Sixth Form Bulletin

Please ensure that you all read the **Error! Reference source not found.**

- NEW: Sixth Form Open Evening: Volunteers needed – please sign up using the link.
- NEW: Apprenticeship workshop for year 13 students.
- NEW: Year 13 – School Study
- Exeter University Campus Visits
- NEW: Halloween Fancy Dress – Friday 22 October

… NEXT WEEK (WEEK 2):

Monday 12 October	• Start of P3 School Study periods for all Y13 students – please sign in in the library • Charity Committee at break (SF4) • Y12 Gabblers Trip to Badminton School 3.30-5.30pm
Tuesday 13 October	• Student Council Meeting 2.15-3.10 • Iceland Trip Information Evening 6-7pm SFT
Wednesday 14 October	
Thursday 15 October	• Sixth Form assembly – Main Theatre • Diversity Committee at break (SF4) • EPQ Lecture P5 in SFT. Compulsory for all EPQ students who are not in lessons.
Friday 15 October	

Term 1 2026/27:

W/C 19 October	Year 12 & 13 Reports due home
Monday 19 October	Apprenticeship workshop (P5, LB1)
Tuesday 20 October	Y12 Business Trip to Cadbury House
Thursday 22 October	Sixth Form Open Evening: Early finish at 1.30.
Friday 23 October	Halloween Fancy Dress (Sixth Form), £1 or £2 donation via ParentPay or card reader/cash
Thursday 29 October - Sunday 1 November	Year 13 Trip to Iceland

Term 2 2026/27:

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) Deadline for entries to 500 word short story competition
30 November – 03 December	Y13 Trial Exams
Thursday 10 December	First Year 12 Parents Evening

NOTICES AND REMINDERS:

NEW: Apprenticeship workshop – Monday 19 October

If you are in Year 13 and expressed an interest in applying for Apprenticeships during Future Plans Week then you will have been invited by Mrs Farr to attend a workshop run by an external speaker. The workshop will focus on supporting you with how to find and apply for higher or degree level apprenticeships. It will cover some of the basics such as what apprenticeships involve and where to look for vacancies as well as how to submit a strong application and what the (multi) stage recruitment process might look like. This opportunity is open to everyone so please complete this short form if you would like to attend: sign up here. You will need a laptop for the workshop.

NEW: Sixth Form Open Evening: Volunteers needed – Thursday 22 October

Volunteers for Sixth Form Open Evening: Thursday 22nd October 5pm to 7pm – Fill in form

If you haven't already been recruited to support a subject area for Open Evening, we really need volunteers to help welcome visitors and guide them around the site etc. General helpers are needed between 4.15 and 6.45 so please sign up here. If you are a general helper or helping in a subject area then please sign in and collect a cookie between 4.15 and 4.45. If you are a Head Student, Committee chair or Senior student then we expect you to help out - we need representatives to talk about the wider life of the Sixth Form e.g Sixth Form production and Duke of Edinburgh so please complete the above form if you can help with this.

NEW: Year 13 – School Study

School Study is for **all** year 13 students, 1 hour per week, always P3 in the library. This is different to supervised study. Students must sign in in the Library at the librarian desks. Please see your timetable for more information.

NEW: Halloween Fancy Dress – Friday 22 October

This is a fundraiser for the Year 13 Ball and helps to reduce the cost to students of attending. £1 or £2 donation via ParentPay or Card reader/cash on the day.

Supervised Study

Supervised study has been added to the timetables to some students in both years 12 and 13. If you have it timetabled you must attend.

Registers – When Teacher is not available

When your teacher is unavailable and no one comes to take a register, please ensure that you take a paper register and that someone takes it to the Sixth Form Office for Mrs Belcher. Work will always be set on FROG/email.

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 lanyards have now been issued to students, if you still haven't got yours, see your tutor or Mrs Belcher in the Sixth Form Office.

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.

16-19 Bursary Fund – Still time to apply!

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

Parking Permits:

Car park is now full for the remainder of this term. However, we have had complaints from staff about the noise being made by Sixth Form Students leaving the site in their cars.

