



BACKWELL SCHOOL

WEEKLY BULLETIN

FRIDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2026



Dear Parents, Carers, Families, and Friends,

Last night, our annual Open Evening provided a wonderful opportunity to celebrate everything that makes Backwell School such a special place. Across the school, departments showcased their excellence through vibrant displays, engaging activities and interactive experiences that brought learning to life for our prospective families.

Most impressive of all were our students, whose enthusiasm, confidence and warmth shone throughout the evening. They welcomed in excess of 750 visitors with genuine pride and positivity, acting as outstanding ambassadors for our school community. If your child volunteered during the event, they were a real credit to both your family and Backwell School, and we are incredibly grateful for their contribution.

For families with children considering joining us in Year 7, our Open Morning tours begin on Wednesday 23 September and run each school day until Friday 23 October, starting at 9:00am. These tours offer an excellent opportunity to see the school in action during a normal working day. To book a place, please visit the school website.

Last weekend, our Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award teams successfully completed their four-day qualifying expedition in Snowdonia, culminating in the ascent of Yr Wyddfa (Mount Snowdon) on Tuesday. Battling a wide range of weather conditions, students demonstrated exceptional resilience, determination and independence throughout the journey.

What impressed us most was the teamwork, kindness and encouragement shown towards one another. Whether navigating challenging terrain, setting up camp or supporting friends through difficult moments, our students embodied the very best of Backwell School. We are incredibly proud of their outstanding achievement and the maturity and character they displayed throughout this memorable adventure. Congratulations to all involved and thank you to the staff who made the expedition possible.

This weekend, our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award participants embark on their expedition across the Mendips. These students have enthusiastically embraced the opportunity, and the experience promises to develop their confidence, resilience and teamwork, while creating memories that will last long beyond their time at Backwell.

One of the messages I regularly share with students is to make the most of the wide range of opportunities available to them. Whether through sport, the arts, leadership or the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, it is often these experiences that create lifelong memories, moments of laughter and friendships that endure for years to come. I have no doubt that this weekend's expedition will be another such experience, and I look forward to hearing about their adventures when they return on Monday. Best of luck to all involved!

On Tuesday, we will be delighted to welcome our Spanish Exchange students and teachers from Colegio Vera-Cruz to Backwell for the week. During their visit, they will attend lessons, explore local places of interest and experience life with their host families, providing a genuine insight into life in the UK.

International exchanges such as this offer far more than the opportunity to practise a language. They help students develop confidence, independence and cultural understanding, whilst building friendships and memories that can last a lifetime. We are enormously grateful to our dedicated Languages team for organising this valuable experience and to the families who have so generously opened their homes and made our visitors feel so welcome.

Thank you once again for your continued support in helping us make such a positive and successful start to the academic year. It is this shared commitment to our students and to one another that lies at the heart of our community and the spirit behind the words I so often say and write: *We Are Backwell*.



Will Penny
Headteacher



Frog Parent Portal/My Child at School App/School Catering

We understand how overwhelming the start of the school year can be for parents and carers. Please find a list of helpful links below to help you with school life admin.

- [Frog Parents' Portal](#)
- [My Child at School Site & App](#)
- [Rent My Locker](#)
- [Backwell School Uniform](#)
- [Aspens Streateries - Main Dining Centre Price List](#)

A reminder to parents and carers that Backwell School is a **NUT AWARE SCHOOL**. Please ensure you do not send your child to school with any products containing nuts. This is to keep our school community safe. Many thanks for your support with this.

Personal Development at Backwell School

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.

Personal Development covers all aspects of Relationships and Health Education, as well as Careers and wider Learning Skills and British Values and Citizenship.

This school year we are changing our delivery model for the Personal Development Curriculum. Years 7, 8 and 9 will now be taught Personal Development in fortnightly timetabled lessons.

Years 10 and 11 will continue to be taught in tutor time, twice weekly as well as in fortnightly SMSC lessons.

Years 12 and 13 are taught in tutor time sessions.

