BACKWELL SCHOOL WEEKLY BULLETIN

FRIDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2026

Dear Parents, Carers, Families, and Friends,

As a school community, we were delighted to learn this week that our GCSE results have placed Backwell School as the highest-performing school in North Somerset. This is an achievement of which we are immensely proud. These outcomes are the result of five years of excellent teaching, pastoral care and commitment from our staff, combined with the hard work and determination of our students. They are also a reflection of the invaluable support, trust and open communication we receive from you as parents and carers.

Together, we create the conditions that enable our young people to thrive and succeed. Thank you to all those parents and carers who attended the Year 10 Information Evening on Tuesday. The event provided an opportunity to gain a clearer understanding of the GCSE journey ahead, including key milestones, the support available in school and practical ways to support learning at home. By continuing to work in partnership, I am confident that we will help our current Year 10 students achieve their full potential and celebrate another set of excellent results in the summer of 2028.

This week also saw the launch of our extensive programme of clubs and societies, with students enthusiastically embracing the many opportunities available. From Drama, Dance and Sport to Science and Design Technology, there is something for everyone. Our popular Kitchen Table homework club has also returned, providing a calm and supportive environment in the library where students can enjoy refreshments, sometimes even pizza, while receiving help with their studies. One of my consistent messages to students is to make the most of the opportunities available at Backwell. Be brave, step outside your comfort zone and try something new. You never know where that experience might lead. The first sports fixtures of the academic year also took place this week, with our Year 8 and Year 9 boys' rugby teams securing impressive victories against St Katherine's. Both teams demonstrated skill, teamwork and ambition, playing an exciting brand of attacking rugby that resulted in some outstanding tries and entertaining performances.

Equally impressive was the victory for the Sixth Form netball team on Tuesday in their first match in the Sisters in Sport netball competition. We travelled to Swansea to play Ysgol Gyfun Maes y Gwendraeth winning 35 - 21 with the player of the match being Pearl P. It

was an excellent result in the first round against a very strong Welsh team, the girls now wait to see who they play in the next round.

We are also excited to be working closely with the Belmont Estate and its innovative nature-based education programme this year. On Monday, students took part in their first visit, learning about the Estate's work to restore natural habitats and address the climate and biodiversity challenges facing our environment. The day provided a fantastic opportunity for students to immerse themselves in nature and see first-hand the positive impact that large-scale rewilding projects can have on the world around us.

Finally, it has been wonderful to welcome our Spanish Exchange visitors into school this week. They have quickly become an integral part of our community, attending lessons, meeting students and sharing in daily school life. Their enthusiasm and positive energy have been a joy to see. Alongside their time in school, they have also enjoyed visits to local places of interest, helping them develop a deeper understanding of the history, culture and heritage of our area. These exchanges are incredibly valuable and provide lasting memories and friendships for all involved.

As always, thank you for your continued support by working together, we ensure that '*we are Backwell*'. *Que tengas un fin de semana genial!*

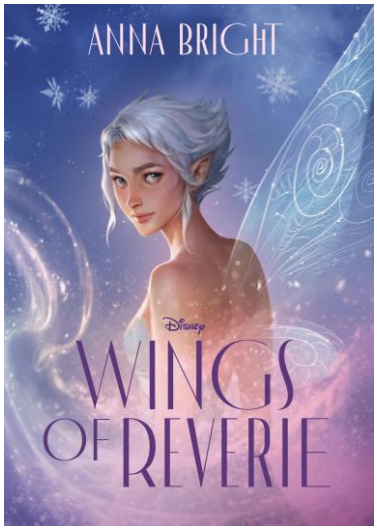


Will Penny
Headteacher



Magic – The Gatherer's Club

Book of the Week



Wings of Reverie - By Anna Bright
When frost fairy Periwinkle travels too close to the forbidden border where Spring meets the Winter Woods, she unknowingly discovers a thread of a lost magic. And, for the first time, she begins to dream. While Periwinkle's dreams start sweet, they slowly morph into more disastrous visions of the Pixie Dust Tree—the life source for all of Pixie Hollow—destroyed. Soon Periwinkle is confronted by a sparrow man who knows two one, that Peri has been dreaming, and two, that the Winter Woods is in terrible danger.

The infuriatingly handsome stranger introduces himself as Weaver, claiming to be a dream-talent, the last of his kind. There's a chance he can spin Periwinkle's dreams into dream thread which could protect the Pixie Dust Tree. But to do so, they will have to embark on a quest to find a magic spindle and scissors in the legendary lost fairy workshops of dream-talents past.

