



Backwell School Weekly Bulletin



Friday, 27 February 2026

Dear Parents, Carers, Families and Friends,

Ramadan Mubarak to families in our Backwell School community who began observing Ramadan at the start of half term. We would also like to wish a Happy Lunar New Year to those celebrating the arrival of the Year of the Fire Horse — a rare zodiac combination that occurs only once every 60 years. In addition, some households will be marking Purim at the beginning of next week. The start of spring truly brings a wonderful variety of celebrations, and we are proud to recognise the diversity within our school community.

At Backwell, we are aiming for at least 96% overall attendance because we know that every lesson truly matters. Evidence from the Department for Education shows a strong link between attendance and achievement: pupils with attendance above 95% are significantly more likely to achieve grade 5 or above in English and Maths GCSEs than those whose attendance drops to 90–95%. In practical terms, 90% attendance means missing around one day every two weeks — nearly four full weeks of learning lost each year. Over five years of secondary school, this adds up to almost half a year of missed education.

Beyond academic success, being in school every day builds routine, resilience, friendships and confidence — all essential for future success. We ask for your continued support in ensuring your child attends every day unless they are genuinely unwell, and that appointments and holidays are arranged outside of school time wherever possible. Together, we can help every student reach their full potential by prioritising attendance.

Year 11 parents and carers will recently have received personalised revision guidance, including a bespoke revision timetable, to support students as they prepare for their GCSE examinations — now less than 40 school days away. This is a crucial period, and consistent preparation will make a significant difference. All revision materials and subject-specific guidance can be found on your child's FROG page (search "GCSE Revision Site"), where teachers have shared resources, checklists and key information.

You can support at home by:

- Creating a quiet, focused space for study
- Encouraging regular revision sessions
- Quizzing them using revision notes or flashcards

- Checking they have the equipment and materials they need
- Having small, regular conversations about progress

If you or your child have any questions or need further guidance, please do not hesitate to contact their teachers — we are here to help every step of the way.

On Tuesday we are hosting our annual Careers Fair in the Brunel Building Sports Hall. Over 40 visiting employers, training providers and industry professionals will be in school to speak with students about their careers, businesses and the different pathways into their professions. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to ask questions, gain insight into a wide range of industries and feel inspired about their future options. We strongly encourage all students to engage confidently with our visitors. Parents and carers are also very welcome to attend after school from 3:10pm, and we would be delighted to see you there supporting your child as they explore future opportunities.

It has been another busy and successful week in sport. The Backwell chess team continued their recent success by winning the Portishead Under-18 Rapid Play Chess Tournament on Saturday. Competing against over 130 entries, the team delivered an outstanding performance to secure victory.

Congratulations also to the Year 10 girls' netball squads for their excellent performances at the county tournament hosted at Backwell on Tuesday. The A team achieved an impressive 2nd place, while the B team secured a strong 5th place finish against tough competition. These results reflect their effort, teamwork and ambition throughout the tournament. The players demonstrated resilience, determination and superb team spirit, representing the school with pride both on and off the court.

We wish our fantastic Year 9 girls football team the very best of luck as they travel to Farnham on Thursday to compete in the quarter-final of the ESFA National Cup against Weydon School. Reaching the last eight of a national competition is an outstanding achievement and reflects their hard work, teamwork and determination throughout the season. We are incredibly proud of everything they have accomplished and know they will represent Backwell with pride, passion and sportsmanship.

With spring very much in the air, we look forward to all that this term will bring for our school community. There is always so much to celebrate, and this is in no small part due to the role you play as parents and carers of our wonderful, talented students.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. By working together, we ensure that 'we are Backwell'.



Will Penny
Headteacher

Year 11 Mosque Visit

At the end of Term 3, the year 11 Philosophy and Religion students visited a mosque. It was a great opportunity for the students to support their GCSE curriculum. They asked lots of thought-provoking questions and demonstrated deep thinking as they explored a number of philosophical questions.

Students gained valuable insight into many of the religious practices we learn about. We are grateful to our guide for answering our questions and sharing with us.



Term 4 - Personal Development

In Personal Development at Backwell School, we work together to nurture the whole child, preparing them to be responsible, respectful, active citizens for life in modern Britain, focusing on character, resilience, wellbeing, and developing readiness for the next steps in education, training, or work. Students complete some of this work in specialised timetabled sessions and in tutor time. To help guide parents in their conversations with their children on these topics we are now including an outline of the areas that your child has been talking about at school in the Newsletter. Please do contact us via the school email -

mailbox@backwellschool.net - if you would like to discuss any aspect of our Personal Development Curriculum in more detail.

