



# BACKWELL SCHOOL WEEKLY BULLETIN

FRIDAY 03 July 2026



Dear Parents, Carers, Families, and Friends,

As we complete our first full week back following Enrichment Week, it has been wonderful to see students quickly settling back into routines and re-engaging with their learning. The positive atmosphere around the school has been evident from the moment students returned, with classrooms full of energy, focus, and enthusiasm. Whether participating in lessons, supporting transition events, preparing for Sports Day, or looking ahead to the next stage of their education, our students have demonstrated the maturity and commitment that make our school community so special.

We were delighted to welcome our incoming Year 6 pupils and their families for Transition Day this week. It was wonderful to see the excitement and enthusiasm as the children explored their new school, met staff, and experienced lessons alongside their future classmates. A special thank you must go to our current students, who were exceptional ambassadors throughout the day. They showed great maturity and kindness in helping our visitors navigate the site, supporting them in lessons, answering questions, and ensuring everyone felt welcome and included. Their friendly, caring approach truly reflected the values of our school and helped create a positive and reassuring experience for both the children and their parents. We are incredibly proud of the way they represented our school community and look forward to welcoming our new Year 6 pupils officially in September.

With Sports Day on Wednesday and the weather set fair, excitement is building across the school! This is always one of the highlights of the year, giving every student the chance to represent their house, show their team spirit, and take part in a fantastic day of competition, encouragement, and fun. We would love to see students proudly wearing their house colours and giving their very best in support of their team. The big question is: can Quantock retain their crown, or will another house rise to the challenge? And can Mendip avoid the dreaded wooden spoon this year? Whatever the result, Sports Day is about participation, perseverance, and house pride, so we encourage everyone to get involved and cheer one another on. With warm weather forecast, please remember to apply sunscreen before school, bring a refillable water bottle, and wear a hat to help stay safe in the sun throughout the day. We look forward to a brilliant day of sporting achievement and house spirit!

Monday evening's Year 11 Prom at Ashton Gate was a truly fantastic occasion and a fitting way to celebrate the end of exams and the conclusion of an important chapter in our students' lives. It was wonderful to see everyone enjoying the evening, reflecting on their achievements, and marking the end of five memorable years at school. For some students, who have been learning and growing together for more than 11 years, this event represented a particularly significant milestone as they prepare for the next stage of their educational journey. We are delighted that the majority of the year group will be returning to our Sixth Form in September, and we look forward to supporting them as they embark on the next chapter of their studies. For those moving on to new opportunities, we thank them for the contribution they have made to our school community, wish them every success for the future, and encourage them to stay in touch. We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved and hope they look back on their time with us with great fondness. This evening, we return to Ashton Gate for our Year 13 Prom, and we are looking forward to what promises to be another wonderful celebration. After the fantastic success of the Year 11 Prom on Monday evening, we hope our Year 13 students enjoy an equally memorable occasion as they mark the end of their school journey with us.

Today's Sixth Form Induction Day was a wonderful success and provided a fantastic introduction to life in the Sixth Form. The energy, enthusiasm, and positivity shown by students throughout the day was a real pleasure to see, with many already embracing the opportunities and independence that await them in September. Students took part in a range of information briefings and a welcome assembly, before having the opportunity to sample each of their chosen subjects through taster lessons with our Sixth Form teachers. The day gave students a valuable insight into the academic expectations and exciting experiences that lie ahead, while also allowing them to begin building relationships with their peers and staff. We would like to thank all students for their engagement and positive attitude, wish them the very best of luck for Results Day, and say how much we are looking forward to welcoming them back in September as the newest members of our Sixth Form community. The future is bright, and we cannot wait to see what they achieve in the next stage of their journey.

