

Sixth Form Bulletin

Please ensure that you all read the NOTICES AND REMINDERS: as there are changes to the procedures regarding home study for both years effective from Monday. Plus, lots of other important information.

If you received Free School Meals or Pupil Premium in lower years you may be entitled to the 16-19 Bursary Fund, forms are available outside of the Sixth Form Office or see below for further information

This week (and going forward) we have had several careers events and information about Post 18 Apprenticeships and Virtual Work Experience. Please see below for more information.

Geography Students should see the section on upcoming seminars from the GEOGRAPHICAL ASSOCIATION LECTURES

... NEXT WEEK (WEEK 1):

Monday 21 September	Sixth Form deadline for UCAS applications to Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Oxford and Cambridge
Monday 21 September	Year 12 Assembly in SFT
Thursday 24 September	Year 13 Assembly in DTH

Term 1 2026/27:

Friday 02 October	EPQ: Record of initial ideas complete
W/C 19 October	Year 12 & 13 Reports due home
Thursday 29 October - Sunday 1 November	Year 13 Trip to Iceland

Term 2 2026/27:

Tues 03 & Thur 05 Nov	GCSE English Language Resit
Wed 04, Friday 06 & Mon 09 November	GCSE Maths Exam Resits
Monday 06 November	Sixth Form deadline for all UCAS applications (to guarantee submission by Christmas)
30 November – 03 December	Y13 Trial Exams
Thursday 10 December	First Year 12 Parents Evening

NOTICES AND REMINDERS:

Home Study arrangements from Monday 21 September

Home study privileges are dependent on punctuality, attendance and progress. If you are asked to attend a meeting by any member of staff, even if it is when you would normally have home study, you must attend.

Year 12: Every student is expected to be in school from 08.40 - 12.30 Monday to Friday (tutor time – end p3) even if you have no lessons that day. If you have no lessons in a day and transport is an issue, please ask your parents/carers to contact Miss Haywood directly.

Year 13 students that HAVE Mon/Fri am Home study privileges: Mon/Friday morning home study privileges remain the same and you should arrive in school for p3.

If you only have a lesson p5 Tues – Thurs, you are still expected in school 08.40 - 12.30.

If you do not have any lessons on a specific day, then regardless of the day of the week you can study at home with parental permission (parents/carers have to complete an MS form)

Year 13 students that DO NOT have Mon/Fri am Home study privileges: You are expected to be in school from 08.40 - 12.30 Monday to Friday (tutor time – end p3) even if you have no lessons that day. You still have afternoon home privileges, but these could also be removed if we have concerns.

Signing in and out

We now have a new iPad in the foyer of the Sixth Form for signing in and out for **Home Study only**. All other signing in and out should be via the Reception.

Supervised Study Sessions

Students who have been allocated to supervised study sessions will receive new printed timetables on Monday. Amended timetables are available to view online.

Wear your Lanyard!

The wearing of lanyards is **essential** for us to keep all students safe and for showing staff (who may not know you) that you have the right to be on the School site. Permanent access control cards and lanyards will be issued shortly. You will need to hand back your temporary pass and lanyard.

If you forget or lose your lanyard please go and see Mrs Belcher in Sixth Form Office to get a temporary badge or order (£5 via ParentPay) a new lanyard.

British Transport Police – Warning of Fare Evasion Crackdown on Trains

Fare evasion crackdown on the Weston-Super-Mare to Bristol Line. Focusing on Students using the trains to get to school. Make sure that you have a valid ticket.

Open mornings volunteers for Year 6's

Tours will be starting next Wednesday. Thank you to all the students who have volunteered. Timetables etc will be sent out on Monday.

If you still want to sign up [click here](#).

New Year 12 Students - Biometrics

Please go to see Mrs Cousins in Student Services between 9.30 and 2.30 to get your finger scanned.