As a result of the new Relationships, Sex and Health Education guidance for Years 7-11, and in response to our Parent consultation, we have updated our curriculum plans. Please find the outlines for Term 1 lessons below – this should help in developing conversations at home as required. We are in the process of updating our website so that Parents will better be able to track what their child is learning about across the full school year, and this should help us all to work together in supporting your child.

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.

Year 7		Key Questions
Autumn Term 1	Relationships: Important Relationships	What does it mean to have a healthy relationship with yourself? How does wellbeing impact our relationships? What strategies are there for building stronger relationships at school? How do relationships change through life?
	Relationships: Friendships	What is belonging and how can it help us? Why might someone feel lonely?
	Relationships: Belonging	How can social media affect our relationships? What are the effects of feeling lonely? What strategies can we use to help someone who is feeling lonely?
	Careers Education at Backwell	What is a career? What skills do I have already?

Year 8		Key Questions
Autumn Term 1	Health Education: Healthy Lifestyles	How does physical activity affect wellbeing? How does sleep affect wellbeing? What strategies are there for boosting wellbeing?
	Health Education: Puberty	What are the physical changes in puberty? What is a period? How might our hormones affect our moods?
	Health Education: Looking after your teeth and mouth	What is good oral hygiene? How can we maintain good oral hygiene? How do people access dental appointments?
	Careers Education: Going to work	Why do people go to work? What would help me choose suitable work?

Year 9		Key Questions
Autumn Term 1	Online Safety: Boundaries	How do we set online boundaries? What is grooming?
	Online Safety: Cyberbullying	How can we end an online relationship safely? Why might bullying behaviours occur online? What is cyberbullying?
	Online Safety: Social media	How can we respond to something unkind or unsafe online? What causes the pressure of creation online? How do people generate Fear of Missing Out? How does social media impact wellbeing?
	Online Safety: Trust Online	Do we trust people online as much as people we know face to face? What can help us decide who to trust online?

Year 10

Autumn Term 1	In Tutor Time	Careers and Skills: Being Successful in Year 10 and 11	What strategies can we use to ensure success at school? What are our academic goals? What is Work Experience?
		Health Education: Challenging negative thinking	What are negative thinking patterns? What motivates us?
		Health Education: Self Respect and Self Esteem	What strategies are there for challenging negative thinking patterns? What do we mean by Self Respect and Self Esteem?
		Health Education: Drug and Alcohol Risks	How do Self Respect and Self Esteem influence our feelings? What are the risks associated with drugs and alcohol?
		Health Education: Drug and Alcohol Decisions	How does the law classify illegal drugs? What might influence our decisions about whether to take drugs or alcohol? What might be the consequences in law of taking illegal drugs? Why do people misuse prescription medication?
	In SMSC	Health Education: Misuse of Prescription Medication	What are the physical consequences of misusing prescription medications? What are the laws around misusing prescription medications?
		Health Education: Looking after our mental wellbeing	What are the differences between everyday uncomfortable feelings and overwhelming feelings? What supports can we use to help prevent us becoming overwhelmed?
		Health Education: Stigma and Mental Health	What might be the consequences of stigmatising mental health conditions? How can we challenge stigma around mental health?
		British Values and Citizenship: Understanding Democracy	What does democracy mean? Is every country a democracy? What is a representative democracy?

Year 11

Autumn Term 1	In Tutor Time	Careers and Skills: What happens after Year 11	What can I do after Year 11?
		Careers and Skills: Qualification Levels	What support can Backwell Offer in helping me make a decisions?
		Careers and Skills: A-Levels	What helps good decision making?
		Careers and Skills: Vocational	What are the different Qualification Levels?
		Careers and Skills: Apprenticeships	How do Levels affect next steps?
		Careers and Skills: Post 16 Options	What is an A-Level?
		Health Education: Healthy Lifestyles	Why might I choose to do A-Levels?
		Health Education: Cannabis	What is a Vocational Qualification?
		Health Education: Other harmful drugs	Why might I choose to do a Vocational Qualification?
		Careers and Critical Skills: Dealing with exam stress	What is an Apprenticeship?
	In SMSC		Why might I choose to do an Apprenticeship?
			Who influences our decisions?
			What next steps do I need to take now?
			How do unbalanced lifestyles affect our long term health?
			Who is responsible for our lifestyle choices?
			What are the effects of cannabis on the body?
			What are the effects of cannabis on mental health?
			What other substances are harmful to our health?
			How are the risks to health associated with ketamine use?
			What might our body responses be to exam stress?
			How can we manage stressful feelings before, during and after exams?
			How can we seek support if needed?

