BACKWELL SCHOOL WEEKLY BULLETIN

FRIDAY 09 October 2026

Dear Parents, Carers, Families, and Friends,

This week's newsletter is a celebration of the many opportunities our students have embraced beyond the classroom and the remarkable success they continue to achieve. I often encourage students to make the most of all that Backwell has to offer, whether through sport, Duke of Edinburgh, the performing arts, leadership opportunities or the many clubs and activities that enrich school life. It has been wonderful to see so many students taking up that challenge with enthusiasm, commitment and ambition.

The experiences our students gain outside the classroom are incredibly important. While academic achievement remains at the heart of what we do, activities beyond lessons help students develop resilience, teamwork, leadership, confidence and determination. These qualities complement classroom learning and prepare young people for future success. This week's stories provide numerous examples of students demonstrating these characteristics in abundance, and I hope you enjoy reading about their achievements.

A particular highlight was the successful completion of the Silver Duke of Edinburgh expedition by our Year 11 students. Across eight teams, students spent three days and two nights in the Black Mountains, navigating challenging terrain, carrying all of their own equipment and supporting one another throughout the expedition. Many of the groups climbed Sugar Loaf as part of their route, taking in some spectacular views while testing their physical and mental resilience. The positive attitude, teamwork and perseverance shown by all involved were a real credit to our school.



On the sporting front, it has been an exceptional week. Our golf team travelled to The Bristol Golf Club to take on QEH School in a highly competitive fixture involving students from Years 9 to 12. The match showcased the strength and depth of golf at Backwell, with players of varying handicaps competing superbly. After a closely fought contest, the match finished tied at 2-2, with the result hanging on the very last hole. A large crowd followed the final pairing as they battled to secure a crucial half point, only to be narrowly denied, setting up an eagerly anticipated rematch next year.



There has also been tremendous success across our rugby and football teams. The Year 11 rugby team progressed to the next round in the Somerset Cup with an impressive 30-7 victory over Frome College, demonstrating resilience and defensive strength in a physical encounter. Our Year 10 football girls made a flying start to their National Cup campaign with a superb 10-1 win over West Somerset College, producing exciting, attacking football throughout. The Year 11 girls football team also secured a hard-fought 2-0 victory over Writhlington School in the Somerset Cup, with teamwork, determination and ambition at the heart of their success.



Meanwhile, our Year 8 boys enjoyed a resounding victory over Clevedon School in their first rugby fixture of the season. Under the guidance of Mr Davies, the team played an ambitious and entertaining brand of running rugby which was a pleasure to watch and demonstrated the confidence with which they are approaching the season.

Looking to the future, our Year 7 rugby players enjoyed a fantastic afternoon at the annual Clevedon Rugby Festival. The A team produced an outstanding performance, winning all six of their matches to be crowned festival champions, with an impressive eleven different try scorers contributing to their success. The B team were equally impressive, losing just one match and recording victories against several other schools' A teams. Across both teams, the boys displayed tremendous resilience in defence while playing the attacking, ball-in-hand style of rugby that has become synonymous with Backwell.



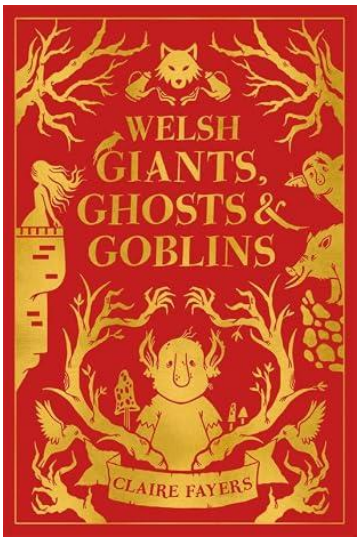
These achievements represent far more than victories and results. They reflect the character, commitment, ambition and teamwork of our students, as well as the dedication of the staff who give so generously of their time to provide these opportunities. We are incredibly proud of everyone who has represented Backwell this week and look forward to celebrating many more successes throughout the year ahead.

