Sixth Form Bulletin

Next week is a really busy end to term 1. With that in mind it's more important than ever to read the **NOTICES AND REMINDERS:**. Highlights this week include:-

- Apprenticeship workshop – Monday 19 October, P5 LB1
- Sixth Form Open Evening: Volunteers needed – Thursday 22 October, School finishes early at 1.30
- New: Sixth Form Committees, Diversity, Charity, Sports and Environment Committees
- NEW: Bake Sale – Wear it Pink – in Aid of Breast Cancer Now
- NEW: Halloween Fancy Dress – Friday 22 October
- NEW: It isn't too late to join the cast and crew of Fame
- New: Literacy Support Volunteers

… NEXT WEEK (WEEK 1):

W/C 19 October	• Year 12 & 13 Reports due home
Monday 19 October	• Year 12 Assembly SFT (Guest speaker) • **Charity Committee** at Break • **Apprenticeship workshop** (P5, LB1)
Tuesday 20 October	• **Charity Committee** at break • Y12 Business Trip to Cadbury House (12E/Bs)
Wednesday 21 October	• **Wear it Pink** – awareness and fund raising for Breast Cancer Awareness.
Thursday 22 October	• Year 13 Assembly DTH (sit downstairs) • **Diversity Committee Meeting** SF4 • Sixth Form **Open Evening**: Early finish at 1.30. Volunteers needed! • Y12 Business Trip to Cadbury House (12B/Bs)
Friday 23 October	• **Halloween Fancy Dress** (Sixth Form), £1 or £2 donation via ParentPay or card reader/cash in tutor time • End of Term 1

Term 2 2026/27:

Monday 02 November	First day of term 2
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
Friday 18 December	End of Term

Term 3 2026/27:

Monday 04 January	Start of Term 3
Wednesday to Friday 13-15 January	Fame Performances

NOTICES AND REMINDERS:

Apprenticeship workshop – Monday 19 October, P5 LB1

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.

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 - you also need to complete the MS form. 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: Sixth Form Committees

Environment Committee – relaunch – if you are interested in being part of it contact Miss Haywood.

Leaders needed to help support the Sixth Form **Sports Committee**. If you are interested let Miss Haywood know.

Diversity Committee, meets every Thursday break in SF4. Please come along and join.

This week is a big week for the **Charity Committee,** with meetings on Monday at Break and Tuesday break. Preparing for Backwell School's Children in Need.

Don't forget to **Wear it Pink** on **Wednesday 21st**

NEW: Bake Sale – Wear it Pink – in Aid of Breast Cancer Now



NEW: Halloween Fancy Dress – Friday 22 October



This is a fundraiser for Sixth Form funds. Primarily we use it to help reduce the cost to students of attending the Year 13 Leavers ball and the more we fundraise over 2 years, the less your tickets cost. £1 or £2 donation via ParentPay or Card reader/cash on the day.



NEW: It's not too late to join the cast and crew

Volunteers needed for backstage and tech crew. See Kassidy Paul for more information.

Also bring out your dancing and singing shoes – more ensemble members needed! See Des Forrow and Sky Riddiford or come along to rehearsal in DTH (Main Theatre) on Tuesday 20th at 3.15

Band – currently looking for players please see Sophie Tarrant for more information.

Any questions email Sky on 20skyrid@backwellschool.net

New: Literacy Support Volunteers

Volunteers are needed (bar Tuesdays) during Tutor Time. Helping lower school students with their literacy interventions. Volunteers should contact etaylor@backwellschool.net

Reminders:

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.

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.

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!

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:

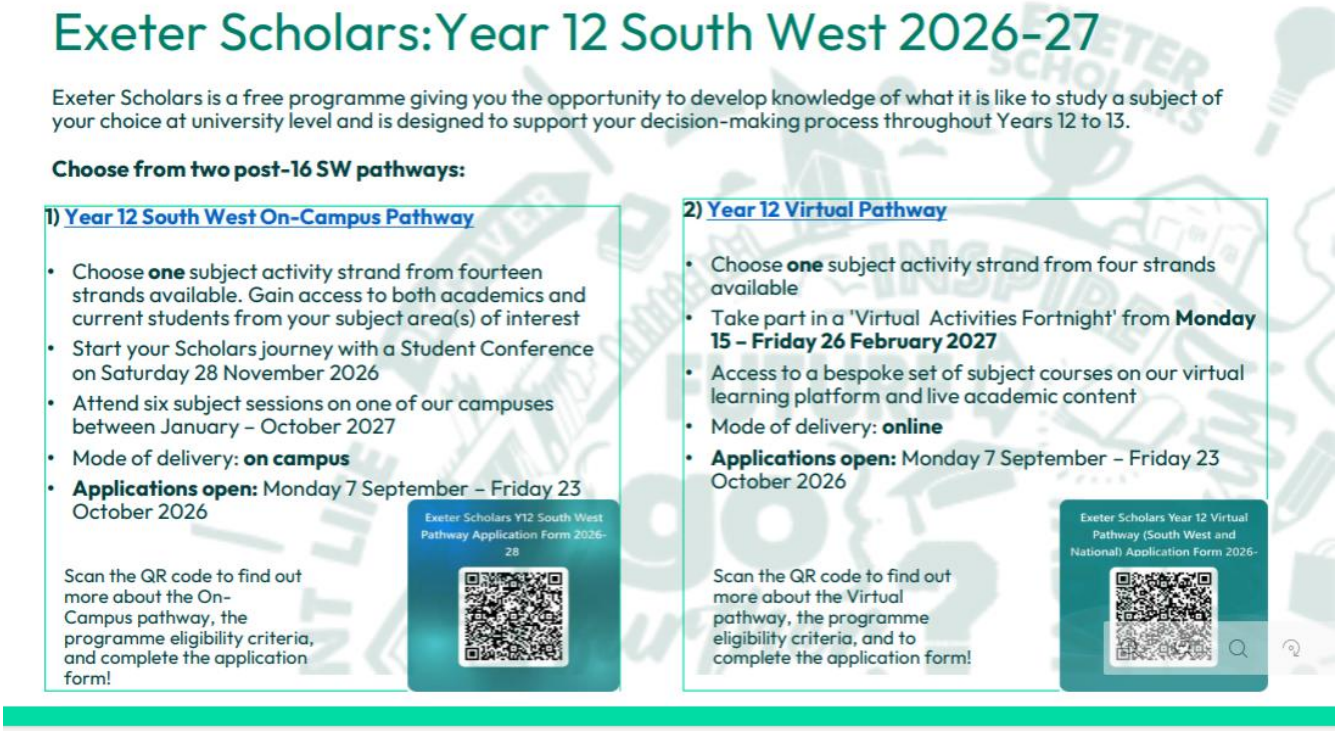
- Where possible, please attend open days on Saturdays/at weekends, rather than on a school day.
- You are allowed a maximum of five days' absence to attend open days throughout Years 12 and 13.

- 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 Scholars



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**

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