BACKWELL SCHOOL WEEKLY BULLETIN

FRIDAY 16 October 2026

Dear Parents, Carers, Families, and Friends,

The launch of our new House Championship has got off to a fantastic start, with students across all year groups embracing the opportunity to earn points for their Houses through achievement, participation and contribution to school life including the recent MFL bake off competition. The competition is already proving to be a great way to celebrate success, strengthen House identity and encourage healthy rivalry between students. After the opening round of events, green buttons and activities, Sedgemoor House currently leads the way, closely followed by Cotswold House in second, Mendip House in third, and in fourth place Quantock House. With only a small number of points separating the Houses, the championship race is firmly on for who will be crowned the inaugural winners in July! Congratulations to all students who have contributed to their House's success so far!

As we head towards the final week of Term 1, I would like to take the opportunity to remind everyone that every day matters. A common misconception can be that the last week of term is less important than the first, but the reality is quite the opposite. The learning that takes place next week will provide the foundations for the work students will build upon when they return for Term 2. Excellent attendance remains one of the biggest contributors to success, so please continue to support your child in attending every day and making the most of every learning opportunity.

A huge congratulations to our Year 11 Drama students, who this week completed the first GCSE examination of the academic year with their practical performance assessments. This marks an important milestone in their examination journey and reflects months of hard work, commitment and creativity. As the year progresses, more formal assessments and GCSE examinations will follow, with Trial Examinations also on the horizon shortly after half term. We wish all our Year 11 students the very best as they continue their preparations.

It has been another outstanding week for sport at Backwell, with students achieving excellent results across a range of fixtures. Our Sixth Form First XI football team made a

superb start to their Somerset Cup campaign with an impressive 7-3 victory over Wells Cathedral School. Goals came from Fred D, Ben B (2), Dan (2), Joe and Seb, in an attacking display that secured progression to the next round. The Year 10 rugby team also enjoyed a convincing victory, overcoming Priory by 40 points on Thursday, while the Year 7 boys' rugby team delivered another excellent performance with a 60-point win against Priory on Tuesday evening. Pleasingly, the tries were shared across the team, highlighting the collective effort behind the success. In netball, our First Team girls were narrowly defeated by Monkton Combe in the National Cup after a highly competitive match. Meanwhile, our Under-14 girls produced a remarkable performance to beat Wells Cathedral School by more than 30 goals in the National Cup, earning a well-deserved victory. Finally, our Year 8 and 9 girls netballers secured yet another victory over Clevedon School on Tuesday evening.



We are looking forward to welcoming families to our Year 7 Singing Showcase, taking place on Monday and Tuesday next week at 4:00pm in the Main Theatre. For many it will be their first taste of performing on the main stage at Backwell – something that should be very exciting. The performances will celebrate the progress students have made during their first term at Backwell and provide an opportunity for them to share their learning and talents with family and friends. We look forward to seeing many Year 7 parents there.

A reminder that next Thursday is our Sixth Form Open Evening. The school day will therefore finish early, with students leaving school at 1:30pm and school coaches departing at 1:40pm.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to a positive and productive final week of Term 1. *We Are Backwell*.

Will Penny
Headteacher



A selection of some of the incredible artwork on display in the school reception area will be showcased throughout this bulletin





A reminder to parents and carers that Backwell School is a **NUT AWARE SCHOOL**. Please ensure you do not send your child to school with any products containing nuts. This is to keep our school community safe. Many thanks for your support with this.

