – “Would you like to know more about your child's transition to secondary school? Do you have any questions about the process? Come along and meet Katie Bray Virtual School Extended duties lead and Laura Pfister Re-integration officer, from North Somerset Council.”

Castle Batch Family Hub (First Friday of each month 09:30 - 11:00)

- 06/02/2026 - NSPCWT
- 06/03/2026 - Virtual School
- 01/05/2026 - NSPCWT
- 03/07/2026 - NSPCWT

Oldmixon Family Centre (Second Tuesday of each month 09:00 - 11:00)

- 10/02/2026 - Virtual School & NSPCWT
- 12/05/2026 - NSPCWT
- 14/07/2026- NSPCWT

Clevedon Library (Third Monday of each month 09:30 - 11:00)

- 16/03/2026 - Virtual School & NSPCWT
- 18/05/2026 - NSPCWT
- 20/07/2026 – NSPCWT

The drop-in is a relaxed and friendly place where parents, and professionals from a range of services are on hand to offer support, a listening ear, advice, and signposting. Parents can also find further information about the Advanced Parenting Groups and how these might help to support them. Parents of children all ages welcome, Free refreshments. Free to attend.