What is happening in Term 4:

Years 7 and 10 – are looking at Online Safety during their tutor time sessions. Year 7 are focussing on the opportunities and risks presented by the online world, as well as considering the implications of digital footprints and what our rights and responsibilities are online. Year 10 students are looking at the dangers and laws around both online gambling and sharing images online, as well as the benefits and risks of targeted advertising.

Year 10 - will also be discussing issues around consent and recognising sexual harassment during their SMSC lessons.

Year 8 – are talking about knife crime in tutor time, including recognising how this can impact young people.

Year 9 – in tutor time are continuing their work from Term 3 on Career Sectors including looking at job families in both the Creative Sector and the Public Sector.

Year 11 – are exploring aspects of Financial Security including how to budget, how to interpret household bills and the difference between purchasing on credit and debit cards in their tutor time sessions. In addition, in their SMSC sessions they will be looking at the impact of online pornography on wellbeing, as well as the laws around this.

Sixth Form:

Year 12 tutor times students are looking at Transport & Travel, Understanding online misinformation, Alcohol & binge drinking, Recreational drugs, Gambling, and Dangerous and emergency situations.

Year 13 tutor times students are looking at financial choices (working and earning), What makes an employer 'good' to work for, Setting online boundaries, 4th industrial revolution, using social media for job searching and Networks and support for future plans.

Book of the Week

NIGHTBANE – By Alex Aster

The seductive and action-packed follow-up to Alex Aster's instant #1 New York Times, #1 Wall Street Journal, and internationally bestselling novel, Lightlark.

Isla Crown has secured the love of two powerful rulers and broken the curses that plagued the six realms for centuries, but few know the true origins of her powers.

Now, in the wake of a crushing betrayal, Isla finds herself struggling to win respect as the newly crowned leader of two separate realms.

Worse, her fellow rulers haven't ceded victory quietly, and there are others in Isla's midst who don't believe her ascent to power was earned.

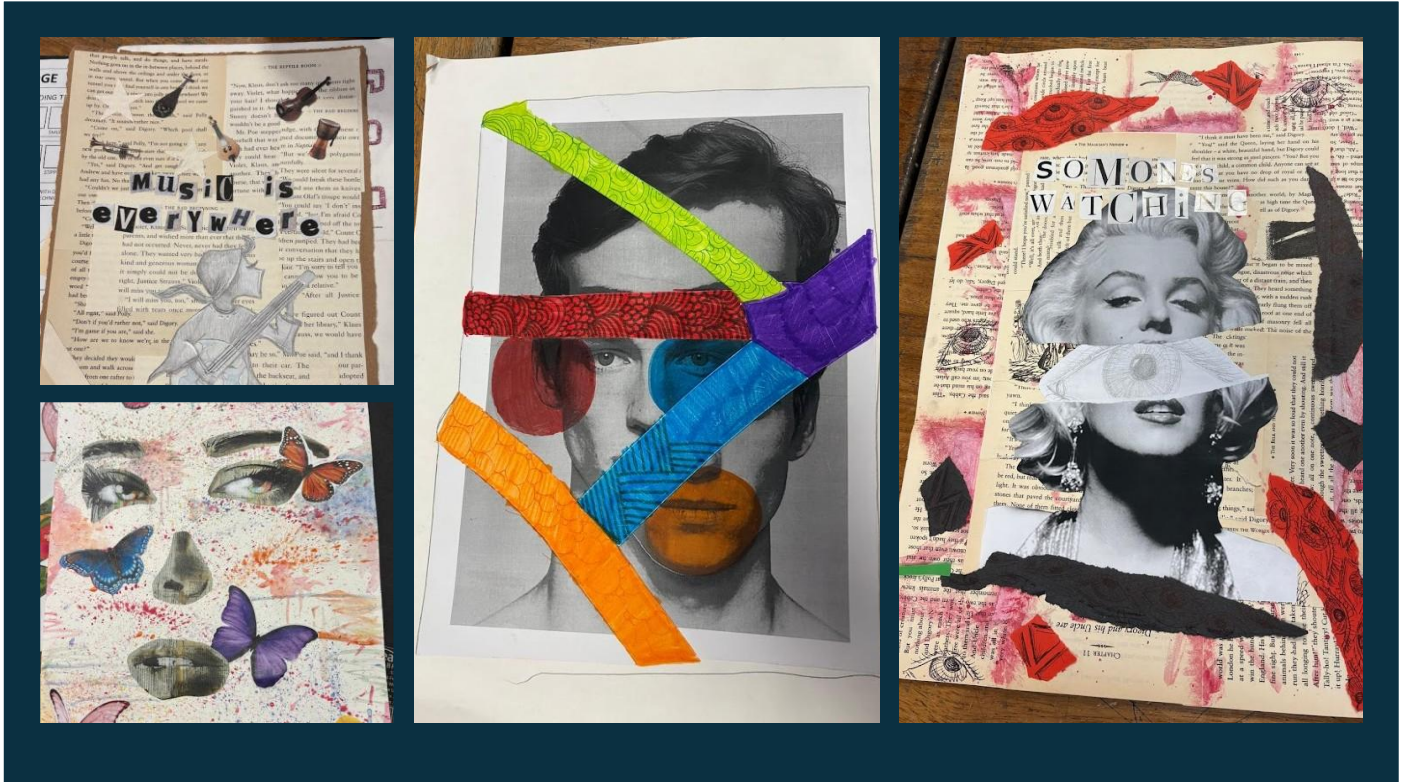
As certain death races toward Lightlark and secrets from the past begin to unravel, Isla must weigh her responsibility to her people against the whims of the most dangerous traitor of all: her heart.

