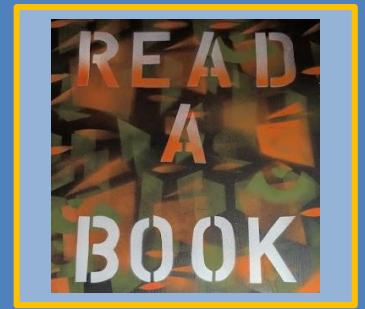




Backwell School Weekly Bulletin



Friday, 06 March 2026

Dear Parents, Carers, Families and Friends,

It has been National Careers Week this week and our Careers Fair on Tuesday was a real highlight of our week. Students had the opportunity to explore the event throughout lunchtime, while Year 9, Year 11 and the Sixth Form were able to spend dedicated lesson time speaking with visitors about future pathways. It was also wonderful to welcome parents into school after the day had finished to continue those important conversations. Events like this help students think about the wide range of careers available to them, the different routes they can take to get there, and can inspire decisions around GCSE, A Level and University course choices as well as deepening their understanding of Apprenticeships that are available to them. I very much hope the discussions that began at the fair have continued at home this week.

A huge thank you goes to all the organisations who generously gave their time to speak with our students. We were delighted to welcome local employers and partners, including representatives from Thatchers and local universities, alongside visitors who travelled from further afield, such as those who joined us from Birmingham to showcase careers in the rail industry with CrossCountry Trains. Thatchers shared valuable advice about their talent programme, explaining that they look for *“enthusiasm, a can-do attitude, determination, the drive to succeed and a passion to learn”* — qualities that strongly reflect the values we nurture every day within our school community. It was an inspiring event for everyone involved.

It has been a pleasure to welcome our French exchange partners from Le Collège F. Broussais in Dinan in north-west France this week. Hosting our visitors has been a wonderful experience for our students, who have enjoyed sharing school life with them and welcoming them into lessons alongside their Year 10 partners. During their stay, the group has been exploring some of the key sites that help tell the story of our local area, including visits to Bristol’s harbourside, the SS Great Britain, M Shed and the Big Pit in South Wales.

Opportunities like this bring language learning to life and allow students to experience culture, history and daily life in a way that simply can't be replicated in the classroom. These exchanges help build confidence, deepen understanding and, most importantly, create friendships and connections that can last a lifetime. We are already looking forward to our return visit to France in June.

Year 13 historians returned this week from an unforgettable A Level trip to Berlin, where classroom learning came vividly to life. Visiting iconic sites such as the Reichstag, the remains of the Berlin Wall, and the Brandenburg Gate gave students the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the events and themes they study for their exams. Standing in places where history unfolded encouraged thoughtful discussion, curiosity, and reflection. Beyond supporting their academic preparation, the experience added real cultural value—broadening perspectives, strengthening the school community, and inspiring students as they continue their studies. It was a fantastic example of learning beyond the classroom.

As we move into the next part of this term, GCSE and A Level examinations are beginning with a range of practical and speaking exams, including Art, Theatre Studies, Music and the speaking exams in languages. These are important milestones for our students and an opportunity for them to demonstrate the skills, creativity and dedication they have developed over their courses. We wish all of our students the very best as they begin this process. Thank you as well to parents and carers for the encouragement and support you continue to provide at home while students prepare. If you do have any questions about revision or how best to support preparation in the weeks ahead, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us at school.

We were thrilled to celebrate World Book Day across the school on Thursday, with staff members embracing the fun by dressing up as some of their favourite literary characters! Our library team organised a series of exciting competitions to get students involved and inspired, highlighting the joy and adventure that reading brings. Research shows that students who read independently for just 20 minutes a day can see significant gains in vocabulary and comprehension, with those who read daily showing much stronger progress in literacy skills and test performance compared to peers who read less often. Studies also suggest that regular book reading can contribute the equivalent of several months of academic growth over time, reinforcing the deep connection between reading for pleasure and overall achievement. World Book Day is a wonderful reminder of the value of reading—not just for learning, but for imagination, curiosity and enjoyment. We encourage all

students and parents to pick up a book this weekend and reacquaint themselves with the magic of a good story—there's nothing quite like getting lost in a great book!

Finally, we are incredibly proud of our Year 9 girls' football team, who narrowly missed out in the quarter-final of the English Schools' Football Association Cup on Thursday afternoon at Weydon School in Farnham, Surrey. The team has played some outstanding football throughout the competition, demonstrating excellent teamwork, determination and togetherness. Their spirit and commitment truly embody what being part of a team is all about. A sincere thank you to the parents who made the long journey to support the team — your encouragement is greatly appreciated. Girls, reaching the quarterfinals means you are among the top eight teams in the country — an incredible achievement. You have made the Backwell community very proud. Well done.