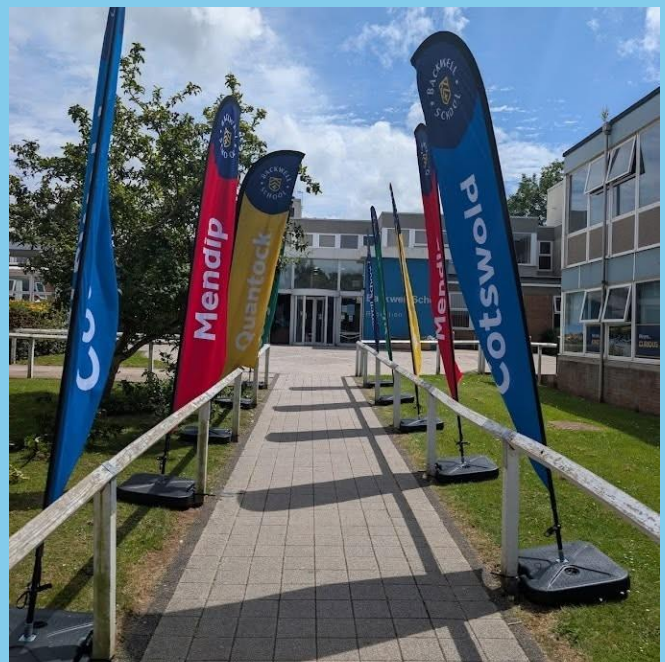
We are also delighted to be developing our partnership with the Belmont Estate, a remarkable local organisation whose vision is centred on restoring nature, increasing biodiversity, and reconnecting people with the natural world. Through pioneering rewilding and habitat restoration projects, Belmont is transforming former agricultural land into thriving ecosystems where wildlife can flourish, while also helping to address challenges such as climate change, flooding, and biodiversity loss. On Thursday morning, a group of staff visited the estate and enjoyed an insightful tour led by Martin Williams as we explored how Belmont and the school can work together to create meaningful opportunities for our students. We are excited about the potential of this partnership and the chance for our young people to learn first-hand about conservation, sustainability, and the importance of working with nature to create a more sustainable future.

As we enter the final two and a half weeks of term, I would like to remind all students and families that every day counts. There is still a great deal of important learning to be completed, alongside end-of-year assessments, enrichment activities, and opportunities to finish the year strongly. Good attendance remains vital, and we encourage all students to be in school, on time, every day. This message also extends to any students planning to stay up for England's Club World Cup match, which kicks off at 1:00am on Monday morning! While we will all be hoping for an England victory, school will continue as normal the next day. One possible solution to avoid some of the tiredness might be to record the match and watch it before school, without checking your phone between 6:00am and 8:00am before you leave the house. Just a thought! As much as I want England to win, I also want to see every one of you in school, ready to learn, make progress, and make the most of these valuable final weeks of the academic year.

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



Will Penny  
Headteacher





Year 6 students enjoying the induction day earlier this week

## Book of the week

The Wild Ones - By Steve Cole

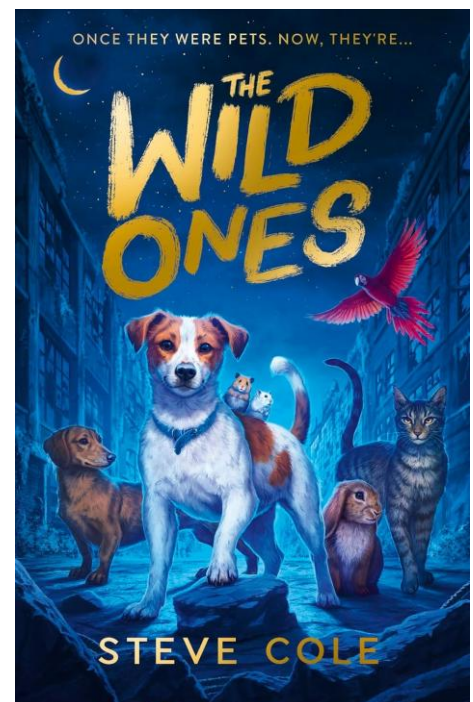
**\*\*Exclusive Advanced Readers Copy for Backwell School\*\***

