



BACKWELL SCHOOL WEEKLY BULLETIN

FRIDAY 26 JUNE 2026



Dear Parents, Carers, Families, and Friends,

I am writing this introduction overlooking the English Channel: warm morning sun on my back, a (surprisingly cool) breeze in the air, and 220 Year 9 students still fast asleep after three full days of adventure. It feels a fitting place to reflect on my first Backwell Enrichment Week.

It has not been quite what any of us expected, with the weather playing a significant role and forcing difficult decisions. I would also like to sincerely thank parents and carers for the many supportive emails and phone calls we received during this time — your understanding and encouragement were greatly appreciated by staff, particularly given the challenges we faced. Despite this, Enrichment Week has reminded me exactly why experiences beyond the classroom are so vital. It is a week built on excitement, new opportunities and shared moments — those powerful firsts that stay with us, captured perfectly by one student at the top of the Giant Swing at Osmington Bay who said, *“I have never done anything like this before...”*. Alongside this curiosity, there was also a real sense of pride, summed up in another moment that made me smile: *“Mr Penny, can you talk about our team winning the Dragon Boat races in your Monday student video?”* That sense of achievement and joy in success was wonderful to see. Together, these experiences sit right at the heart of what we mean by being curious.

Enrichment Week is also about connection. It strengthens friendships, builds new ones and creates those lifelong memories that begin with *“Do you remember when...”*. These are the moments that help define a school experience. It was therefore incredibly disappointing to lose two days; I know that this meant the loss of opportunities we all value deeply. However, I want to reassure you that the decision to close on Wednesday and Thursday was taken with the safety of students and staff as our absolute priority. Safety must always come first. We will be in touch regarding any refunds once we have clarity from insurers.

What we did have, though, were three exceptional days for Year 7, 8 and 12. I was fortunate to spend time with Year 7 kayaking, climbing and abseiling, and to see Year 8 engaging — bravely in some cases — with an array of animals (including some very large snakes!). I also had 3 hot days with Year 9 on the south coast, who, being outside of the ‘red zone’ had a full 5-day experience at PGL, while Year 10 showed real ambition as they

stepped into the world of work for the first time. Similarly, Year 12 approached their Future Careers Week with maturity and determination as they looked ahead to life beyond school. Across every year group, one thing stood out: the way students supported one another.

Whether encouraging a friend at the top of an abseil, helping steady a kayak, or offering reassurance before holding a python, there was a genuine sense of community. This is what it means to be kind at Backwell, lifting each other up and ensuring everyone can succeed. Enrichment Week provides a powerful space for personal growth. I was particularly struck by the number of students challenging themselves to overcome fears. From standing 50 feet above Sandford Quarry, to tackling Jacob's Ladder, to taking a leap of faith, quite literally, these experiences develop resilience, perseverance and confidence. These are qualities that will serve them long after school, when they encounter the inevitable challenges, life presents.

What shines through most, however, is the character of our students. Their laughter, their energy and their determination to make the most of every opportunity, even in challenging conditions, were inspiring. Moments of triumph, whether in a dragon boat race in Weymouth Bay (my red boat team was magnificent I have to say conquering all before us), watching jousting at Warwick Castle, or simply seeing a student conquer a fear for the first time, are what make weeks like this so special.

Of course, none of this happens without an extraordinary staff team. Enrichment Week requires meticulous planning and enormous commitment. From those organising logistics and communication, to staff accompanying trips and caring for students around the clock, the dedication is exceptional. Many of the most important moments go unseen — welfare checks in the early hours, constant supervision, and the quiet reassurance that keeps every child safe and supported. This collective effort is a testament to the strength of our school community.

