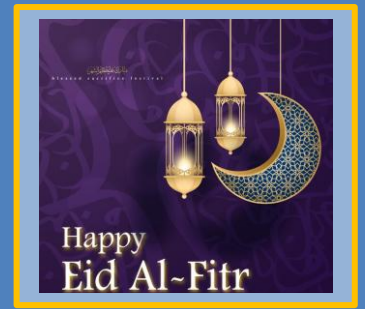




Backwell School Weekly Bulletin



Friday, 20 March 2026

Dear Parents, Carers, Families and Friends,

As we continue through a busy and rewarding term, it has been a pleasure to see so many achievements, enriching activities, and moments of kindness across our school community. This week also marks the beginning of Eid, a special and meaningful time for some of our students and families, and we wish all those celebrating a joyful and peaceful time.

This weekend, we are proud to support *Candlelight to Dancefloor – A Charity Evening for The Brain Tumour Charity*. Our talented musicians will form the orchestra for an evening of 90s–00s dance classics, raising vital funds for an important cause. The event is a celebration of hope, community, and togetherness through music, and we are very grateful to everyone who has supported it. The programme will also feature music that will be performed again at our Spring Concert next Tuesday evening in the Main Theatre. We look forward to seeing many of you there for what promises to be a wonderful celebration of the talent we are fortunate to have at Backwell.

On Thursday, we were delighted to welcome our German exchange partners from Camerloher Gymnasium in Freising. Over the coming week, they will experience a wide range of activities, from joining lessons to immersing themselves in traditional English pursuits, including cricket, as well as visiting local landmarks such as the Roman Baths and exploring the city of Bristol.

This week, our Year 10 students have been undertaking their trial examinations—an important milestone in their GCSE journey. It has been particularly encouraging to see the focus, resilience, and sense of togetherness they have demonstrated. Alongside this, our Year 11 and Year 13 students have continued with practical examinations in their creative subjects. We wish them every success as they move towards their written exams after the Easter break.

We would also like to wish our Under 13 Girls' Rugby 7s team the very best of luck as they travel to London for the Rosslyn Park National Rugby 7s next Monday. This is a fantastic

opportunity to showcase their dedication, teamwork, and determination on a national stage, and we are immensely proud of all they have achieved. We will be cheering them on via the live stream shared with families. Best of luck as well to our equestrian team competing at the Welsh Championships in Newport this weekend—we hope to see plenty of rosettes coming home!

Finally, thank you for the many positive messages following my letter about the introduction of mobile phone pouches. I have also been speaking to students in assemblies about this change, encouraging them to reflect on their screen time and to prioritise real-world connections with family and friends. Recent research highlights that over half of 15–24-year-olds spend more than 80 minutes a day on Snapchat, while 60% spend over two hours daily on TikTok. As the days grow longer and warmer, there is no better time to step away from screens, get outdoors, and reconnect with others in more meaningful ways.

Have a wonderful weekend. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. By working together, we ensure that *'we are Backwell'*.



Will Penny
Headteacher



Some of our Equestrian team members following a highly successful, albeit very foggy weekend of competition at the Southwest Regional Academy Championships at Chard Equestrian

Willkommen an der Backwell Schule

Diese Woche dürfen wir Schülerinnen, Schüler und Lehrkräfte des Camerloher-Gymnasiums bei uns begrüßen, die im Rahmen unseres Austauschprogramms aus Freising zu uns gekommen sind. Wir freuen uns sehr über euren Besuch und wir wünschen euch einen schönen Aufenthalt. Hoffentlich werdet ihr einen interessanten Einblick in den englischen Schultag erhalten. Viel Spaß auch bei den Tagesausflügen und genießt die gemeinsame Zeit mit euren Gastfamillien. Es ist eine spannende Zeit, die unsere Schulgemeinschaft bereichert. Vielen Dank an unsere deutschen Kolleginnen Anke Frantzke und Felicity Steffan.

This week we are pleased to welcome students and teachers from Camerloher Gymnasium to our school, who have come to us from Freising as part of our exchange program. We are very happy about your visit, and we wish you a pleasant stay. Hopefully, you will gain an interesting insight into the English school day. Enjoy the day trips as well and make the most of the time with your host families. It is an exciting time that enriches our school community. Many thanks to our German colleagues Anke Frantzke and Felicity Steffan.



Year 10 Trial Exams

Year 10 have certainly risen to the challenge of trial exam week this week. Students have worked really hard and displayed excellent focus and work ethic throughout the week. After the Easter break, students will receive their results and feedback in subject lessons, and a summary of their results will be sent home.

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).

