



Backwell School Weekly Bulletin

**WELCOME
BACK
TERM 5
HERE WE GO!**

Friday, 24 April 2026

Dear Parents, Carers, Families and Friends,

A warm welcome to Term 5! I hope you all enjoyed a restful Easter break and are feeling refreshed for what are two of my favourite terms of the year. As the sun begins to shine, the field reopens and our green spaces spring into life, school is buzzing with energy once again.

This week's newsletter celebrates the fantastic number of students who have embraced the wide range of extracurricular opportunities available at Backwell. These experiences form a vital part of school life and help students develop confidence, resilience and skills that will stay with them well beyond their time with us. Please do continue to encourage your child to be curious, ambitious and involved by taking part in one (or more!) of our clubs and societies.

Over the Easter break, our annual Sixth Form ski trip took place in Folgarida, set in the stunning Italian Dolomites. The group included a mix of experienced skiers alongside students tackling the slopes for the very first time. The trip provided a brilliant opportunity for students to challenge themselves, build confidence and develop resilience as they learned new skills and pushed beyond their comfort zones. Equally important were the teamwork, communication and mutual support shown throughout the week, with students motivating and encouraging one another both on and off the slopes. Alongside improving their skiing, students developed independence, responsibility and lasting friendships, making the trip a truly memorable and enriching experience for everyone involved.



Term 5 got off to an immediate sporting high with Year 11 student Mariella B retaining the Avon Schools Golf Trophy on Monday – a fantastic achievement! Despite bogeying the opening two holes, Mariella, who plays off scratch, produced a superb under-par back nine to retain her title. This success follows an impressive performance the previous weekend, where she finished 7th in the Helen Holm Scottish Amateur Open at Royal Troon, including a birdie on the famous par 3 Postage Stamp hole. Well done, Mariella – we very much look forward to celebrating further success as the summer progresses.



As a result of a strong team performance at the Avon Schools Championships – with Ben F finishing 4th and Casper C 6th in the nett competition – Backwell has also been invited to compete in the prestigious Inter-Collegiate Golf League from September. This will see our students competing against renowned golf academies including Bath and Hartpury. This is a fantastic achievement and a real credit to the dedication of the team.

At the end of last term, the Year 8 Boys' Indoor Cricket Squad delivered an outstanding performance at the County Finals, rounding off an excellent campaign. After winning all of their local qualifying matches, the team went on to beat Holyrood Academy by six wickets in the semi-final before facing Beechen Cliff School in a tightly contested final, narrowly losing by just two wickets. With 32 schools competing, finishing as County Runners-Up is a tremendous achievement and reflects the team's skill, determination, resilience and teamwork throughout the tournament.

Following our success at the autumn Sports Hall Athletics competition, several Backwell students went on to proudly represent Avon County over the Easter break. All Avon teams – U13 boys and girls and U15 boys and girls – were crowned Southwest Regional Champions, with the U13 boys team going one step further by winning the UK National Final in Stoke-on-Trent. The U13 boys team included Toby and Harry, while Tess (U13 girls) and Ed (U15 boys) also proudly represented the county. A great achievement for all involved.

On Tuesday evening saw a wonderful celebration of creativity, talent and teamwork at the Weston Dance Festival, held at the Weston Playhouse. Our Year 7 students performed superbly, dancing

pieces choreographed by Year 10 students, highlighting the strong collaboration and leadership opportunities within the school. The event allowed younger students to gain confidence performing on stage, while older students developed valuable skills in choreography, mentoring and organisation. One parent summed up the evening perfectly: "To the students who choreographed and taught the routines, and to the teachers who took them, a huge thank you. My daughter really enjoyed the experience, and it was a pleasure to watch them."



Finally, as part of our annual review, we ask parents and carers to complete a survey about their child's experience at school. This survey is shared across all schools in the Lighthouse Schools Partnership and provides invaluable feedback to help drive ongoing improvement and ensure we continue to support pupils effectively. The survey link was emailed earlier this week, and I would be extremely grateful if you could spare a few minutes to complete it by Friday 1st May. Please click [here](#) to complete the survey.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to a positive, energetic and successful Term 5 ahead. By working together, we ensure that '*we are Backwell*'.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Will Penny'.