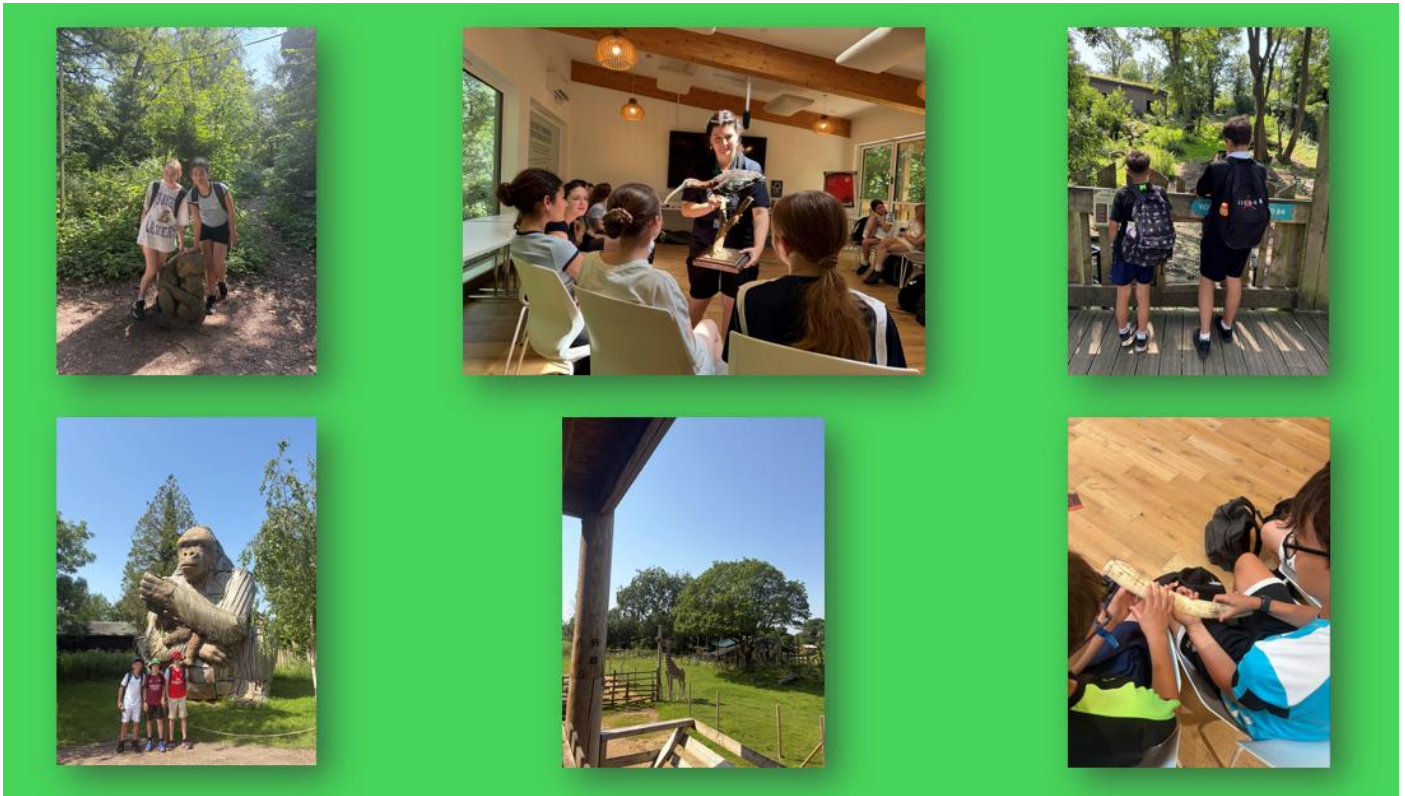
As we return to more familiar routines for the final weeks of term, there is still much to look forward to — Year 11 Prom, Year 13 Celebration Ball and Year 6 Transition Week among them. Term 6 continues at pace, and weeks like this remind us why: because alongside academic success, it is these experiences that help shape young people who are kind, ambitious and curious.

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



Will Penny
Headteacher

Year 7 trip to Bristol Zoo Wild Place Project



Year 7 trip to Harry Potter Studios



Year 7 – Mendip Pursuits Centre



Including lots of fun in the water!



And more...



Year 7 Dragon Dancing – Wellbeing at school



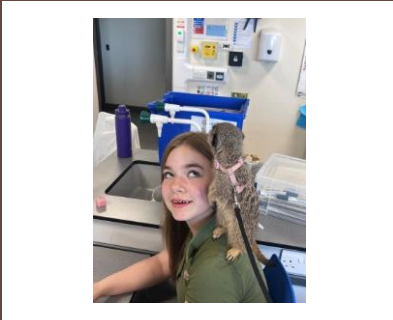
Year 8 – Mojo Active outdoor pursuits. Lots of fun!