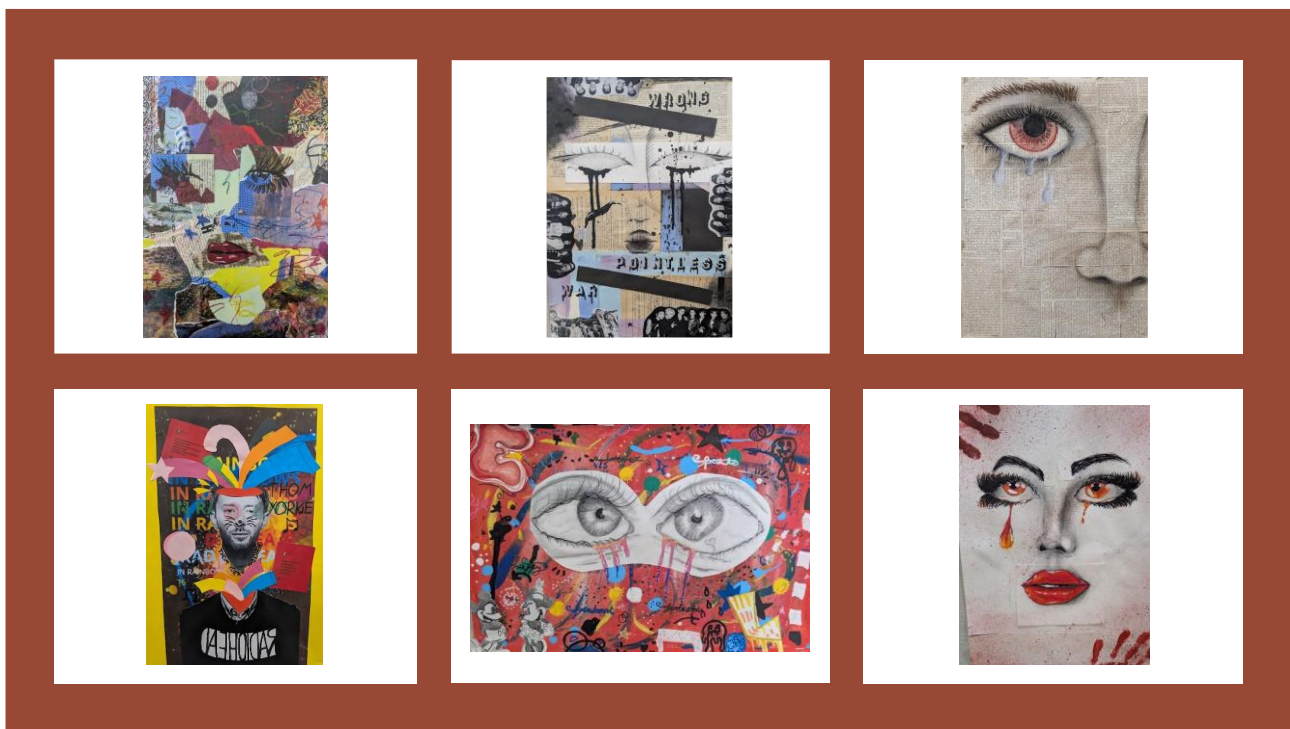
If you have not already done so, please could you fill this out in the link below:

<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



Year 9 Art from Art project

Year 9 Art students explored the project Art from Art, where they created their own work inspired by the artists Banksy, Louie Jover, Barbara Kruger and Shamsia Hassani. After experimenting with collage and mixed media in earlier lessons, students looked at the artists' ideas and influences before developing their own responses. They were encouraged to choose their own art materials and techniques, helping them build independence and express their own ideas about the world through their artwork.

Year 8 HPV vaccination catch-up clinics

HPV vaccination catch-up clinics are available for all Year 8 students who did not receive their vaccination at school. Please book an appointment at <https://imms.sirona-cic.org.uk/hpv/2025/book?v=2>

If you have any queries, please contact the Immunisation Team directly on 0300 124 5515 or email sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net

Book of the Week

Project Hail Mary – By Andy Weir

A lone astronaut.
An impossible mission.
An ally he never imagined.

Ryland Grace is the sole survivor on a desperate, last-chance mission - and if he fails, humanity and the earth itself will perish.

Except that right now, he doesn't know that. He can't even remember his own name, let alone the nature of his assignment or how to complete it.

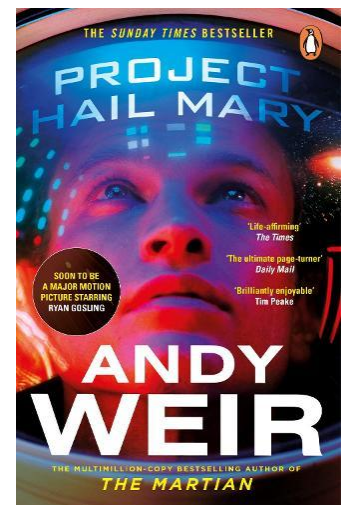
All he knows is that he's been asleep for a very, very long time. And he's just been awakened to find himself millions of miles from home, with nothing but two corpses for company.

