Backwell School

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Headteacher: Will Penny BSc NPQH

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Dear Parent/Carer

Year 12 - A Level Art, Craft and Design 2026-2027: Year 1 Contribution

The Art department aims to do its best for students by providing opportunities which will allow them to develop their abilities fully, including as wide a range as possible of processes and materials to work with.

Obviously, this can be very expensive in Art, Craft and Design and, as a result, we need to ask for a contribution of **£25.00** per student. This is a reduction in cost from previous years to allow students to purchase their own sketchbooks and personalise their portfolios. Some of this payment is used to purchase a kit of basic equipment that we feel all students should have as a minimum to take advantage of the facilities at Backwell.

The basic kit will include:

- A1 folder
- A3 plastic folder
- A3 spiral sketchbook x2
- A3 stapled sketchbook
- Selection of drawing pens and pencils
- 1 glue stick
- Brushes Set

We have a non-profit making Art shop in the department, should students wish to purchase materials from us. We also keep a full range of sketchbooks ranging in price from £1.50.

Payment should be made via www.parentpay.com, the school's online cashless payment system. If you have any problems accessing the service, please contact the Finance Team finance@backwellschool.net

In cases of financial assistance, please contact the Finance Team, who will be able to provide information regarding the 16-19 Bursary Fund. This is available to post-16 students who are in receipt of Free School Meals or whose parents/carers receive Child Tax Credit or Universal Credit.

In addition, during the A Level Art, Craft and Design course, there will be workshops, including life drawing classes, to develop students' drawing skills and add work to their portfolios. There will also be trips to London, Bristol or other UK galleries, we believe that seeing art first hand is vital to students' progress.

During the year, your student may need to borrow books, cameras and other equipment in order to work at home. We would like them to have this opportunity, but to make this possible, they need to understand what will be expected of them in terms of responsibility for that equipment. We will explain this to the students at the start of the course, but we also need you to be prepared to guarantee the safekeeping of those items during the loan period.

Any equipment which is damaged, lost or stolen will need to be paid for at the cost of replacement. Unless otherwise stated, all equipment must be returned before 9.00 am the following school day to the Art and Photography Technician, to be signed back in, to enable the equipment to be used by other students during lessons. Any equipment left unattended whilst signed out, including such items which are left in the Art department but not signed back in and then stolen, will be the responsibility of the student who borrowed them.

Throughout the course students will be expected to work safely and listen to Health and Safety instructions in lessons, particularly when introducing new processes and materials. Any student who is considered not to be respecting the safety of themselves and others will not be permitted to use those materials and tools in future lessons, which may impact on their learning. Students must not bring dangerous equipment, such as art knives, into school and lessons.

We must all be considerate of child protection and safeguarding issues and, therefore, your student must take responsibility for the appropriateness of any images that they acquire or use. Images should not include references to alcohol, drugs or smoking and the subjects must always be appropriately dressed. Teachers will discuss with students where this may be an issue and will have the final say in deciding what can or cannot be submitted to the examination board. We request that parental permission should be gained from any school age individual being used as part of a formal photoshoot set up by your child. Your child's teacher will have a standard letter available for this.

Please follow the MS Forms link, below, and complete the online form confirming you have read and agree to the terms as soon as possible:

Backwell School Year 12 A Level Art, Craft and Design 2026-27 - Year 1 Contribution – Fill in form

If you would like to discuss any of the above, please contact me at school.

Yours sincerely



J Lewis
Curriculum Leader of Art and Design Technology