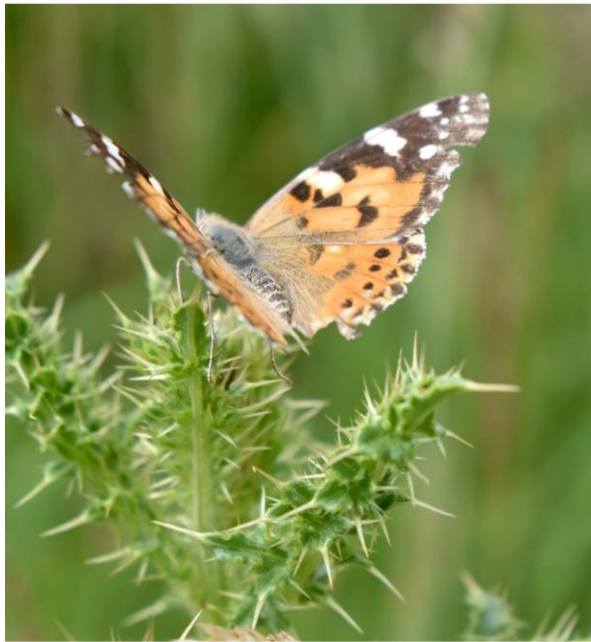
Scamp lives at a pet care centre. He has friends, food and a warm bed. But one terrible night - the Night of the Great Growl - his world changes for ever.

The people have vanished and all that's left outside are the Things: vicious, starving beasts that roam the ruined city. Driven into the wilds - with Chandelier the cat, Punzel the rabbit, Patticake the dachshund, Falstaff the parrot and hamsters Nudge and Wink - Scamp sets off in search of safety.

On their epic journey, Scamp must discover his own wildness if he's to lead the pets to the one thing they so desperately need - a new home.

A moving, beautifully written survival quest story perfect for fans of **I AM REBEL**. Set to win the hearts of children the world over. With irresistible full-page illustrations.

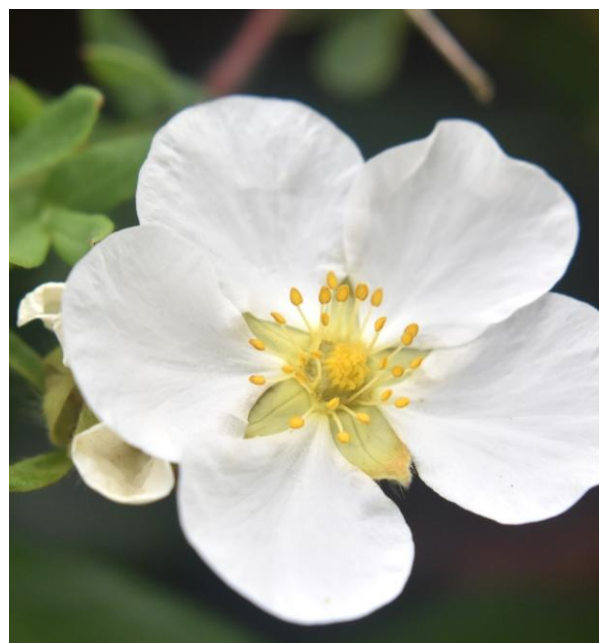
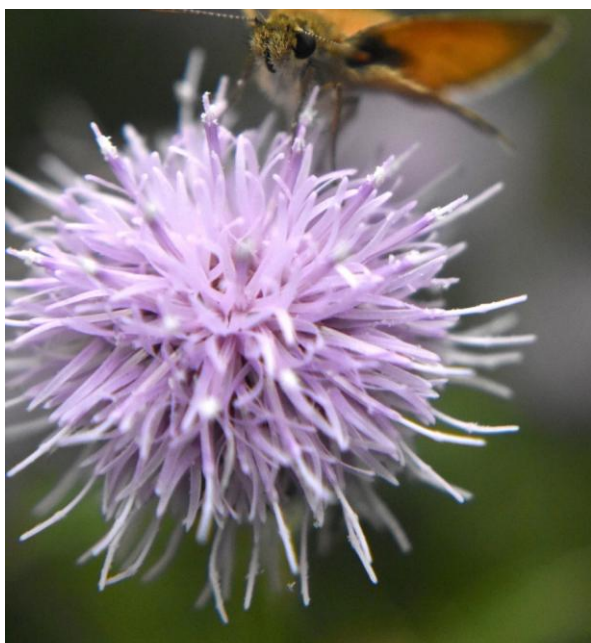




## Year 10 Student Photography

Mrs Lewis' Year 10 Photography class has been studying 'Natural Form'. These incredible examples have been taken around the school grounds.