Alex Aster's intricate world expands after the riveting culmination of the Centennial games, delving more deeply into Isla's memories of her past, as her future hurtles toward two possible fates.



Year 9 students and families - Options

Thank you for submitting your options forms for Year 9 KS4 choices. The next stage of the process is to create a timetable and confirm staffing. Subject allocations will be confirmed to students and parents towards the end of the summer term. Many thanks.



Year 9 students' artwork this week. Great examples of collage work

Quick Links

- [School Uniform and Equipment Guidance](#)
- [Financial Support](#)
- [Careers Bulletin - 27 February 2026](#)
- [Sixth Form Bulletin - Friday 27 February 2026](#)

Letters Home

- [Year 10 Trial Exams](#)
- [Year 13 Leavers' Hoodies](#)
- [School Immunisation Sessions - What you need to know](#)
- [Year 9 - Meningococcal ACWY and Diphtheria, Tetanus and Polio vaccinations](#)
- [Important - Measles, Chickenpox and Shingles](#)

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 03 March	Backwell School Careers Fair: 12:50 – 16:00 (New Sports Hall)
Tuesday 10 March	Year 8 HPV Vaccinations
Thursday 19 March	Year 7 Parents' and Carers' Evening (online 16:00-18:45)
Wednesday 25 March	Year 9 Meningococcal ACWY and Diphtheria, Tetanus & Polio Vaccinations
Thursday 02 April	Inset Day – School closed to students End of Term 4
Monday 20 April	Start of Term 5



*Thank you to StorySmith for visiting with their travelling bookfair today.
A great selection of books was thoroughly enjoyed by our Year 7 and 8 pupils*



Skateboarding Term 4 – 6 March to 27 March (4 sessions), Fridays 3.15-4.15pm, Max 12 students, £8/session. Open to all year groups. Booking is via external company Campus Skateboarding – see the accompanying flyer which has a link to book/fill in waiver (<https://campusskateboarding.com/lesson-and-clubs/skate-after-school/>). The sessions will take place on the Courts. If the weather is unsuitable on the day, we will get in touch to reschedule the session. Please note there is no late bus on Fridays so you will need to organise your child's safe return home after the club. All equipment will be provided, please do not bring skateboards into school.