Book of the Week

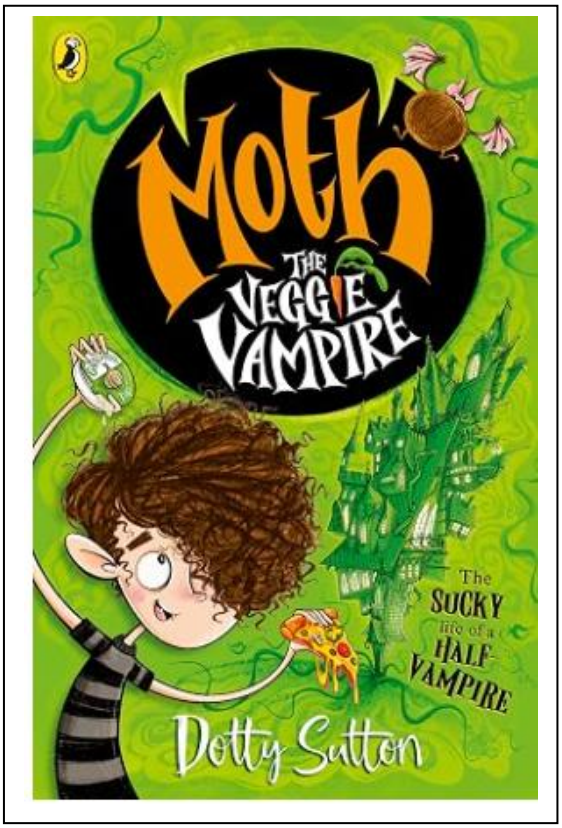
Moth The Veggie Vampire – By Dotty Sutton

Ever wondered what it's like to be a vampire?

To be super strong, super-fast and super naughty? To sleep all day and party all night? Cool, right?

But what if you're only *half*-vampire? Super awkward, super anxious and super allergic to garlic dip?

I'm Moth and this is the story of how my sucky life got kinda better thanks to a girl called Mina, a plant called Gary and my best friend Biscuit (who is a bat).



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.

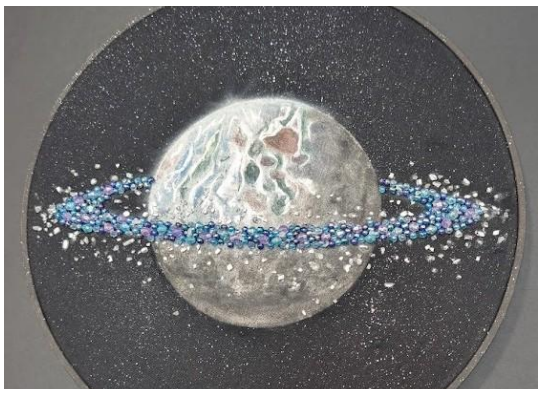
Clubs' updates

Photography Club and **Clay Club** will have a fresh intake of students for Term 2. The club spaces will go live on ParentPay on Monday 19 October at midday and will be on a first-come, first-served basis. If you are not successful, this time there will be other opportunities at the start of each term.

Craft Club update - the current Craft Club members will continue until the end of Term 2 to complete their projects. Miss Leonard will get in contact with the waiting list students next term regarding a fresh intake for Term 3. Thank you for your patience.







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.