Important Safety Message from North Somerset Council

The Local Authority has recently become aware of an increase in reports of children and young people accessing derelict, abandoned and unused buildings.

We understand that social media platforms, including TikTok and other online channels, have popularised activities sometimes referred to as "urban exploring" or "urbex". Whilst these videos can make such locations appear exciting or harmless, the reality is that abandoned buildings present significant dangers and can place children and young people at serious risk of injury.

The Risks and Dangers

Derelict and disused buildings can contain a wide range of hazards, including:

- Unstable floors, staircases, walls and roofs that may collapse without warning.
- Broken glass, exposed metal and sharp debris that can cause serious injuries.
- Open lift shafts, basements, holes and concealed drops.
- Unsafe structures that have deteriorated over time and have not been maintained.
- Hazardous materials such as asbestos, chemicals, mould, contaminated water or other substances that can cause long-term health issues.
- Fire risks, electrical hazards and unsafe machinery or equipment.
- Areas that may have limited mobile phone signal or restricted access, making it difficult to call for help in an emergency.

Many of these dangers are not immediately visible, meaning that buildings that appear safe from the outside can be extremely unsafe once entered.

Legal Considerations

Children and young people should also be aware that entering private property without permission may constitute trespassing and, where entry is gained by forcing access or causing damage, may involve criminal offences such as criminal damage or breaking and entering. Such incidents may result in police involvement and can place young people at further risk.

What Parents and Carers Can Do

We encourage parents and carers to:

- Talk openly with their children about the dangers associated with abandoned or derelict buildings.
- Discuss the influence of social media challenges and trends, and remind young people that videos posted online often do not show the real risks involved.
- Encourage children to meet friends and spend time in safe, supervised environments.
- Report concerns to the police or local authority if they become aware of children regularly accessing unsafe sites.
- Remind children that if they see others entering unsafe premises, they should not follow them and should leave the area immediately.

Keeping children safe requires the support of schools, families and the wider community. We ask everyone to reinforce the message that no social media trend, online challenge or exploration activity is worth the risk of serious injury or harm.

Please speak to your child about making safe choices and avoiding derelict, abandoned or unsecured buildings.

Quick Links

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

Letters Home

- [Free School Meals from September 2026 - Important information](#)
- [CHANGE OF DATE: Year 10 Parents' and Carers' Information Evening: now Tuesday 22 September](#)
- [Year 11 Textiles Main Coursework Project](#)
- [Year 13 Parents & Carers Information Evening](#)

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 22 September 22 – 29 September 2026	Year 10 Parent / Carer Information Evening – 18:00 in the Main Theatre Spanish Exchange students visiting Backwell
Thursday 01 October	Year 7 and Year 8 Tutor Parents' and Carers' Evening (online) 4.00 – 6.45 pm
Tuesday 06 October	Year 13 Biology trip to Belmont Estate – AM ONLY
Tuesday 13 October	Iceland trip information evening 6.00pm
Thursday 15 October	BSA AGM Meeting – 6.00pm
Monday 19 – Tuesday 20 October	Year 7 Music Concert 4pm-5pm
Friday 23 October	Last day of Term 1