Students have been using macro lenses and closeups, using aperture and depth of field on manual settings with our DSLR cameras.



## BSA Quiz Night

Thank you to the 16 teams who got involved in the BSA Quiz Night, the volunteers who helped on the night and the kind parents and businesses who donated prizes. The winning team 'Fancy Goods' (featuring staff, family and friends) demonstrated great knowledge of all sorts of odd stuff including UK train stations, Film taglines, FA Cup winners and the 'Dogtanian' theme tune. We took over £1000 on the night and all of this money goes back into supporting projects in school.

An extra special thanks to Mr Clarke, who wrote another incredible, mind-boggling quiz... including a round called '6/7' !



## Music show - soloists and bands: Tuesday, 07 July at 7pm

We have put on an additional music event this term, to be able to showcase some of the many soloists and bands we have at Backwell.

Tickets are available on ParentPay, priced at £5 for adults and £3 for concessions. The BSA will be there to provide a bar throughout the evening.





## DINAN-BACKWELL EXCHANGE 8-15 JUNE

Une expérience  
inoubliable!

### Backwell-Dinan Exchange 8<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> June 2026

On 8<sup>th</sup> June, thirty Backwell students from Year 9 and 10 embarked on their overnight journey from Portsmouth to St Malo, excited to reunite with their Dinan exchange partners who visited us in March. Our ferry journey was calm and the next morning, we arrived to beautiful sunshine- perfect for a stroll along the ramparts of St Malo old town and an exploration of the cobbled streets, and for some, a taste of crêpes in one of the enticing café-restaurants! In the afternoon, we tried surfing and banana boating at the Surf School which was definitely exhilarating given the size of the waves!

When we arrived at Le Collège Broussais, we were greeted warmly by our exchange partners and we set off for our first evening, meeting our host families for the week. Throughout the week, we took part in a range of activities including a visit to the wonderful UNESCO world heritage site of Le Mont Saint Michel and the Château de Dinan and we also tried some of the local delicacies including an oyster-tasting at the port of Cancale, with several students discovering a newfound liking of shellfish! Our day tree-climbing (l'accrobranche) was great fun, and students were able to zip-wire across a lake, climb through suspended barrels and navigate some exciting pathways under the tree canopy.

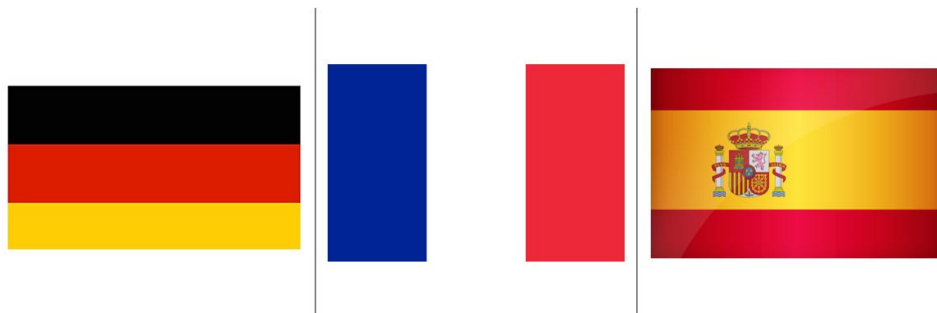
It is always lovely to see students actively engage in real-life communication, develop their cultural and linguistic skills and really grow in confidence and resilience during the week in France. We were proud of the can-do attitude, kindness and curiosity displayed by our students and we hope that their memories of the week will remain with them for a long

time to come! A 'grand merci' to our French colleagues and families who helped to make this such a marvellous experience! Vive les échanges scolaires!