16-19 Bursary Fund

The 16-19 Bursary Fund is available to post-16 students who are in receipt of Free School Meals or whose parents/carers receive Universal Credit. Application forms are available from the Sixth Form office. For further information, please contact finance@backwellschool.net

IT, PARKING FROG & WIFI

Accessing Frog from Home / Own Devices

In school on a school computer/school wifi – you only need your login id (eg 21abcDef) and password. From home, go to www.frog.backwellschool.net and enter your full Backwell School email address (eg 21abcDef@backwellschool.net) but **not** your password. Click to sign in and then you will be asked again for your username and password on an authorisation page. Select “do not show this message again” and “keep me signed in” - you should only have to do this process once. You can also download the app!

Microsoft Office 365:

Backwell students have complete free access to the Microsoft Office 365 package. Once downloaded, it can be fully installed on a PC, Mac, tablet and phone. It gives full access to Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote, Outlook and Access. View the download instructions on Frog for further details.

WiFi access issues:

Please see instructions in Frog and on the Sixth Form screens. If you experience any problems, please go to IT.

School Emails

Please check your school emails every day.

Parking Permits:

- Students can apply for a Parking Permit on passing their driving test. Please collect a form from the Sixth Form office. All applications are reviewed on an individual basis, with priority given to those living furthest away.
- Students may only bring a car or motorcycle onto the school site with a valid permit.
- If you drive to school and don't have a permit, you must park off site. Please do so sensibly and give consideration to Backwell residents. Do not park in narrow roads, such as Russett Close and Mulberry Close, as this blocks access for emergency vehicles

FUTURE PLANS

Careers Bulletin

Please see the 'Future Plans and Application Support' page on Frog for the latest Careers Bulletin, resources, events, support and the school's careers platform, Unifrog. If you have any queries regarding future plans, please contact Ms Farr at jfarr@backwellschool.net.

Future Learn: FREE online short courses. Ideal for students wishing to broaden study around a subject or research an area of interest. They only take up to a couple of hours a week; you can sign up at any time. Useful when applying to university to enhance your personal statement. Visit <https://www.futurelearn.com>

University Open Days:

- Where possible, please attend open days on Saturdays/at weekends, rather than on a school day.
- You are allowed a maximum of five days' absence to attend open days throughout Years 12 and 13.
- You must submit a planned absence form in advance of any open day you wish to attend (not the day before or after the event!) to allow time for approval/permission by teachers and the Sixth Form Team.

For more information on open days please see <https://www.opendays.com/calendar/>

UPCOMING CAREERS EVENTS

Falmouth University Open Days - Free Coach from Temple Meads Station

Falmouth University will be putting on two coaches for their Open Days on the **Saturday 24th Oct** and **Wednesday 25th Nov**. The coaches will depart from Bristol Temple Means Train Station. The coach is free! It leaves Bristol at 08:30 and will then leave Falmouth 16:30/45. This is open to all students and a parent/carer/friend. Places are limited on a first-come-first-served bases. For more information [click here](#).

For more general information on Open Days at Falmouth University [click here](#).

Start a career with GWR Apprenticeships

For students interested in engineering, transport, technology or practical careers, **Great Western Railway** offers a range of opportunities across the rail industry.

Apprenticeships and other entry level roles can provide a way to gain hands-on experience, develop industry-specific skills and start building a long-term career.

Students can get ahead of the crowd by [registering now for GWR apprenticeships](#) so they'll be amongst the first to know when they go live!

HSBC's Degree Apprenticeship (Level 6) i

Are a paid, permanent role where you earn a salary, build real skills in banking, and learn on the job. We hire for skills and potential; we look at motivation/strengths and teach technical skills. You'll work on varied projects across different teams.

Here are the key details:

- Registration Opens: **Monday, 28 September** (Programme starts: November 2027)
- Paid, permanent role (permanent contract day one)
- Programme length: 4 years and 2 months, structured programme with rotations
- Working pattern: hybrid working min 60% (3 days/week) at placement location
- Fully funded (no tuition fees): University of Exeter BSc (Hons) Applied Retail and Commercial Banking + Level 6 Financial Services Professional Apprenticeship
- Eligibility: A-Levels BCC (top 3) or equivalent; 5 GCSEs grade 4/C+ incl Maths + English Language

Want to find out more? Join one of our free virtual sessions below (and share with friends who might be interested too).