Peri begins a reluctant journey with Weaver through the uncharted heart of the Winter Woods. But dreaming is dangerous, and as Peri's dreams begin to unravel, she will start to question everything she thought she knew. For in Winter even beautiful things can hurt you… and Weaver is no exception.

Parents/Carers of Year 7 students – MidYIS information

During this term your child will take a series of short tests on computer, usually referred to as the **MidYIS baseline assessment**.
The tests help us to monitor your child's progress and to ensure that they reach – and exceed – their potential.
The results can also be used to identify students' individual strengths and weaknesses, inform teaching, identify gifted students, and help identify students who would benefit from extra support. No revision or preparation is necessary for the assessment, and it can be completed in less than one hour.

Year 7 MidYIS Baseline Assessments letter

Tempest Photography – Year 7, 10, 12 & New Starters

Have you ordered your school individual photo yet?
A polite reminder that the closing date for free delivery back to school is Thursday, 01 October.
Order through the Tempest website using your unique link that was emailed to you, or if you have received paper order forms visit www.tempest-orders.co.uk

If you need any assistance in ordering your photos, please contact Tempest Photography on 01736 751555 (option 5)

Geographical Association Lecture

It was great to see a number of Backwell Sixth Form students in the grand Peel Lecture Theatre at the University of Bristol on Thursday night. The lecture, given by Robin Markwell from the BBC, was all about his experience reporting on highly relevant geographical issues - in this case the global shortages of both copper and sand (links to both episodes on the BBC). Robin talked about starting out as an undergraduate at the university's Geography Department and how he ended up working for the BBC, where he regularly produces programmes for BBC Radio 4 and the World Service. His lecture touched on many issues that are studied in the A level syllabus, including geopolitics and environmental degradation.

This and the other lectures planned by the Bristol Branch of the Geographical Association are designed to widen and deepen A level students' understanding, as well as giving them a chance to visit the university and experience lectures. Their current programme of lectures can be found on their website.

Speakers wanted for Humanities

Do you have expertise in an area associated with the humanities - Geography, History, Philosophy & Religion, Criminology or Politics especially?
Would you be willing to give some of your time to speaking to a group of Sixth Form students? If you do, or know somebody who you could point in our direction, please do get in contact with our Curriculum Leader of Humanities, Matthew Sales (msales@backwellschool.net).

We are recruiting Parent Governors for our Governing Body

What does a governor do?

As a governor, you'll work with the board to support and challenge the school's leadership, helping shape long-term strategy and improve outcomes for students. You'll bring an external perspective, offering positive and constructive ideas, without getting involved in day-to-day operations. Think of it as *"eyes on, hands off."*

You don't need prior experience in education, though staying up to date with secondary education news can be helpful. All governors must complete a DBS check, follow the Code of Conduct, complete disqualification and pecuniary interest forms, and attend role-specific training. You'll also be asked to provide two short references for safeguarding purposes.

If you would like a conversation regarding the post with our co-chairs James Cousins or Annabelle Richards, then please email them at:

jcousins@backwellschool.net and arichards@backwellschool.net

What we're looking for

This is a voluntary role for an initial four-year term. Governors are expected to attend six LGB meetings per year and be flexible to join occasional panels when needed.
We are passionate about diversity and inclusion. We want our governing body to reflect the richness of our school community. Applications are welcome from everyone, but we particularly encourage individuals from underrepresented groups, including young people (18–40), people from ethnic minority backgrounds, the LGBT+ community, and individuals with disabilities.

How to apply
If you are interested, please submit a personal statement (maximum 250 words) outlining why you wish to join the Local Governing Body and what skills and experience you would bring to the role. You will also need to complete a declaration form.

All applicants will be invited to attend an interview as part of the selection process. Final appointments will depend on the number of available positions and will be confirmed by the Trust Board.

Applications should be submitted via email to the Clerk to Governors Rebecca Miller rmiller@backwellschool.net. The deadline for submissions is **Friday, 16th October 2026.**

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 click on the link below to read more about Personal Development at Backwell School on our website:
Personal Development at Backwell School

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.