## Association for Language Learning (ALL) West of England Short Foreign Film Competition 2026 Finals

Around 90 Backwell students got involved in the competition for all 3 languages - French, Spanish and German and all of them showed amazing creativity, imagination, editing skills and of course, linguistic skills! The final was held today online with Bristol University and the French team came 3<sup>rd</sup> overall! Congratulation to all students who took part and many thanks to Ms Maguire and our MFL team for their support.



## Term 6 - 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](mailto:mailbox@backwellschool.net) - if you would like to discuss any aspect of our Personal Development Curriculum in more detail.

All students have taken part in tutor time sessions about Water Safety and how to remain safe around open water areas including streams, lakes, canals, rivers and our coastal areas. This is particularly important for young people in times of sunny, warm weather.

### What is happening in Term 6:

**Year 7** - are continuing to look 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 8** – are talking about Healthy Lifestyle Choices, and the influences upon this, including how to ascertain whether information is accurate and unbiased.

**Year 9** - will be looking at Basic First Aid.

**Year 10** - in tutor time will be focussing on Preparing for Work Experience Week and then following up on what they learn during that week. In SMSC Year 10 will be looking at the British Value of Diversity – focussing on diversity in society, preventing extremism and the rights to protest

### **Sixth form:**

During Year 12 tutor times learning is centred around careers - job applications, negotiation skills, resilience skills. The centrepiece is Future Plans week (during enrichment week) where they will be focussed on careers/university related activity.

## Quick Links

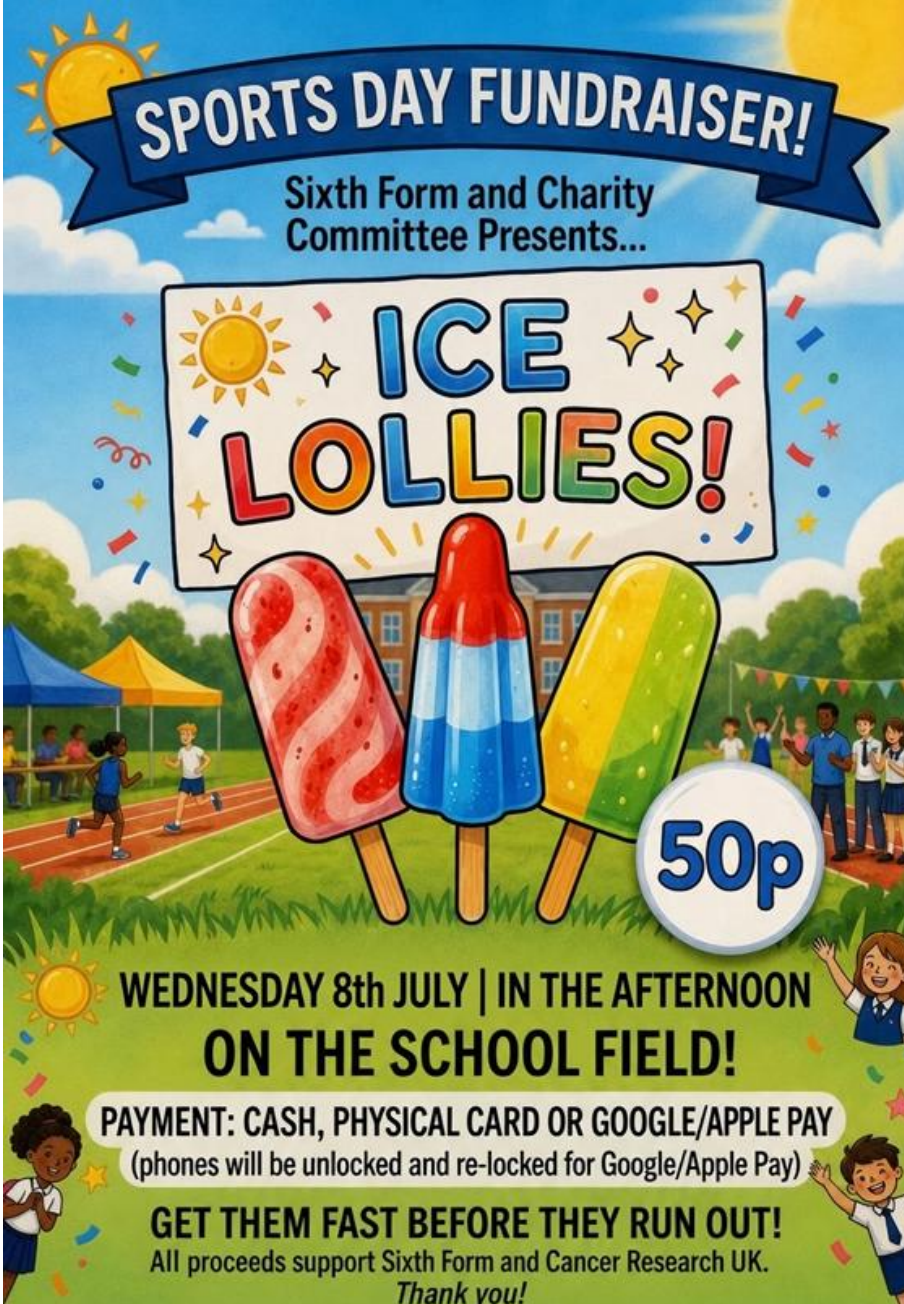
- [School Uniform and Equipment Guidance](#)
- [Financial Support](#)
- [Backwell School Careers Bulletin - June 2026](#)
- [Sixth Form Bulletin](#)
- [Summer 2026 Exam Information](#)