Thank you once again for your continued support. 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

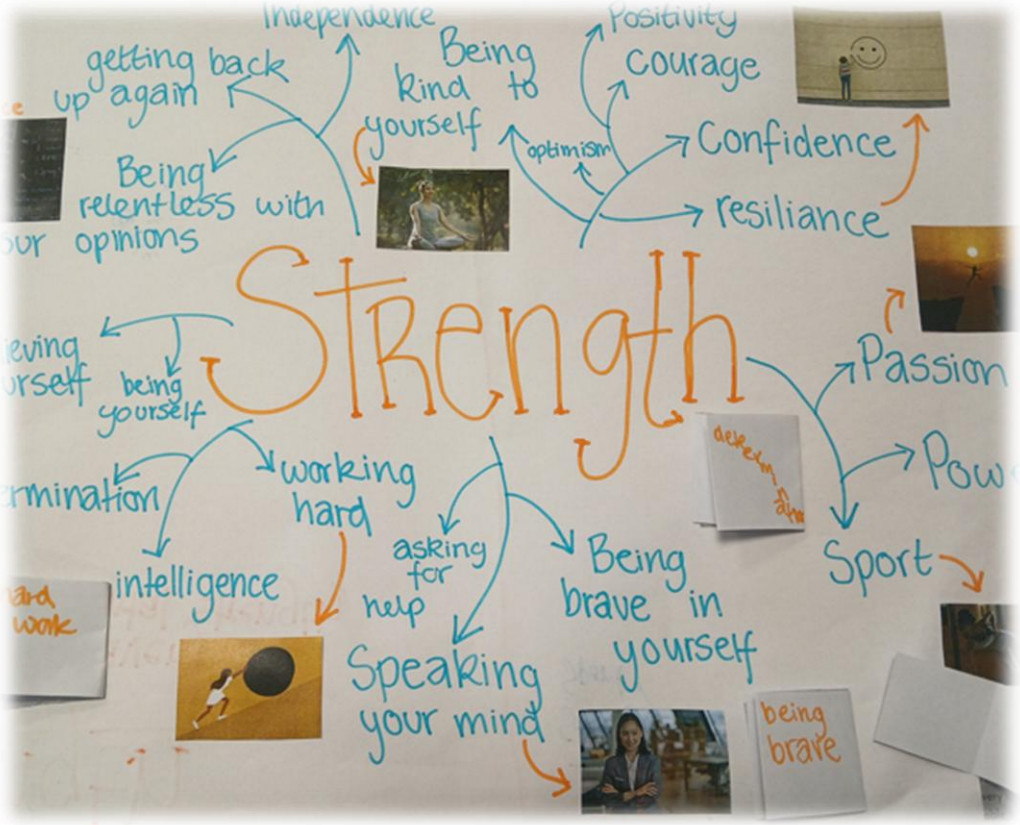
Book of the Week



Welsh Giants, Ghosts & Goblins By Claire Fayers
A wealth of Welsh myths, legends and ghost stories are reimagined for contemporary younger readers.
Meet Idris, the teenage giant king on a quest to collect stories. As he travels across Wales in this anthology, he hears stories of vengeful goblins, a ghoulish party and a whole host of fascinating folk reimagined from Welsh legend.
Old stories are given new life in these exciting adventures full of feisty and fun characters living in a mixture of traditional and modern worlds.

Be Her Lead

This term in our ***Be Her Lead*** group, students have been exploring the idea of strength.
The group have been discussing what strength looks like and the different forms it can take.
They have been sharing their own experiences of being strong.
The ***Be Her Lead*** programme is designed to support the wellbeing, resilience, and aspirations of teenage girls by equipping them with skills and knowledge to help them confidently face internal and external challenges in school and beyond.



Black History Month 2026

We have been celebrating Black History Month in assemblies this week by sharing stories about the achievements and contributions of Black Britons. The focus of this year's Black History Month is *community,* so we have shared stories of ordinary people who have done extraordinary things to change peoples' lives, including Mary Seacole, Walter Tull and Floella Benjamin.