Year 8 African Drumming, Cooking and Art activities at school



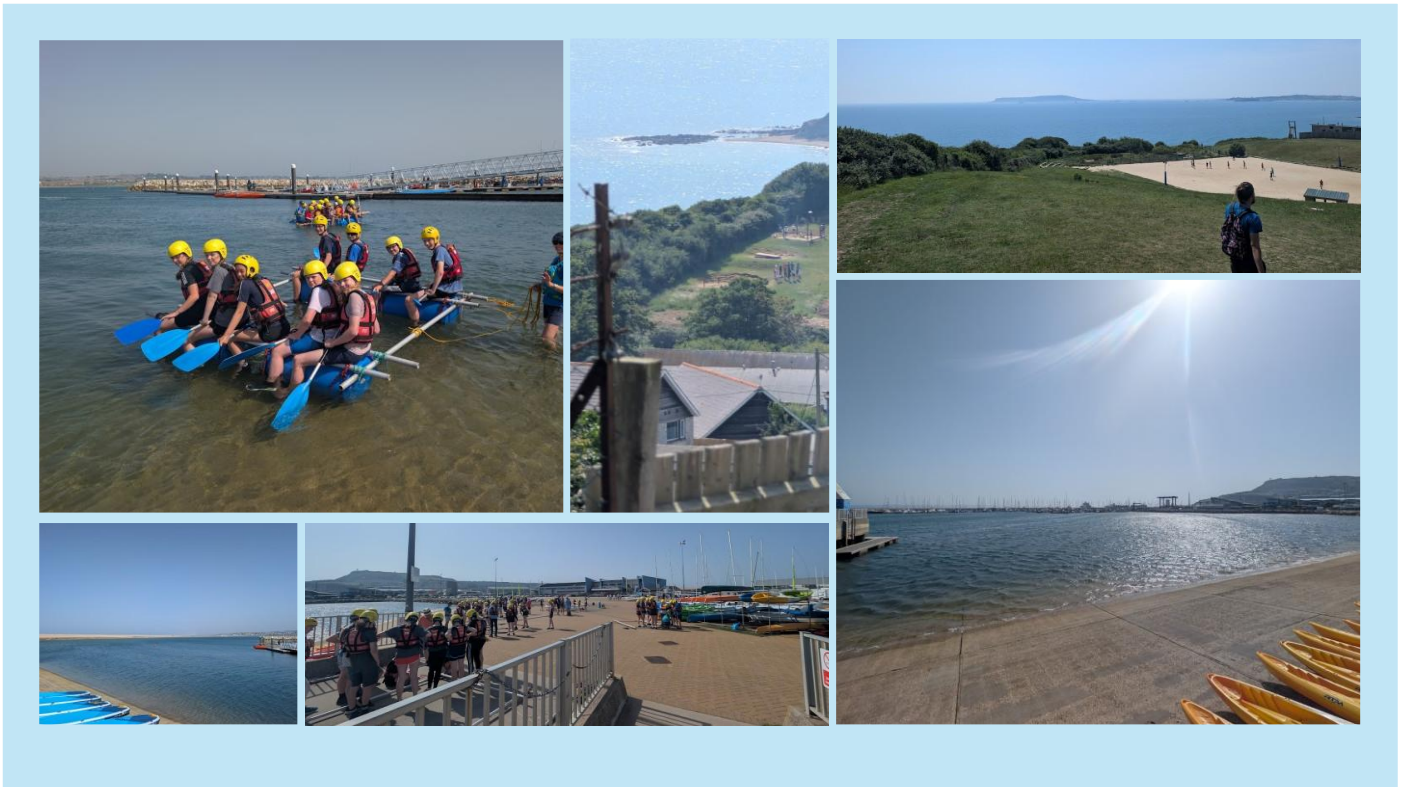
Year 8 Animal Experiences



Warwick Castle



Year 9 camp to Osmington Bay – Weymouth



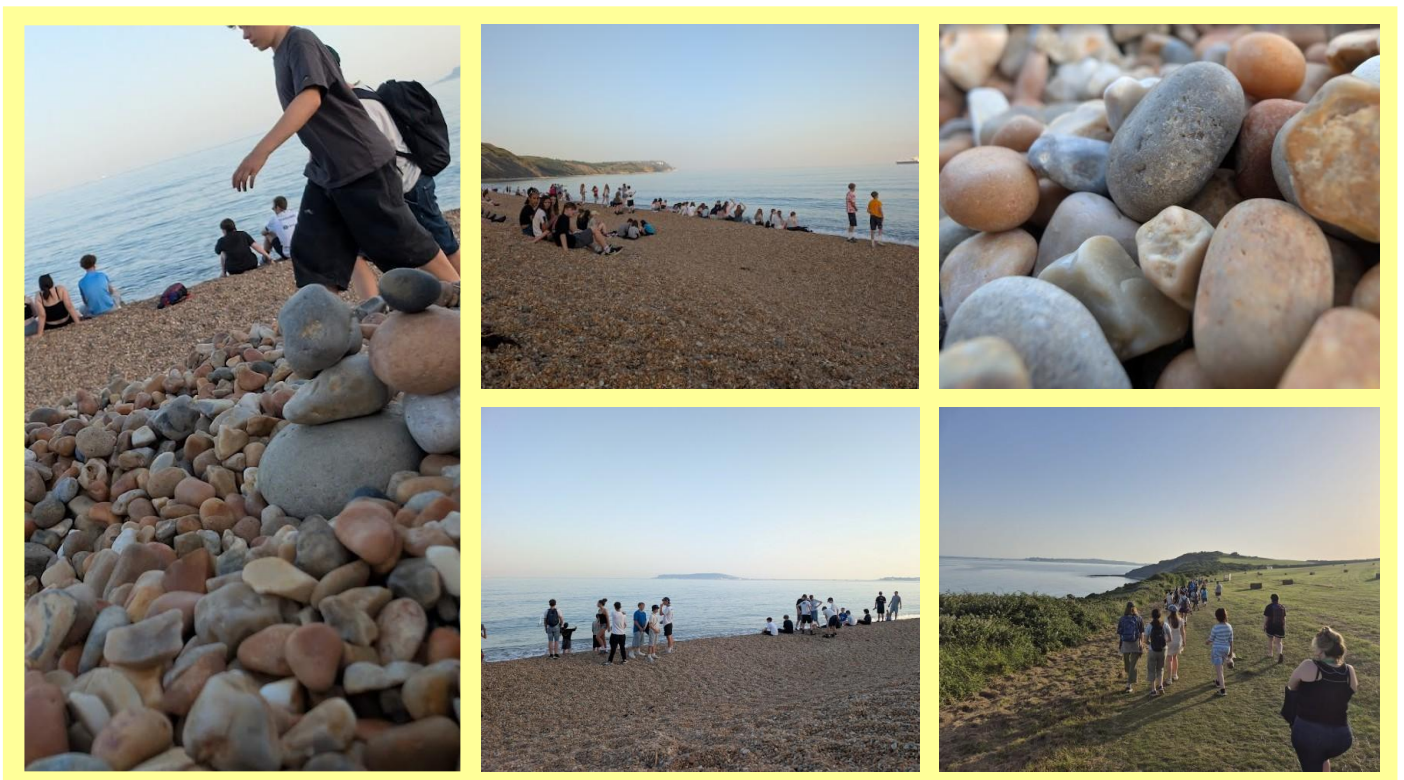
Water Sports in the Bay at Portland