STREATERIES WEEK 1

MEAT

CAJUN CHICKEN LOADED MAC CHEESE
with BBQ Drizzle

CRISPY HONEY SESAME CHICKEN
With Stir Fried Noodles

TRADITIONAL ROAST OF WEEK
With SKIN ON ROAST POTATOES

CHICKEN CURRY with Naan Nachos & Mint Yoghurt
With YELLOW RICE

BATTERED FISH SAUSAGE/VEG SAUSAGE PIZZA SLICE CHICKEN NUGGETS
With CHIPS, GRAVY or IRISH CURRY SAUCE

VEGETARIAN

CLASSIC BAKED MAC with Garlic Crispy Crumb

SWEET CHILLI MUSHROOM & EDAMAME STIR FRY
With Stir Fried Noodles

CHEESY BUTTERNUT PUFF PASTRY SLICE
With SKIN ON ROAST POTATOES

BUTTER CHICKPEA CURRY with Naan Nachos & Mint Yoghurt
With YELLOW RICE

PIZZA SLICE

VEGGIE SAUSAGE
With CHIPS, GRAVY or IRISH CURRY SAUCE

VEGETABLES/SALAD

MONDAY PEPPER LIME SLAW	TUESDAY ASIAN GREENS	WEDNESDAY ROASTED SUMMER VEGETABLES	THURSDAY KACHUMBER SALAD	FRIDAY GARDEN PEAS OR BAKED BEANS
----------------------------	-------------------------	--	-----------------------------	--------------------------------------

DESSERTS

MONDAY STICKY TOFFEE COOKIES	TUESDAY OLD SCHOOL SPRINKLE SPONGE	WEDNESDAY CHOCOLATE & MANDARIN BROWNIE	THURSDAY BANANA CARAMEL SPONGE	FRIDAY HOMEBAKE FAVOURITES
---------------------------------	---------------------------------------	---	-----------------------------------	-------------------------------

Fresh Cut Fruit & Yogurt Pots available daily

NOT JUST POTATOES...
LOADED SPUDS!

AVAILABLE EVERY DAY
BEANS + CHEESE + TUNA

SO GOOD THEY'RE HERE TO STAY

REGULAR CHEF'S SPECIALS

HANDCRAFTED DELI SANDWICHES, BAGUETTES, WRAPS, SALADS & MORE!

HOT DELIKITCHEN

MONDAY SELECTION OF PIZZA SLICES	TUESDAY MASALA MAYO DOG	WEDNESDAY MARINATED CHICKEN WRAP	THURSDAY MEXICAN CHICKEN QUESADILLA	FRIDAY LOADED CHIPS PEPPERONI MARINARA
-------------------------------------	----------------------------	-------------------------------------	--	---

PASTA, RICE & NOODLE POTS

AVAILABLE EVERYDAY TOMATO SAUCE & CHEESE

MONDAY BEST EVER BOLOGNESE PASTA	TUESDAY BEST EVER BOLOGNESE PASTA	WEDNESDAY BEST EVER BOLOGNESE PASTA	THURSDAY BEST EVER BOLOGNESE PASTA	FRIDAY BEST EVER BOLOGNESE PASTA
-------------------------------------	--------------------------------------	--	---------------------------------------	-------------------------------------

BIG BOWL SALADS

AVAILABLE EVERYDAY PLEASE PRE-ORDER AND PAY AT MID MORNING BREAK

MIXED SUMMER SALAD, TOMATO PASTA, CRUNCHY SLAW WITH A CHOICE OF EITHER HAM, CHEESE OR CHICKEN SERVED WITH CRUSTY BREAD

DAILY MEAL DEALS

Freshly Made from Scratch DAILY!

Free School Meals (FSM) from September 2026

From September 2026, Free School Meals are being expanded to all families on Universal Credit. If you would like to apply for Free School Meals for September, please apply in the summer holidays at www.n-somerset.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals. If you have any queries or require any help, please email FSM@n-somerset.gov.uk

Please also note, many families already in receipt of free school meals will also need to reapply over the summer – see details below.

When to apply for Free School Meals (FSMs) for September 2026:

- New starters should apply in the summer holidays.
- Children not yet on FSMs who meet the new expanded criteria, should apply in the summer holidays.
- Anyone who has been awarded FSMs through their North Somerset Citizen's account in the past 2 years, will not need to reapply, and they will see their existing application if they log in. When they are reassessed, they will get their result via their North Somerset Citizen's account.
- Anyone who was awarded FSMs over 2 years ago would have applied via North Somerset Council's old system. They will need to apply via their North Somerset
- Citizen's account, as the Local Authority will no longer hold personal details to be able to contact them or reassess their eligibility. If they don't have an account, they can register for one. If they don't reapply, their entitlement will end this academic year as the transitional protection will finish for all children this summer. They should therefore apply over the summer holidays.