Quick Links

- School Uniform and Equipment Guidance
- Financial Support
- Sixth Form Bulletin
- Careers Bulletin - September 2026
- Year 10 Parents' Information Evening Presentation (Sept 2026)

Letters Home

- Year 11 GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition
- Year 7 MidYIS Baseline Assessments letter
- Iceland trip 2026 - Information Evening and Kit List - Sept 2026
- Year 11 GCSE Photography Main Coursework Project - Sept 2026
- Year 11 Art, Craft and Design Main Coursework Project
- Year 12 Home Study Arrangements Letter - Sept 2026
- Year 13 Home Study Arrangements Letter - Sept 2026
- GCSE Geography Bristol Fieldtrip October 2026 Letter
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- IMPORTANT - Free School Meals Information



Sixth Form Netball Team

Dates for your Diary

28 – 29 September 2026	**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**



Photography Club – Term 1

STREATERIES

WEEK 1

MAINS

	MEAT	VEGETARIAN
MONDAY	CAJUN CHICKEN LOADED MAC CHEESE *with* BBQ Drizzle	CLASSIC BAKED MAC *with* Garlic Crispy Crumb (V)
TUESDAY	BEEF LASAGNE *With* ROSEMARY & GARLIC FOCACCIA	VEGETABLE LASAGNE (V) *With* ROSEMARY & GARLIC FOCACCIA
WEDNESDAY	TRADITIONAL ROAST OF WEEK *With* SKIN ON ROAST POTATOES	CHEESY BUTTERNUT PUFF PASTRY SLICE (V) *With* SKIN ON ROAST POTATOES
THURSDAY	CHICKEN CURRY with Naan Nachos & Mint Yoghurt *With* YELLOW RICE	BUTTER CHICKPEA CURRY with Naan Nachos & Mint Yoghurt (V) *With* YELLOW RICE
FRIDAY	BATTERED FISH SAUSAGE/VEG SAUSAGE PIZZA SLICE CHICKEN NUGGETS *With* CHIPS, GRAVY or IRISH CURRY SAUCE	PIZZA SLICE (V) VEGGIE SAUSAGE (V) *With* CHIPS, GRAVY or IRISH CURRY SAUCE

VEGETABLES/SALAD

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

DESSERTS

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

Fresh Cut Fruit & Yogurt Pots *available daily*







HOT DELI KITCHEN

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

PASTA, RICE & NOODLE POTS

AVAILABLE EVERYDAY
TOMATO SAUCE & CHEESE

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



BIG BOWL SALADS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY

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



Backwell School Weekly Bulletin

www.backwellschool.net


A Year In Performing Arts at Backwell
OCT
19 - 20
4 PM - 5PM
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




NAILSEA & BACKWELL RFC
ANIMUS
SUPERARE
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.**




COST OF LIVING SUPPORT
HELPING YOU MAKE YOUR MONEY STRETCH FURTHER
Come to the Fridge of Free Stuff at the Sovereign Centre Weston super Mare
DATE
SATURDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER
TIME
12 TILL 4PM
FREE SUPPORT
• PRACTICAL ADVICE
• USEFUL RESOURCES
• FREE USEFUL ITEMS
ORGANISATIONS ATTENDING
foodbank
Foodbank
FIRST STEPS
First Steps
Alliance Homes ENERGY TEAM
Alliance Homes Energy Team
Wessex Water YTL GROUP
Wessex Water
BURNHAM & WESTON ENERGY
Burnham and Weston Energy
citizens advice
CAB
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West of England MUSIC & ARTS

DISCOVERY DAYS

at WEMA Music Centres











Our free-of-charge Discovery Days are the perfect chance to try out our Music Centres, meet new friends, and experience the fun of playing in an ensemble. Bring your enthusiasm and see where music can take you!

Ensembles available for a wide variety of instruments, ages and playing levels.

Sign up using the QR code or visit:
wema.org.uk/wema-music-centres

DISCOVERY DAYS
West of England MUSIC & ARTS
PLAYING TOGETHER

West of England MUSIC & ARTS

NEW AT WEMA MUSIC CENTRES



DJ skills
Music Production

Brand new sessions for young musicians.
Mix, produce and make your own tracks.

- **Saturdays** · Backwell · from 9.30am
- **Mondays** · Little Stoke · from 6.30pm
- **Wednesdays** · Bath · from 5.45pm

Bookings open now

wema.org.uk/music-centre-lessons

Discounts available for children eligible for Pupil Premium

Read Easy

Helping adults learn to read

Are you a parent or carer?

Do you find reading hard?

If you or someone you know struggles with reading, *Read Easy North Somerset* can help.
We offer free, private, one-to-one coaching for adults. You can learn at your own pace with your own friendly tutor. Improving your skills will give you the confidence to support your child with their homework and school life.

Take the first step today:

- Call or text: 07838 276659
- Email: northsomerset@readeasy.org.uk