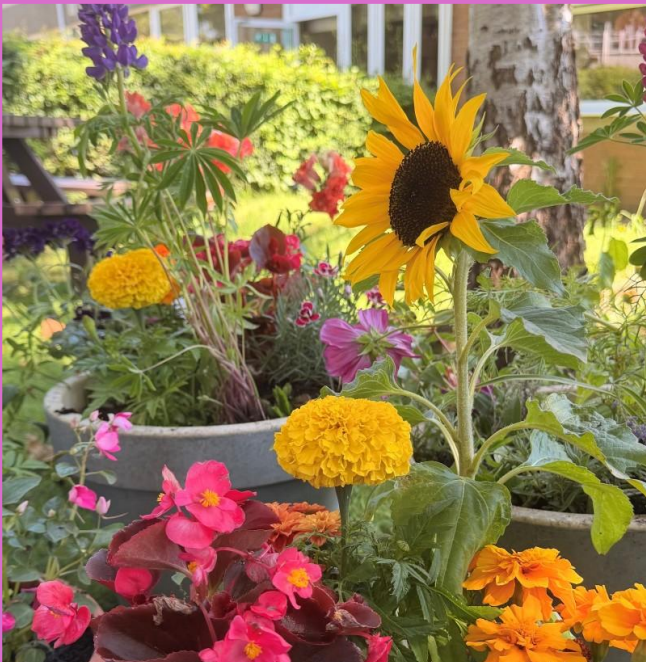
So many activities at Osmington!



Cooling evening beach activities. A perfect way to end the day!



More Osmington fun!



We are still collecting in the photographs taken this week and hope to bring you more glimpses of excitement very soon.