Year 7 Music Showcases

We thought it would be wonderful to celebrate year 7's first term at Backwell with a short musical performance in the final week of term. We have planned two short performances (just 30 minutes!) and hope that every child will want to be involved. Students have been preparing 5 songs in their music lessons, and we will intersperse these with some solo performances. Please encourage your child to sign up to play a solo piece if they are learning an instrument!

The shows are in the main theatre at the following times:

Quantock and Sedgemoor houses - Monday 19th October at 4pm to 4:30pm.

Cotswold and Mendip houses - Tuesday 20th October at 4pm to 4:30pm.

Children remain in school after period 5 so they can set up and prepare to perform.

We welcome families to come and watch their children performing on stage. There is no charge for tickets.
Please could you complete this form to confirm attendance and reserve tickets.

Year 7 Music Showcases – Fill in form



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 by clicking on the link 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.

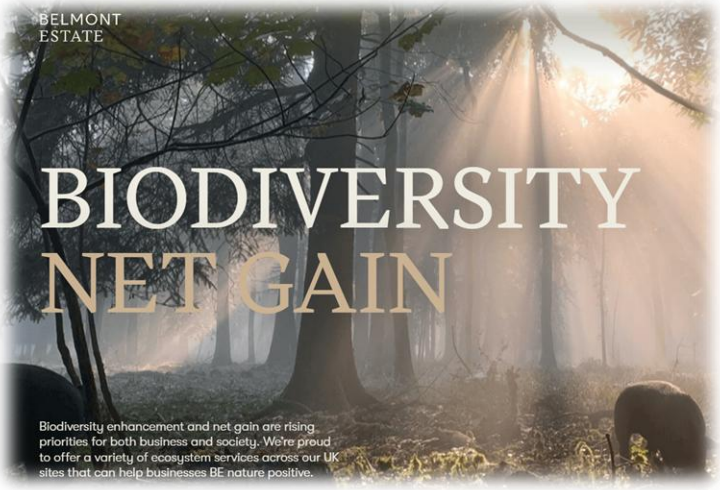
Personal Development at Backwell School

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.



Year 13 visit to Belmont Estate

On Tuesday, Our Year 13 Biologists visited The Belmont Estate in Wraxall to look at the impact of rewilding on Biodiversity.
We are so lucky to have this valuable venue so close to the school. Students were able to complete a short cross-country walk to the estate; enjoy their visit in the knowledge their carbon footprint was zero!
Find out more: [Belmont: Restoring nature and reconnecting communities]

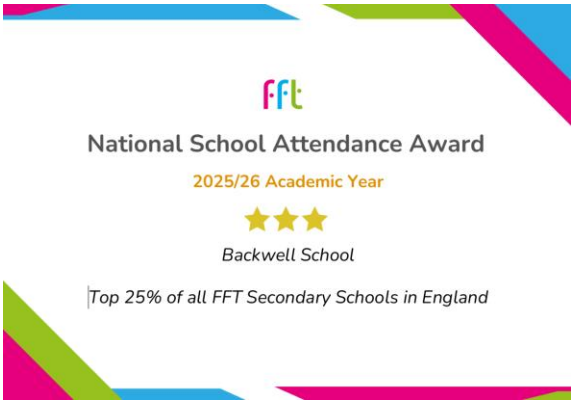


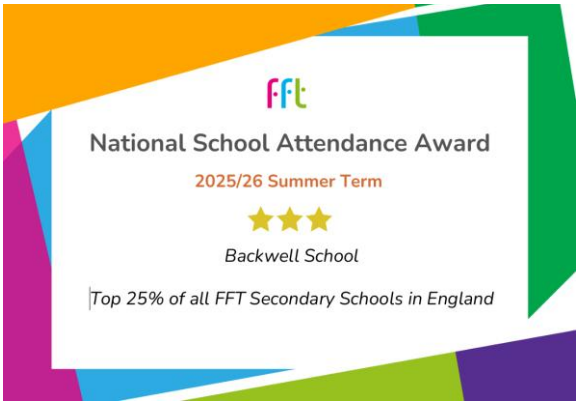
Sports Clubs

Please note the Sports Clubs schedule has been updated recently. The latest version can be found here

- Year 7 & 8 netball is now both Week 1 *and* Week 2 on Tuesdays
- Year 10 & Year 11 Girl Fitness is now on Friday afternoons

Please note that a club may be cancelled if there is staff illness or a teacher is involved in a fixture scheduled at the same time. In this case, the club leader will ask Tutors to pass on the message that a club is cancelled.