Reminder: the link to apply or reapply, for Free School Meals for September 2026 is: www.n-somerset.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals



A Year In Performing Arts at Backwell

OCT
19 - 20
4 PM - 5 PM
**Year 7
Music concert**

DEC
09 - 10
7 PM - 9.30 PM
**KS4 Production - One
Man Two Guvnors**

DEC
15
7 PM - 9.30 PM
Winter Concert

JAN
13 - 15
7 PM - 9 PM
6th Form Production

FEB
09
4 PM - 6 PM
**Expressive Arts
Showcase**

MAR
17
7 PM - 9.30 PM
Spring Concert

MAR
19
1 PM - 3 PM
**Year 7
Musical Theatre Final**

MAY
25
7 PM - 9.30 PM
Summer Concert

JUN
14 - 17
7 PM - 9.30 PM
**KS3 Production - Charlie
and the Chocolate Factory**

Backwell School is recruiting for a Cover Coordinator / HR Admin role which will be vacant from November.

Part time (12 hours a week), job share, working Thursday and Friday, 7:15am to 1:45pm. This is a fast-paced, busy role where the first part of the working day will be to organise cover for absent teachers each day, followed by some cover and HR administration. Great opportunity to work in a fantastic school, within the HR team.

Applications by Sunday 27 September via
<https://lnkd.in/eDRfPd7B>





PLAY RUGBY

AT NAILSEA & BACKWELL RFC

BOYS & GIRLS • YEARS 7-13



NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!



**BOYS & GIRLS
TEAMS**
YEARS 7-13



**MOST AGE GROUPS
HAVE A SMALL NUMBER
OF PLACES AVAILABLE**



**A FAMILY FRIENDLY
CLUB**
WITH A FANTASTIC RECORD
OF DEVELOPING YOUNG PLAYERS
INTO OUR SENIOR SIDES.

BE PART OF OUR RUGBY FAMILY



FIND OUT MORE AT
nailseabackwellrfc.rfu.club

**PLAY
LEARN
BELONG**

Join the Holiday Fun in Backwell this Half Term! Book by Sunday 11th October to receive 15% off using the code: Early Booker.

We have loved seeing so many children come along to Shine Holiday Clubs over the summer and look forward to welcoming more of you.

For children at any school from Reception – Year 6, days run from 09:00-15:30 with (early and late hours) available if you need them.

There are different activities such as Creepy Creative, Cursed Cookery, Descendants Dance, Football Fun Days and Mini & Mega Monster Mash - there really is a day your child will love.

Shine are Ofsted Registered so you can pay via Childcare Vouchers and the Tax-Free Childcare Scheme.

Click here [Shine Holiday Clubs | Sports and creative activities](#) to see what's on and use the code **Early Booker** to get 15% off.



**HAUNTED
HOLIDAY
CLUBS**

15% OFF
With the code
Early Booker

- ✦ Cursed Cookery
- ✦ Creepy Creative
- ✦ Football Fundays
- ✦ Descendants Dance
- ✦ Mini & Mega MonsterMash-Ups

Shine
HOLIDAY CLUBS
MyShine.co.uk

*Conditions apply. Expiry 11/10/26

BACKWELL SCHOOL

QR code linking to Shine Holiday Clubs



The Family Support Fayre



Discover, Learn & Connect at Our FREE SEND Event


Resources and Information for families supporting children 0 - 25 years with additional needs and/or disabilities


21st October 2026


One Event
3 supportive spaces
Connect • Learn • Explore
• The Royal Hotel
• Winter Gardens
• Sovereign Centre



FREE expert-led SEND training

Including Autism, sensory, masking & eating difficulties sessions



5 Inspiring Keynote speakers

Sharing professional and lived experience perspectives



Local SEND Updates & support information



Understanding medically complex needs



Over 70+ Exhibitors

Ranging across Health, Educational and Support services



A Welcoming space for families, carers & professionals



@nspcwt

Together we make a difference 