Do not park your car on the school site if you do not have a permit! If you have not collected your permit for this term please come and see Mrs Belcher in the Sixth Form Office (this term's permits are blue).

New applications will be considered when allocating places for Term 2 (after October Half Term Holiday). Any questions please see Mrs Belcher

- 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

Exeter University Campus Visits

If you are interested in bringing a group to visit one of our campuses, we would be happy to consider your request. Our Explore Days are designed for Y12 and provide an opportunity to experience a university campus, talk to student ambassadors and meet staff from the Schools and Colleges team. The day includes a campus tour and two general information sessions, suitable for any student interested in progressing to Higher Education.

Please note: group sizes may be limited due to space constraints and other school groups may be present at the event. We currently have limited space available on Thursday 17th December and will consider requests for other dates on a case-by-case basis.

Please complete the following form if you are interested in attending a campus visit with us: **Campus Visit Request Form 2026/2027**

Exeter Scholars

On-campus and Virtual pathways – Please help us promote this exciting opportunity to your students. (See attached flyer for both pathways)
On request, we can provide a pre-recorded video that introduces Exeter Scholars and explains the programme in more detail.
Students can apply for both pathways but will complete just one.

- **Exeter Scholars On-Campus (Year 12)**
  Applications are now open to all students living in the South West (Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Somerset, and Bristol).

  This programme will give you the opportunity to develop knowledge of what it is like to study a subject of your choice at university level. You can choose from 14 different subject activity strands, and gain access to both academics and current students from your subject area of interest. Successful students will be able to attend regular sessions corresponding to their chosen 'Subject Activity Strand' on one of our three campuses (Penryn, St Lukes, and/or Streatham, depending on the subject strand to which they are allocated) between January and October 2027. Information about the strands available and the application form can be found here: https://www.exeter.ac.uk/study/scholars/apply/year12/southwest/.

- **Exeter Scholars Virtual Pathway (Year 12)**
  Applications are now open for the Exeter Scholars Virtual Pathway, designed for Year 12 students interested in exploring university life and learning more about the University of Exeter.

  With a choice of four different subject strands, students can delve deeper into areas that interest them while gaining insight into future study opportunities. The programme provides access to our world-leading academics and innovative teaching practices, all through a flexible online format that can be accessed from anywhere. This includes a 'virtual activities fortnight' which will be taking place Monday 15 – Friday 26 February 2027.

  Applications for both the South West and Virtual pathways are now open and close at **midday on Friday 23 October 2026**

October virtual sessions:

Live Virtual Get Into Dentistry Conferences -17 October

We are pleased to inform you that registration for the national free Live Virtual Get Into Medicine and Get Into Dentistry Conferences has opened, designed for students interested in a career in medicine and dentistry. Attendees will also receive a certificate of participation, which can enhance their Medical/Dental School applications by showcasing active preparation towards the career and university.

This invaluable opportunity is open to students from all schools and backgrounds in years 10-12/S3-S5/NI11-13, offering a crucial stepping stone for future doctors and dentists.

Students and parents/guardians can register their place at the next LIVE Get Into Conferences here:

Dentistry: https://dental-mentor.org/get-into-dentistry-conference-sign-up/

Upcoming Get Into Dentistry Conference dates:
- **Saturday 17th October from 9am - 1:30pm**

The Get into Medicine/Dentistry Conference is a comprehensive guide to the medical and dental application process. Our team of doctors, dentists and current university students will talk through their own experiences and insights into the application process, as well as covering:

- Application Timelines
- How to Tactically Choose Medical and Dental Schools
- Personal Statements
- Medical/Dental School Interviews
- UCAT Exam
- National Leadership and Awards Programmes
- Accessing Work Experience
- Accessing Scholarships

HEALTH AND WELLBEING:

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

- **Soluna App** Soluna is an app for supporting wellbeing and offering digital support with mental health experts all free and anonymous. Supported by the NHS. Follow the link to find out more.
- 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