Will Penny
Headteacher

Year 10 Geography Fieldwork

Our Year 10 geographers were busy out in the field this week, conducting fieldwork in the Quantock Hills. They were testing their hypothesis about how the river would change downstream as part of their GCSE course. While the sun shined mostly on Monday, it was at least dry for them both days! A bit muddy but left in good spirits and collected some great data!



PE Kit – Terms 5 and 6

Please note, now we are in our Summer Terms, students will need to bring in the **same** PE kit each week for the remainder of this academic year. Summer PE uniform is as follows:

Girls:

- black/gold polo top with Backwell logo
- black football shorts, black skort or full length plain black sports leggings (no cycling type shorts)
- white sports socks
- trainers (non-marking soles)

Boys:

- white t-shirt
- black football shorts
- white sports socks
- trainers (non-marking soles)

Book of the Week

Magic Girl Dandelion - By Kaeri Mizuho

A fiend who slays his own kind. A magical girl who refuses the script. A tale of light and shadow intertwined.

Tanpopo Ohanami's quiet days are interrupted by a life-changing offer to become a magical girl! But she has one big, bad, serrated-toothed secret: Her best friend, Shade, is a fiend in a world where fiends are villains to humankind.

Shade is none too pleased with the idea of Tanpopo joining the ranks, but there's more than their friendship at stake when Tanpopo's grandpa falls victim to fiendhood!



Comic-Con

From the 5th-8th May, Backwell School Library will be hosting its first ever Comic-Con. We will be promoting our newly updated collection of comics, manga and graphic novels whilst also celebrating all things related to comics, sci-fi and fantasy.



During the week there will be daily film screenings, a retro-arcade, board games (including exclusive access to the new Backwell School board game) and every student who takes out 2 books from the library will receive 3 Free Pokemon cards.

More activities and information will be announced in the up-coming days.



Library Returns

With the last days for Year 11 and Year 13 students fast approaching, we ask that any resources that students have borrowed from the library be returned by Friday 22nd May. Failing to do so will result in a fine placed upon your child's ParentPay account, which will prevent your child from purchasing a ball ticket until it has been settled.

Term 5 - 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.

We will also be launching a consultation on the changes we will be making to the Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) curriculum from September 2026 to ensure that this aligns with both the updated statutory government guidance and our school values. Please see the [letter](#) on ways in which you can contribute your views.

What is happening in Term 5

Year 7 are looking at Health and Wellbeing including the importance of exercise for physical and mental health as well as the importance of a healthy diet and the impact of healthy choices on mental wellbeing.

Year 9 are also looking at Health and Wellbeing including revisiting what constitutes a healthy lifestyle and a healthy weight and exploring the links between an inactive lifestyle and ill health. Year 10 will be discussing issues around the benefits of diversity within our society during their SMSC lessons. In tutor time they will be talking about Health and Wellbeing including the physical and psychological consequences of addiction, the health risks associated with tobacco and the dangers of prescribed drugs.

Year 8 are talking about Internet Safety and harms including the similarities and differences between online and physical world, the risks of over-reliance on online relationships and how to identify harmful behaviours online and where to access support if you are the victim of this.

Sixth form

During Year 12 tutor times students are looking at Relationships, including Consent, Trust and Intimacy and Ending Relationships.

School Pond and Garden Facelift

Over the Easter break, our site team at Backwell undertook a 'Ground Force' challenge to give the school pond and garden a facelift.

What an incredible job they have done. We are sure you will agree what a welcoming space this now is. We even have 7 resident fish!

Thank you so much to our wonderful site team for their incredible hard work in always improving Backwell to look it's best. You are our unsung heroes!



Quick Links

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

Letters Home

- [Application to Backwell Sixth Form for September 2026](#)
- [Year 13 Leavers Ball 0 Friday 03 July 2026](#)
- [GCSE Year 10 - English Language: Spoken language endorsement](#)
- [Aspens Catering at Backwell School - Spring 2026 update](#)
- [Relationships, Sex and Health Education \(RSHE\) Consultation: Invitation to Participate](#)

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 30 April	MFL Spelling Bee Regional Finals
Monday 04 May	Early May Bank Holiday – School Closed
Wednesday 13 May	French Exchange Parents' Information Evening – (17:30)
Thursday 14 May	Year 13 Leavers Day
Friday 22 May	Year 11 Leavers Day Term 5 Ends
Monday 01 June	Start of Term 6



Our Year 8 Boys Indoor Cricket Squad