Invitation to Our New Attendance Drop-In Clinics (Tea & Coffee Provided!)

We know that every family's situation is unique, and getting your child into school consistently isn't always smooth sailing. Whether your child is managing physical health issues, mental wellbeing challenges, anxiety, or simply going through a tricky period, we understand that everyone is in a different boat—and we are here to support you.

To help, we are launching our new **Attendance Clinics**. These are informal, friendly drop-in sessions where you can pop in for a relaxed chat with staff in a comfortable, neutral space. Whether you have a quick question, want to share a concern, or feel your child needs extra support, we are here to listen. Working together, we can brainstorm practical ideas and put reasonable adjustments in place at school to make things easier and more positive for your child.

Plus, hot tea and coffee will be ready and waiting for you!

First Session Details:

- **Date:** Friday 16th October
- **Time:** 10:00 am – 3:00 pm (Drop in anytime that suits your schedule)
- **Venue:** Yatton Youth Club, Rock Road, Yatton, BS49 4JE

If you aren't able to make this date, please don't worry—we are planning future drop-in events across our catchment area (dates to follow).

Please feel free to drop by for a hot drink and a quiet chat.

We look forward to seeing you!



Urban Exploring: Please Talk to Your Child About the Risks

We have been asked by Avon and Somerset Police to share an important safety message regarding the dangers of "urban exploring" in vacant and disused buildings. While these locations may appear exciting or harmless, they can contain serious hazards including unstable structures, unsafe flooring, exposed asbestos, sharp materials, and the risk of falls or injury.

This is an issue that is occurring regularly across North Somerset and is involving a number of young people. We strongly encourage all parents and carers to take a few minutes to watch the short video below and discuss the risks with their child. A simple conversation at home could help prevent a serious accident and ensure our young people make safe choices when out with friends.

Video link: https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1C9tofQhQe/

Thank you for your support in helping us keep our community safe.

SERVE.PROTECT.RESPECT.

Quick Links

- School Uniform and Equipment Guidance
- Financial Support
- Careers Bulletin - October 2026
- Sixth Form Bulletin

