



Backwell School Weekly Bulletin



Friday, 27 March 2026

Dear Parents, Carers, Families and Friends,

I can't quite believe the final week of term has finished and are heading into the final 3 days of term on Monday. Easter is a joyful celebration of hope, and new life, marking the resurrection of Jesus Christ and inviting us to reflect on fresh beginnings. As it arrives alongside the warmth of spring—with longer days, blooming flowers, and summer on the horizon—it lifts our spirits and reminds us of the beauty of growth, change, and new opportunities ahead. These opportunities are plentiful at Backwell and, when embraced, will help shape our young people into individuals who go on to make a truly positive difference in the world beyond the doors of our great school.

Last Tuesday evening, our theatre was alive with talent and energy during our excellent Spring Concert, featuring fantastic performances from all year groups performing pieces from modern classics by the Stereophonics and Noel Gallagher to the Folk Group and our wonderful orchestra. The evening also saw the award-winning MadriGals perform their pieces Evening Song and How High the Moon. The night reached a thrilling high with an uplifting final act by the 90s Dance Group, who brought the house down with a medley of iconic 90s hits. This talented group had already dazzled audiences on Friday and Saturday at the Candlelight to Dancefloor event, helping to raise over £10,000 for a local brain tumour charity—an inspiring reminder of the incredible skill, dedication, and generosity of our students.

An email I received from someone who watched the show reads 'I wanted to pass on my heartfelt congratulations to the incredible students from the Music Department for their outstanding performances over the weekend in support of The Brain Tumour Charity. The event was truly like no other. The select group of students – some only in Year 9 – led a packed venue with their brilliant renditions of 90s dance floor classics. They brought so much fun and energy to so many people, all while supporting such an important cause. Huge congratulations to every singer and musician involved, to Luke for his professional-level photography, to Oscar for designing the lighting so expertly and to Theo for his fantastic DJ and mixing skills. And a huge thank you to Steve Clarke for pulling all the music together! I think this weekend will be etched in everyone's memories for a long time

to come. Yet again, something truly inspiring has taken place in the community because of Backwell School'.

It was also wonderful to learn that three of our students won awards at the Bristol Festival of Music, Speech and Drama recently. Alexandra K (Year 11) won the European Art song trophy with an 'outstanding' mark. Amelie L (Year 10) won the Musical Theatre trophy in her age group and overall cup for best singer in her age group with 'outstanding' marks. Sienna S (Year 10) gained two outstanding marks and overall trophy for the pop and Jazz classes in her age group. Zoe P (Year 12) won her class with an outstanding mark for the English Art Song class. These awards further underline the array of talent we have at Backwell.

On Monday, our U14 girls' rugby team triumphed in their group at the National Rosslyn Park Rugby 7s competition in London, before narrowly exiting in the first knockout round. The girls played with their trademark spirit and flair, delivering superb performances throughout the day. We were also thrilled to hear that former student Holly Bagnowiec has been selected for the England U18 team to play Ireland—an incredible achievement! Staying with sport, it was equally exciting to learn that Mariella B in Year 11 has been chosen to represent England in golf against Spain this April. Both of these achievements make us immensely proud of our students' dedication and talent.

Next Tuesday marks the launch of our mobile phone pouches for students in Year 7 to 10. Each student will receive their pouch in tutorial and will keep it at home; the pouches will start being used from Monday 20th April. I am genuinely excited about this initiative. While I have written to you before about the launch, further details are available on our [website](#).

Over the Easter break, it would be wonderful to see our students reducing their screen time, enjoying fresh air, and connecting with people and their surroundings in the traditional way—rather than through a screen. A striking statistic to consider: 50% of young people aged 15–24 spend around 80 minutes on Snapchat and 2 hours on TikTok each day. Could you challenge your child to leave their phone downstairs overnight, limit screen time to an hour a day, or take a complete break from social media? Any of these steps can improve well-being and help reduce reliance on devices.

As our Year 11, 12, and 13 students focus on revision over Easter, we wish them every success. Developing strong habits—setting aside focused study time, minimising distractions, and staying consistent—can make all the difference. While it may feel challenging at times, the effort and discipline invested now will be richly rewarded. Please remember to follow your revision plans and make full use of the excellent resources available on FROG.