## Dates for your Diary

<b>Tuesday 07 July</b>	Additional Music Evening 7:00pm in DTH
<b>Wednesday 08 July</b>	Sports Day (Students Only)
<b>Tuesday 14 July</b>	A-Level Art Show: 5.30-6.45pm (Conference room and Reception
<b>Thursday 16 July</b>	Sports Awards Evening (Invitation Only)
<b>Wednesday 22 July</b>	Last Day of Term 6 Students finish school at 1.15pm. School buses will depart at 1.30pm



*In addition to the Ice Cream Van, we also have....*



**SPORTS DAY FUNDRAISER!**  
Sixth Form and Charity Committee Presents...

**ICE LOLLIES!**

**50p**

**WEDNESDAY 8th JULY | IN THE AFTERNOON  
ON THE SCHOOL FIELD!**

**PAYMENT: CASH, PHYSICAL CARD OR GOOGLE/APPLE PAY**  
(phones will be unlocked and re-locked for Google/Apple Pay)

**GET THEM FAST BEFORE THEY RUN OUT!**  
All proceeds support Sixth Form and Cancer Research UK.  
*Thank you!*

## Vacancy at Backwell School

We are currently advertising a Data & Attendance Assistant. Permanent role, 30 hours a week, term time only plus inset days.

JG2 £24,796 to £25,185

Please see our vacancy page for full information

<https://www.eteach.com/careers/backwellschool/job/data--and--attendance-assistant-1562973/?lang=en-GB>

# WORLD CUP 2026

**Win a World Cup Football!!!**



Celebrate the World Cup with us, by guessing the number of footballs in the jar!!

The two closest guesses win!!!

Chance to win with every lunchtime food purchase!  
From Monday 6th - 10th July



# SUMMER 2026

# A LEVEL ART SHOW

## BACKWELL SCHOOL



Art, Craft and Design

# Photography

# Textiles

# Tues 14th July

# 5.30 - 6.45pm

Reception

**DON'T LET THEM TAKE YOU ALIVE**

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Host international students and  
share your culture while creating  
lifelong memories.