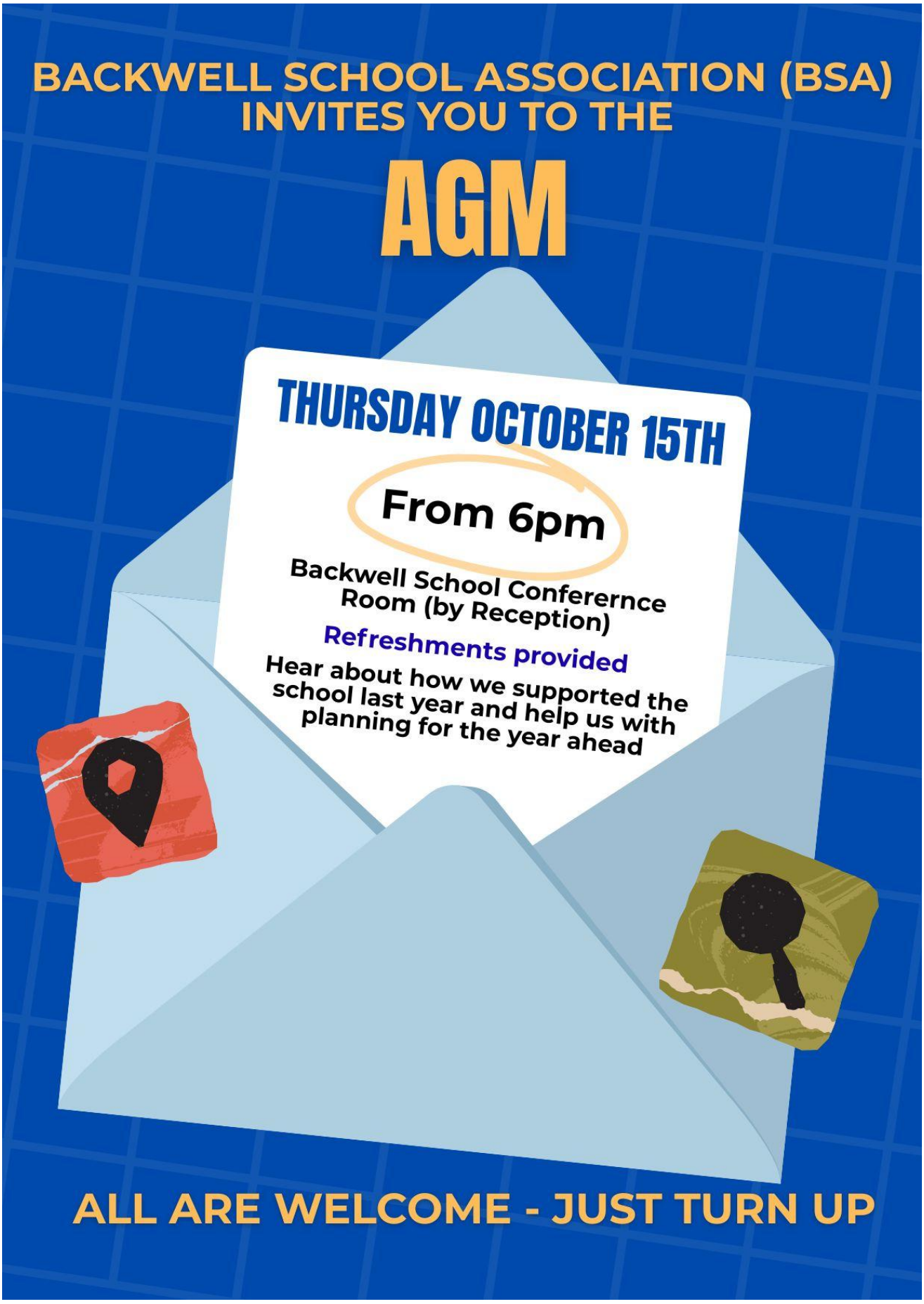
Letters Home

- A Level Geography Resources
- Year 9 and Year 10 French Students - French Exchange 2027
- Year 12 A Level PE – Sports Science trip to University of South Wales
- Year 7 & 8 PE - Programme of Study
- Year 10 - GCSE PE Practical Assessments

Dates for your Diary

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**
Thursday 22 October	**Early Finish for all students – School closes at 1.30pm – Coaches will leave at 1.40pm** **Sixth Form Open Evening – 5.00pm – 7.00pm**
Friday 23 October	**Last day of Term 1**




BACKWELL SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (BSA)
INVITES YOU TO THE
AGM
THURSDAY OCTOBER 15TH
From 6pm
Backwell School Conferernce Room (by Reception)
Refreshments provided
Hear about how we supported the school last year and help us with planning for the year ahead
ALL ARE WELCOME - JUST TURN UP

Free Listening Service

Aged 11-16?
Need a trusted adult to talk to who's not your parent,carer or teacher?



Local. Low key. No pressure

Wellspring Counselling

To book or find out more: 01275 810879 or email reception@wellspringcounselling.org.uk


YATTON RFC
COMMUNITY DAY
Sunday 18th October
YATTON RUGBY CLUB - KENN ROAD
Rugby, Games,
Live Music, Food & Drink!
New Players Welcome!
10.30 Minis vs. Nailsea & Backwell RFC
12.00 Bar Open & Activities
14.30 Colts vs. Weston RFC



BACKWELL SCHOOL IS LOOKING TO INCREASE OUR SUPPLY TEACHER POOL.

HOURLY RATE IS BASED ON M6 PAYSCALE
£37.12 AN HOUR

PLEASE EMAIL
RECRUITMENT@BACKWELLSCHOOL.NET
FOR AN APPLICATION FORM