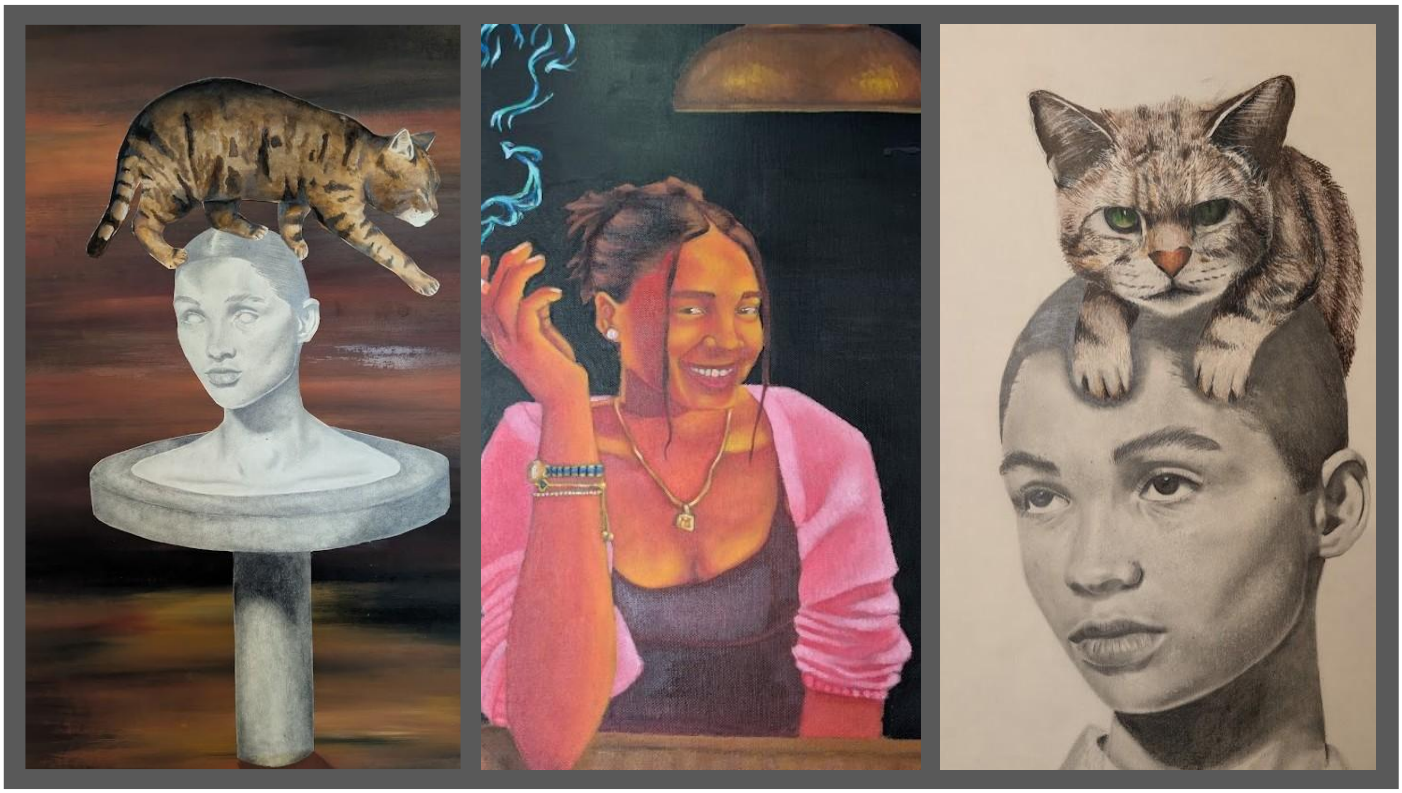
- Years 7, 8 and 9 will now be taught Personal Development in fortnightly timetabled lessons.
- Years 10 and 11 will continue to be taught in tutor time, twice weekly as well as in fortnightly SMSC lessons.
- Years 12 and 13 are taught in tutor time sessions.

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.



School Reports Information: Years 10 – 13

- Year 10 and Year 11 short reports will be published shortly on MCAS. The Year 10 report gives an early indication of how your child is settling into their new course and therefore contains work ethic scores only. The Year 11 report is a full report. Please login to MCAS to view these reports.

My Child at School App & Site

- Year 12 and Year 13 short reports will be published at the start of next week and you will be notified when these are available.

Quick Links

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

Letters Home

- Year 11 - Trial Exams
- GCSE Mathematics Exam Preparation Material
- Year 13 Trip to Berlin: Sunday 28 February to Wednesday 3 March 2027
- Year 8 Enrichment Week 2027 - Monday 21 June to Friday 25 June
- Year 7 Enrichment Week 2027 - Monday 21 June to Friday 25 June



Dates for your Diary

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**
Monday 02 November	**Start of Term 2**
Monday 09 – Monday 23 November	**Year 11 Trial Exams (mornings only)**
Friday 20 November	**Inset Day 4 – School closed for students**
Thursday 26 November	**Year 10 Parents' & Carers' Evening (online) 4:00pm-6:45pm**
Monday 30 November – Friday 04 December	**Year 13 Trial Exams**