**SKATE
AFTER
SCHOOL**

WITH
CAMPUS SKATEBOARDING

- STARTING FRIDAY 27 FEB
- SKATEBOARD TUITION
- 5 WEEKS
- 4.15 PICK UP
- ONLY 12 SPACES AVAILABLE
- £8 PER SESSION
- EQUIPMENT CAN BE PROVIDED

What we cover:
Basic skateboard control,
pushing and turning,
key terminology,
flat ground tricks

**TO BOOK A SPACE CLICK HERE OR HEAD TO
CAMPUSSKATEBOARDING.COM**

BACKWELL
SCHOOL

Recommended for students in Years 10 and 11



<https://tobaccofactorytheatres.com/shows/macbeth-3/>

"Blood will have blood." – Act III, scene 4

Shakespeare's *Macbeth* is a ruthless exploration of ambition, power, and the cost of forsaking the greater good. When Macbeth hears a prophecy that he is destined to rule, his desire for power overrides loyalty, love, and reason. Together with Lady Macbeth, he steps over the threshold of conscience – and into a world where guilt festers, trust is shattered, and violence begets violence.

This is the story of a man who betrays his own moral compass in pursuit of status – and finds that once ambition replaces love, there is no way back. Set against a backdrop of political turmoil and supernatural dread, *Macbeth* speaks urgently to our own times: when individualism triumphs over community, the consequences are irreversible.

Directed by Tobacco Factory Theatres' Artistic Director Heidi Vaughan, this bold new production is charged with her signature ensemble approach – rooted in collaboration, humanity, and emotional depth. Darkly pagan in tone, the soundscape beats with the rhythm of ritual and prophecy: "A drum, a drum! *Macbeth* doth come!" And though the play descends into shadow, Heidi's work always seeks out the spark of resilience – leaving audiences provoked, moved, and unexpectedly uplifted.

★★★★

"...this show was of a quality to match anything I have seen of late at Stratford."

– StageTalk Magazine on *The Winter's Tale* at TFT

★★★★

RUNNING TIME 2 hours 30 minutes (incl. interval)

AGE RECOMMENDATION 12+

VENUE Factory Theatre

Evening performances 7.30pm

Matinee performances 1pm (Schools only) & 2pm

[Click on Buy Tickets for all performance times](#)

TICKET PRICES:

Give the Gift Tickets from £22 / **Standard Tickets** from £18 / **Concession Tickets** from

Schools Tickets from £15 (see below for further information)

GIVE THE GIFT TICKETS:

In the last year Tobacco Factory Theatres Charitable Arts Trust have seen thousands of people take part in our Get Involved programme, whether it's through subsidised tickets for young people from Bristol to enjoy live theatre for the first time or the many sessions we offer to learn new skills and get creative. We deliver invaluable experiences to people of all ages and backgrounds, particularly those who might not otherwise be able to afford to do it. By purchasing a **Give The Gift Ticket**, you'll help us ensure all our community can enjoy some much-needed theatre magic. [Read more about our pricing, including concessions](#)



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.



<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/friday-night-candlelight-to-dancefloor-charity-event-backwell-nsomerset-tickets-1980361581801?aff=oddtcreator>

CHARITY FUNDRAISING CONCERT

Candlelight
To

DANCE FLOOR

A NIGHT OF 90s-00s DANCE CLASSICS
PERFORMED BY A LIVE ORCHESTRA

FRI 20TH MARCH 2026
SAT 21ST ~~SOLD OUT~~ MARCH 2026

7PM - 11PM
ST ANDREWS CHURCH
BACKWELL, BS48 3JJ

FOR MORE
INFO/TICKETS
SCAN QR CODE

BAR AND COCKTAILS
CHARITY RAFFLE WITH
GREAT PRIZES

In aid of
**THE
BRAIN
TUMOUR
CHARITY**



SIT - SIP - DANCE

After School Cycling and Friendship Group



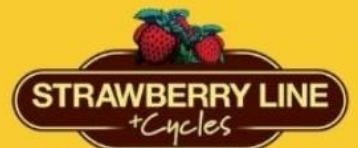
Join our Wednesday afternoon bike rides for young people with additional needs. Our ride leader supports the group for an hour of cycling, friendship and fun. Sessions are free of charge and riders can use our bikes or trikes.

Rides start and finish at our base at Yatton Railway Station, taking place along the Strawberry Line Cycle Path. Set off time is 4:30pm.



**Quartet
Community
Foundation**

strawberrylineprojects@gmail.com



With the lighter evenings in sight, we are pleased to be relaunching our popular Wednesday afternoon cycle club. Supported by our team, with access to our range of bikes and trikes, riders are enabled to enjoy cycling along the beautiful, traffic free Strawberry Line.

This free activity starts again on Wednesday 4th March, new and returning riders very welcome.