His crewmates dead, his memories fuzzily returning, Ryland realizes that an impossible task now confronts him. Hurtling through space on this tiny ship, it's up to him to puzzle out an impossible scientific mystery-and conquer an extinction-level threat to our species.

And with the clock ticking down and the nearest human being light-years away, he's got to do it all alone.

Or does he?

An irresistible interstellar adventure as only Andy Weir could imagine it, Project Hail Mary is a tale of discovery, speculation, and survival to rival The Martian -- while taking us to places it never dreamed of going.



U14 Girls Somerset Cup - Semi-Final Success

We couldn't have asked for a better afternoon to take on local opponents Clevedon School in the Semi-final of the Somerset Cup.

The girls went out strong and settled into the game quickly. Our first goal came after a series of brilliant passes to allow Jess W to score. The girls covered the pitch well, closing down any attacking opportunities from the other team, and capitalizing on some great through balls. Isla L scored the teams fantastic second goal, with the third coming from a brilliant free kick from Maisy C just outside the box which Amelia S confidently put in the back of the net. Going into half time with a 3-0 lead we spoke to the team about staying composed and to continue in the same spirit in which they approached the first half. Going out for the second half it wasn't long before Maisy C scored our fourth with Amelia getting herself into some fantastic shooting positions to score our fifth and sixth - and also securing her hat-trick.

Player of the Match was awarded to Amelia S. Well done, Amelia! This was truly a whole team performance with everyone playing their part to secure the win and our progression through to the U14 Somerset Cup Final!



Spring Music Concert – Tuesday 24 March

If your child is involved in the concert on 24th March, please ensure they are back at school (in the theatre) by 6:30pm wearing their school uniform. The concert then starts at 7pm and will end at about 9:30pm.

[ParentPay - Spring Music Concert Tickets](#)

A vibrant poster for the Spring Concert 2026. The top half has a light orange background with various musical instruments scattered across it, including a yellow trumpet, a red harmonica, a green violin, a red trumpet, a red xylophone, a green saxophone, a blue keyboard, a pink electric guitar, a yellow and blue tambourine, a blue and green drum, and a purple xylophone. There are also musical notes and a treble clef. The bottom half has a dark blue background with the text 'SPRING CONCERT' in large, bold, black letters. Below that, in white text, it says 'Backwell School Spring Concert 2026', '24th March 7pm - 9:30pm', and 'Main Theatre'. At the bottom, it says 'Get your tickets via ParentPay link in the weekly bulletin'.

SPRING CONCERT

Backwell School Spring Concert 2026
24th March 7pm - 9:30pm
Main Theatre

Get your tickets via ParentPay
link in the weekly bulletin

Quick Links

- [School Uniform and Equipment Guidance](#)
- [Financial Support](#)
- [Careers Bulletin - 20 March 2026](#)
- [Sixth Form Bulletin - 20 March 2026](#)

Letters Home

- [A Level Media Studies NEA](#)
- [Year 10 GCSE Geography Fieldwork to the Quantocks](#)
- [Introducing Focus Pouches to achieve a Mobile Phone Free School](#)
- [Year 7 Parents and Carers - So, you have a reluctant reader...?](#)
- [How to support your child with their English work](#)
- [Year 9 Enrichment Week - Monday 22 to Friday 26 June 2026](#)

Dates for your Diary

W/C Monday 23 March	Year 12 Trial Exams – See linked letter above
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.

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](#)



Codingbug

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CODERS & MAKERS

Python Club

Join us in Term 5 to learn to code in Python while building **games, apps, and simulations**. Develop problem-solving skills that boost creativity and confidence. Explore **machine learning**, and discover how to work with data and visualise it.

Python opens a door to many career opportunities.
Suitable for students in **Years 7-11**.

IN PERSON

5-6pm
WEDNESDAYS

Hangstones Pavilion
Stowey Road, Yatton,
BS49 4HS

HOW TO JOIN →

Scan the QR code to book
Limited spaces available



ONLINE

5-6pm
MONDAYS after school

HOW TO JOIN →

Scan the QR code to book



HAF Bookings



SAVE THE DATE

Bookings go live
Friday 13th March at 9am

#HAF2026

Young people who receive benefits related free school meals are invited to book onto our free HAF Spring Activities.



HAF NORTH SOMERSET
Holiday Activities & Food



For more information about HAF please visit: [About the HAF programme](#) | North Somerset Council