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



Make a  
Difference



Share Your  
Culture



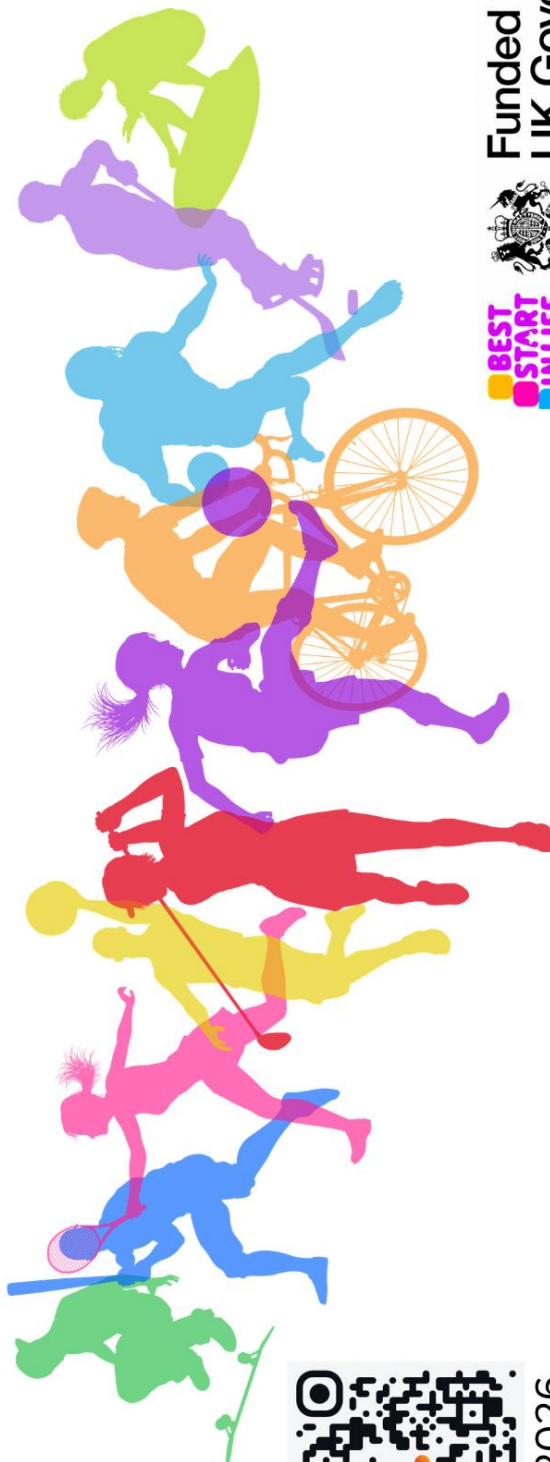
Build Lifelong  
Connections

**HAF** NORTH SOMERSET  
**Holiday Activities & Food**



**Bookings are now LIVE!**

Children and young people who receive benefits related free school meals are invited to book onto our free HAF Summer Activities.



#HAF2026



Funded by  
UK Government

For more information about HAF please visit: <https://eequ.org/northsomerset/haf>

alpkit

West Country  
WATER PARK



TRAIL  
bloom



SNEDDON FINANCIAL  
PLANNING PARTNERSHIP

StarLING  
CYCLES

# SHRED FEST

BY RIDE BRISTOL

BRAND NEW  
MOUNTAIN BIKE  
FESTIVAL  
AT ASHTON COURT

SATURDAY  
11TH  
JULY



## FUN RIDES AND GOOD VIBES!

WHETHER YOU'RE A REGULAR RIDER OR JUST GETTING STARTED,  
THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!



### CLASSIC RIDE

90s THEME ENCOURAGED.  
SCENIC TRAILS.  
BIG SMILES.



### BEGINNERS RIDE

PERFECT FOR NEW RIDERS,  
INCLUDES BIKE HIRE!



### TRIPLE CROWN EVENT

RACE IF YOU WANT,  
HAVE FUN IF YOU DONT.



### OBSTACLE COURSE

SERIOUS FUN,  
NOT SERIOUS SHREDDING.



### FAMILY SHREDQUEST

A FUN TREASURE HUNT  
THAT KIDS WILL LOVE.



### STALLS

GEAR, GOODIES AND  
GREAT RAFFLE PRIZES!



### BAR

REFRESHING DRINKS,  
LUSH TIMES.



### FOOD

TASTY BITES TO  
FUEL YOUR DAY.



FOR MORE INFO  
& RAFFLE/RIDE  
TICKETS

## RAISING MONEY FOR RIDE BRISTOL & BRISTOL SHREDDERS



ALL AGES,  
ALL ABILITIES



SHRED  
YOUR WAY



FUN FOR  
EVERYONE