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



Will Penny
Headteacher



Be Her Lead

On Thursday our Be Her Lead group met for the first time. This group is for invited girls in years 8-10 and is designed to create a brave, respectful and empathetic space within school for teachers and students to connect with and support each other. The group is designed to nurture wellbeing and growth – supporting girls and helping them take agency in their futures.

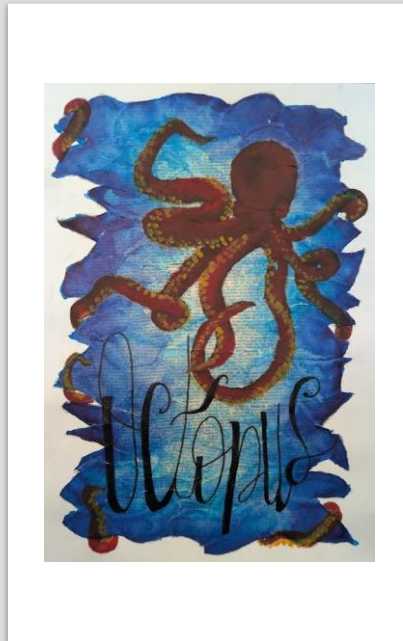
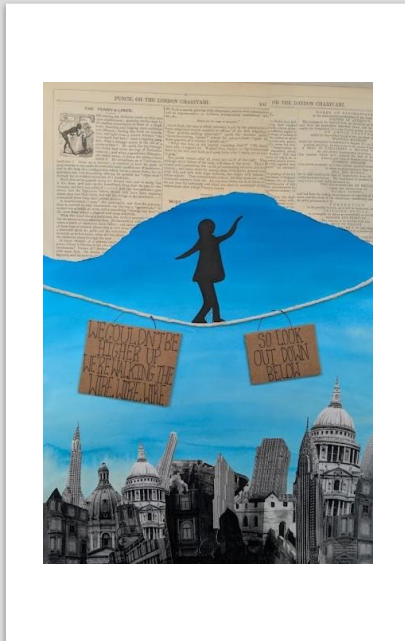


Year 10 Surreal Still Life

Mr Ray's Year 10 artists had to create the still life as a group and then do timed drawings as they moved around the table.

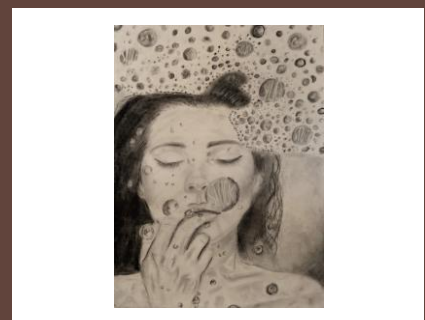
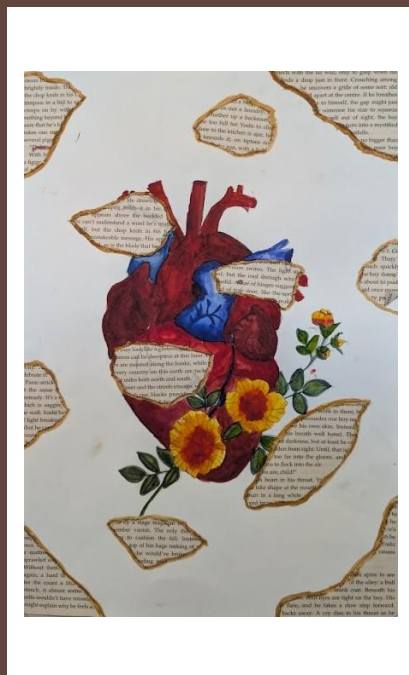
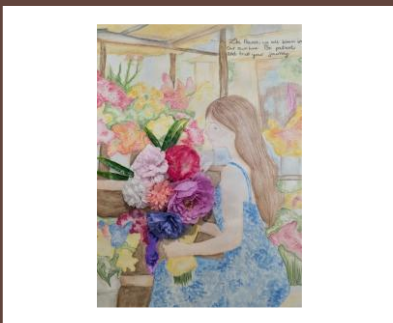
Students went through various stages of enjoyment/frustration/curiosity/irritation...