Have a wonderful weekend and a restful Easter holiday when it arrives on Wednesday 1st April. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. By working together, we ensure that *'we are Backwell'*.



Will Penny
Headteacher



Data Protection within Bromcom

We want to reassure you that your child's personal data will continue to be stored securely and in full compliance with data protection regulations, just as it was with SIMS. While the system we use to manage student information has changed, the type of data we collect and how we use it remains the same - solely for the purpose of managing students' education and the operation of the school. Please remember that if you wish to see a copy of the school's privacy notice you can always access a copy via the school website: [Privacy Notice](#)

Year 10 P&R Trip to St Andrew's Church, Backwell.

This week year 10 Philosophy and Religion students visited St Andrews Church in Backwell to learn about the Christian understanding of marriage and a wedding service. This was to support the Relationships and Families Unit as part of their GCSE course. Rev. Sam kindly talked us through the marriage service and answered our questions about a range of P&R topics. It was an interesting and thought-provoking afternoon, giving fresh insight into this topic.



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



Our wonderful U14 Girl's Rugby at Rosslyn Park National School Sevens earlier this week. An incredible group of girls who showed great skill, talent, support for one another. Thank you to Mr Newall, Mrs Gardner, former coach Molly Weavers and the fabulous, supportive parents who accompanied us.

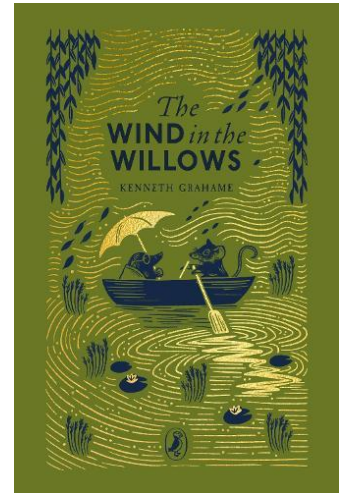


Book of the Week

The Wind in the Willows By Kenneth Grahame

'Here today, up and off to somewhere else tomorrow! Travel, change, interest, excitement! The whole world before you, and a horizon that's always changing!'

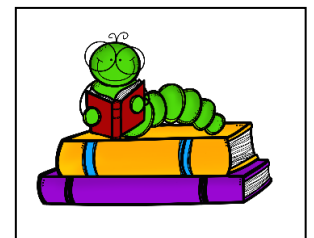
Spring is in the air and Mole has found a wonderful new world. There's boating with Ratty, a feast with kindly Badger and rumbustious fun with that reckless ruffian, Mr Toad of Toad Hall. But deep in the Wild Wood the villainous weasels lurk, intent on causing trouble. . .



Reluctant Readers

We recently sent an email out to all Year 7 families with advice about 'Reluctant Readers'. Whilst this will not be relevant for all students, one of the most frequent concerns we hear from Year 7 parents at parents' evening are that their child used to read but now doesn't or that they are (and always have been!) a reluctant reader.

Please do not worry if you received this email and thought 'This does not sound like my child', but for those who have children that they feel are reluctant readers, we hope this information my help





Club spaces in Term 5

There will be fresh intake for the below clubs after Easter. **Spaces will open on ParentPay on Wednesday 25 March at midday** and will operate on a first-come, first-served basis.

Fee Paying Clubs

- **Y7-9 Photography for Term 5** - new intake, see ParentPay to pay and sign-up.
- **Y7-9 Clay Club Term 5** – new intake, see ParentPay to pay and sign-up.

Free Clubs

- **Y7 Table Tennis** – please register your interest with Student Services.