Year 11 and 13 leavers - Reminders

If you have a credit balance remaining on your ParentPay dinner money account, please complete the following form, before **Tuesday 30 June 2026**: [Dinner Money Refund or Transfer Request Form Summer 2026 – Fill in form](#)

Please fill in this form, to organise a refund or transfer to a sibling's dinner money account. Any queries or issues, please contact the Finance team via their email: finance@backwellschool.net

SWAP YOUR CALCULATOR FOR A BAR OF CHOCOLATE!

Once you are finished with your old calculator, bring it to the maths office to swap it for a bar of chocolate before Friday 3rd July (Y12 transition day!).

Do not swap if you plan on doing one of the following subjects:



- A Level Maths*
- Core Maths*
- Biology
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Psychology
- Geography



*You MUST HAVE a special calculator to study both A Level and Core Maths. Either the Casio FX-991CW (it has a GOLD button) or the old-style Casio Classwiz 991ex. So you may want to swap your old one.

Summer 2026 Exam Information

Results Days

A Level, AS & Level 3 qualifications – Thursday 13th August 2026

- Year 13 – students can collect results from 8.00am
- Year 12 – students can collect results from 9.00am

GCSE & Level 1/2 qualifications – Thursday 20th August 2026

- Students can collect results from 10.00am

Results will be given out in the Sixth Form Theatre.

If you arrive late, you can collect your results from the Exams office.

All students will be given access to their results electronically at 2pm on their designated results day. An email will be sent to your school email address, or you can sign into the

Exam Portal to view your results. Within the portal you can download, print or share your results with parent/carers.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are abroad on results days, you will not be able to access your school email. You should make sure you know your portal log-in details to be able to access your results.

We are NOT able to give out results over the phone or send them to personal e-mail addresses.

If you are unable to collect your results in person and wish someone else to collect them on your behalf then please email exams@backwellschool.net. Your email must tell us the name of the person you authorise to collect for you and should be sent from your school email account. Alternatively, your nominated person can bring in a signed letter of authority from you on results day. Please be advised that the nominated person will need to bring a form of ID (ideally photographic) to collect your results. Your results will be placed in a sealed envelope.

Post Results Services

It is possible to request reviews of marking should you have any queries about your results. There are strict deadlines set by the Exam Boards and these are not negotiable.

Details about the services available can be found in the information sheets on the school website (under the “Results Days 2026” tab of the Exam Arrangements page) or at these links:

- [A Level, AS & Level 3 Qualifications](#)
- [GCSE & Level 1/2 Qualifications](#)

The table below sets out a summary of the strict deadlines:

Post-Results Services	Deadline
A Level/Level 3 Priority Review of Marking (if you have a university place at risk)	Wednesday 19 th August – 2pm
All other qualifications Review of Marking	Friday 18 th September – 2pm
Access to Scripts	Friday 18 th September – 2pm
APPEALS following a ROM outcome (Preliminary appeal). Please note the price for all options includes a £100 non-refundable admin fee. Please see page 6 of the Appeals policy for full details Backwell School Internal Appeals Policy 25-26	7 calendar days from date of notification of ROM outcome

Quick Links

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

Letters Home

- [Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award 2026/7 - Expression of interest – Fill in form](#)
- [Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award Practice Expedition: New Forest Monday 13 July to Wednesday 15](#)
- [Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Practice Expedition: Bannau Brycheiniog \(Brecon Beacons\) Monday](#)
- [Wave 2 - Duke of Edinburgh, Bronze Award Assessed expedition: Mendip Hills, Fri 10 to Sat 11 July](#)

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 30 June	Year 6 – 7 transition day at Backwell School
Thursday 02 July	Year 10 Parents' and Carers; Evening (online)
Tuesday 07 July	Additional Music Evening 7:00pm in DTH
Wednesday 22 July	Last Day of Term 6 Students finish school at 1.15pm. School buses will depart at 1.30pm

WE ARE LOOKING *for Host Families* IN YOUR AREA!

Open your home. Change a life.
Host international students and
share your culture while creating
lifelong memories.

WHY CHOOSE US?

- £ Excellent rates
- 🎧 24/7 support
- 📍 Locally based
- 📅 Weekly payments
- 🏠 3 or 4 night stays
- 📅 Weekends free



*Make a
Difference!*



*New friendships.
Different cultures.
Unforgettable experiences.*

HOW TO CONTACT US

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- 📞 07956870011
- ✉️ enquiries@hfhpremiumhosting.co.uk

Join Our Host Family Community
- and be part of something amazing!



Make a
Difference



Share Your
Culture



Build Lifelong
Connections