September virtual sessions (registration links):

- **Careers That Work: (Degree) Apprenticeships Explained** (for teachers and parents) / Monday, September 14th/ 17:45-18:30 [REGISTER HERE](#)
- **Discover Degree Apprenticeships at HSBC** / Wednesday, September 23rd / 16:30-17:45 [REGISTER HERE](#)
- **Make Your Application Stand Out:** Tips from HSBC Recruiters / Wednesday, September 30th / 16:30-17:45 [REGISTER HERE](#)
- **Photo Tips: Building a Career in Commercial & Fashion Photography** | 19th Nov | 6:30-7:30pm
In this Photo Tips session, we'll be joined by award-winning British Pakistani photographer Shahfaq Shahbaz. Shahfaq, is a freelance portrait, fashion, and commercial photographer and she will share the practical realities of building a career in fashion and commercial photography.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING:

Please see the Wellbeing Link on the Sixth Form Page for more information and self-referral for support.

- At home – talk to friends or family, use wellbeing online resources (Kooth, YoungMinds, etc).
- At school – see/email Mrs Hobbs who can arrange a time to talk or signpost students to various support networks. You can also talk to/email your Tutor, Head of Year or Teachers.
- Anonymous and confidential support – there are many support agencies who make time to talk:
<https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/get-urgent-help/youngminds-crisis-messenger/#youngminds-crisis-messenger>
<https://www.themix.org.uk/get-support>
<https://giveusashout.org/get-help/>
www.kooth.com
<https://www.bdp.org.uk>
<https://www.childline.org.uk>
<https://www.otrbristol.org.uk>

For more tips on talking to others and looking after your own mental health, go to the Wellbeing page on Frog, which is regularly updated by Mrs Hobbs.

- **“Practise self-care”** [What Is Self-Care? | Self-Care And Mental Health | YoungMinds](#)
- [Student Health Guide](#) for lots of helpful advice
- **Sexual Health Advice:** Talk to a trusted adult, the School Nurse or your GP or visit:
<https://www.brook.org.uk>
<https://yunosexualhealth.co.uk>

GEOGRAPHICAL ASSOCIATION LECTURES

Wed 23rd Sep 2026: 7.00-8.30 pm

Robin Markwell (BBC reporter, producer, presenter)

Reporting environmental impact for BBC Radio

Robin will draw upon his extensive experience working for BBC Radio 4 and the World Service with stories of relevance for geographers. He was a graduate of geography at the University of Bristol before embarking on a career in journalism..

[Registration and further details here](#)

Tues 20th Oct 2026: 7.00-8.00 pm

Dr. Chris Spencer (UWE)

Managing our region's coastline

Chris' teaching and research focusses on coastal geomorphology and management and also reconstructing past environments and managing future climate change. Chris is the subject area lead for "Geography and Environment" in the School of Architecture and Environment, UWE.

[Registration and further details here](#)

Thurs 12th Nov 2026: 7.00-8.00 pm

Dr. Josh Dean (University of Bristol)

Rivers of carbon from land to sea

Josh is an Associate Professor of Biogeochemistry in the School of Geographical Sciences, University of Bristol, with expertise on the source, transformation and flow of carbon through the land-to-ocean aquatic continuum, with a focus on methane. He has been conducting work on carbon in different urban settings in China, Netherlands. London and Bristol.

[Registration and further details here](#)

Tues 1st Dec 2026: 7.00-8.00 pm

Dr. Caitlin Robinson (University of Bristol)

Mapping vulnerability in urban settings

Caitlin is a Senior Research Fellow and Proleptic Lecturer in Urban Analytics the School of Geographical Sciences, University of Bristol. As a quantitative human geographer, Caitlin's research investigates the causes and consequences of different types of spatial inequality, with a particular interest in energy, infrastructure, climate.

[Registration and further details here](#)