Quick Links

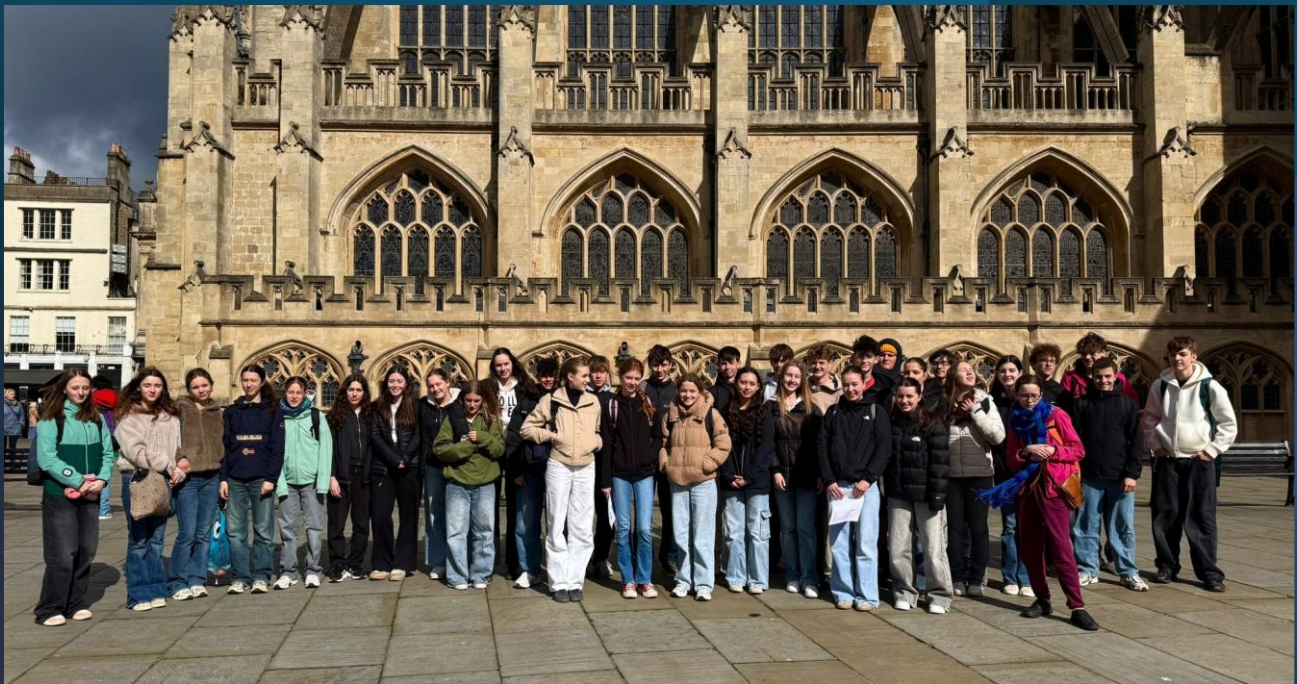
- [School Uniform and Equipment Guidance](#)
- [Financial Support](#)
- [Sixth Form Bulletin](#)
- [Year 12 Key Dates 2025-2026](#)
- [Year 13 Key Dates 2025-2026](#)

Letters Home

- [Year 8 Parents' and Carers' Evening: Thursday 23 April 2026](#)
- [Reluctant Readers - Advice for Parents and Carers](#)

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 02 April	Inset Day – School closed to students End of Term 4
Monday 20 April	Start of Term 5
Wednesday 22 – Friday 24 April	Year 12 Trial Exams (see letter sent home for further information)
Thursday 23 April	Year 8 Parents' and Carers' Evening (online) 4:00pm-6:45pm



German exchange trip to the historical city of Bath

German Exchange

The first week of this year's German exchange has been absolut fantastisch! Vielen Dank to everybody who has welcomed our German visitors. We are really looking forward to our visit to Freising in the summer.

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.



HAF NORTH SOMERSET Holiday Activities & Food



There are still a number of spaces available for the HAF Easter provision; however, sessions are filling quickly, so we encourage families to book as soon as possible.

A range of exciting activities are on offer, including:

- **Family swim sessions at Backwell Leisure Centre**
 - **Art in Action**
 - **Future Stars**
- **Family badminton sessions at Scotch Horn**
- **“Bring a Friend” gym sessions at Scotch Horn**

To view all available activities and secure a place, please book via the following link:

<https://eequ.org/northsomersethaf>