Year 10 Image & Text Project

Our students began with an exploratory project centred on experimenting with different media and processes, guided by the theme of image and text. This approach allowed them to build foundational skills in composition, letting and drawing before refining and developing an idea inspired by one of their initial experiments

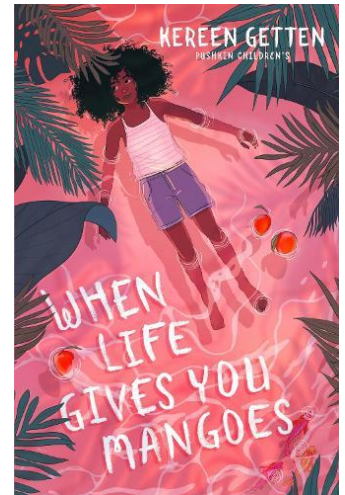


Book of the Week

WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU MANGOES – By Kereen Getten

Nothing much happens in Sycamore, the small village where Clara lives - at least, that's how it looks. She loves eating ripe mangoes fallen from trees, running outside in the rainy season and escaping to her secret hideout with her best friend Gaynah. There's only one problem - she can't remember anything that happened last summer.

When a quirky girl called Rudy arrives from England, everything starts to change. Gaynah stops acting like a best friend, while Rudy and Clara roam across the island and uncover an old family secret. As the summer reaches its peak and the island storms begin, Clara's memory starts to return, and she must finally face the truth of what happened last year.



World Book Day 2026

When Backwell School does 'World Book Day' you know it's going to be done well! Thank you to all students and staff who have got involved, whether it be classroom/office door decorating, staff dress up, baking a cake for our annual Bake-a-Book competition, making a dream jar in the library. It really was a fun, inspiring day. Huge thanks to Mr Brooks and his library team for creating so many wonderful ideas and opportunities for us.





Bake-a-book competition winners

Congratulations to our competition winners. Our judges had a hard job deciding winners as competition was strong again, this year. Winners as follows:

1st place: Suri (Year 13) for her incredible Matilda inspired chocolate cake! Bruce would certainly enjoy that one!

Joint 2nd place: Georgia V-R (Year 7) for her stick man mini logs and Julia P (Year 8 for her 3D book.



Our winning tutor group of the 'Behind the Book competition is 9S2 with 6/8 correct guesses. Congratulations! They were tricky!



Careers Fair Success- The day in photos



Thank you to everyone who helped make the Careers Fair such a great success earlier this week



French Exchange – In School Activities

French Exchange teamwork photos from the afternoon activities session. The last activity was to try and make a monument out of spaghetti and marshmallows- the winning group was the Clifton Suspension Bridge!



Spring Music Concert - Tuesday 24 March at 7pm

Our spring music concert is an 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! Book early as there are lots of students involved!

Tickets are £5 for adults and £3 for concessions. We are aware that several families are hosting a German exchange student / staff member during that week - please do bring them along (no need to buy an extra ticket).

Tickets will be available to purchase from Monday, 09 March, via your ParentPay account.

We look forward to seeing you for an evening of musical entertainment



Quick Links

- [School Uniform and Equipment Guidance](#)
- [Financial Support](#)
- [Sixth Form Bulletin - Friday 06 March 2026](#)
- [Careers Bulletin - Friday 06 March](#)

Letters Home

- [Year 11 GCSE Art Textiles exam Wednesday 18 March and Wednesday 25 March 2026](#)
- [Year 11 Philosophy and Religion Revision Sessions](#)
- [For students attending the Iceland Trip 2026](#)
- [Year 10 Trial Exams](#)

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 10 March	Year 8 HPV Vaccinations
Monday 16- Friday 20 March	Year 10 Trial Exams
Thursday 19 March	Year 7 Parents' and Carers' Evening (online 16:00-18:45)
Tuesday 24 March	Spring Music Concert 7pm Main School Theatre
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

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.



CHERRYTHON



The “Cherrython” is a series of running challenges designed for all abilities. Created in loving memory of one of our parents, James Cherry, who sadly passed away last summer aged just 52 years old. James left behind his wife Charlotte, and their 2 children, Jasmine & Alfie who both currently attend Backwell School.

The “Cherrython “brings together friends, family, and colleagues to celebrate James’ passion for life, running, his spirit of togetherness, shared stories and experiences, and his commitment to making a difference. That certainly lives on in his son Alfie, - who was inspired to raise money in tribute to his dad, and the reason why the “Cherrython” was created. It starts with the half marathon (run over 3 stages) on Saturday 14th March before some of us tackle the Bristol 10km in May.

James’ family and friends will be raising crucial funds in his memory for St Peters Hospice who supported James and his family so well. Sadly only 20% of their costs are covered by the NHS - they need these crucial funds raised by supporters like us to carry on the wonderful work they do.

If you’d like to support the cause, please share or donate to our team page

<https://www.justgiving.com/team/cherrython>

Thank you



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](#)