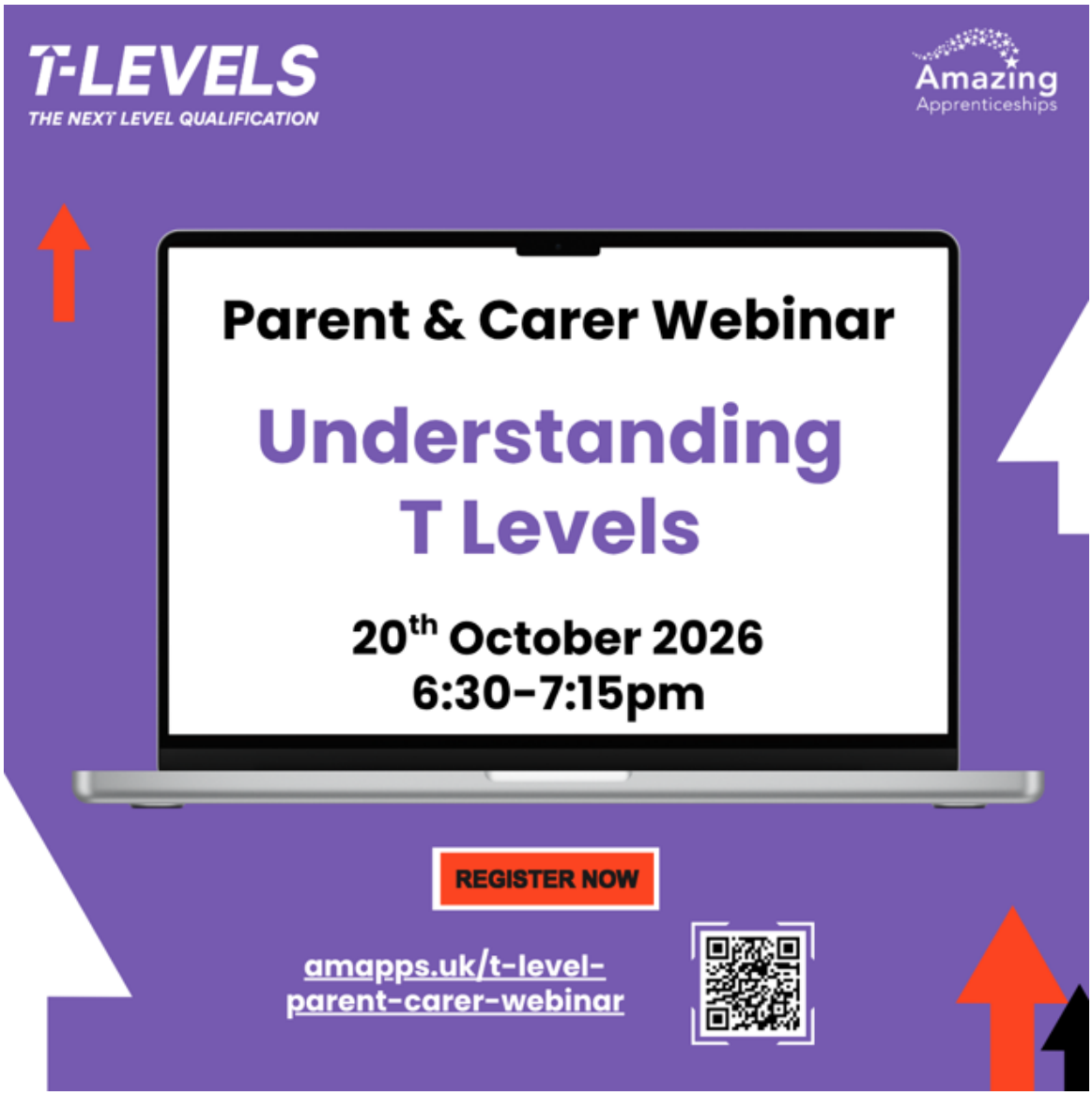


National T Levels Week runs from Monday 19th to Friday 23rd October 2026.

T Levels are two-year technical qualifications for 16–19-year-olds, designed with employers to prepare students for skilled employment, apprenticeships or further study. Equivalent in size to 3 A-levels, a T Level course combines classroom learning (80%) with an industry placement (20%) and focuses on vocational skills.

Join us for this special parent and carer webinar, designed to help parents and carers understand everything they need to know about T Levels, including:

- What are T Levels?
- Which subjects are available?
- Where can I study a T Level?
- What are the progression routes from T Levels?
- Where can you find out more?



Free Listening Service

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

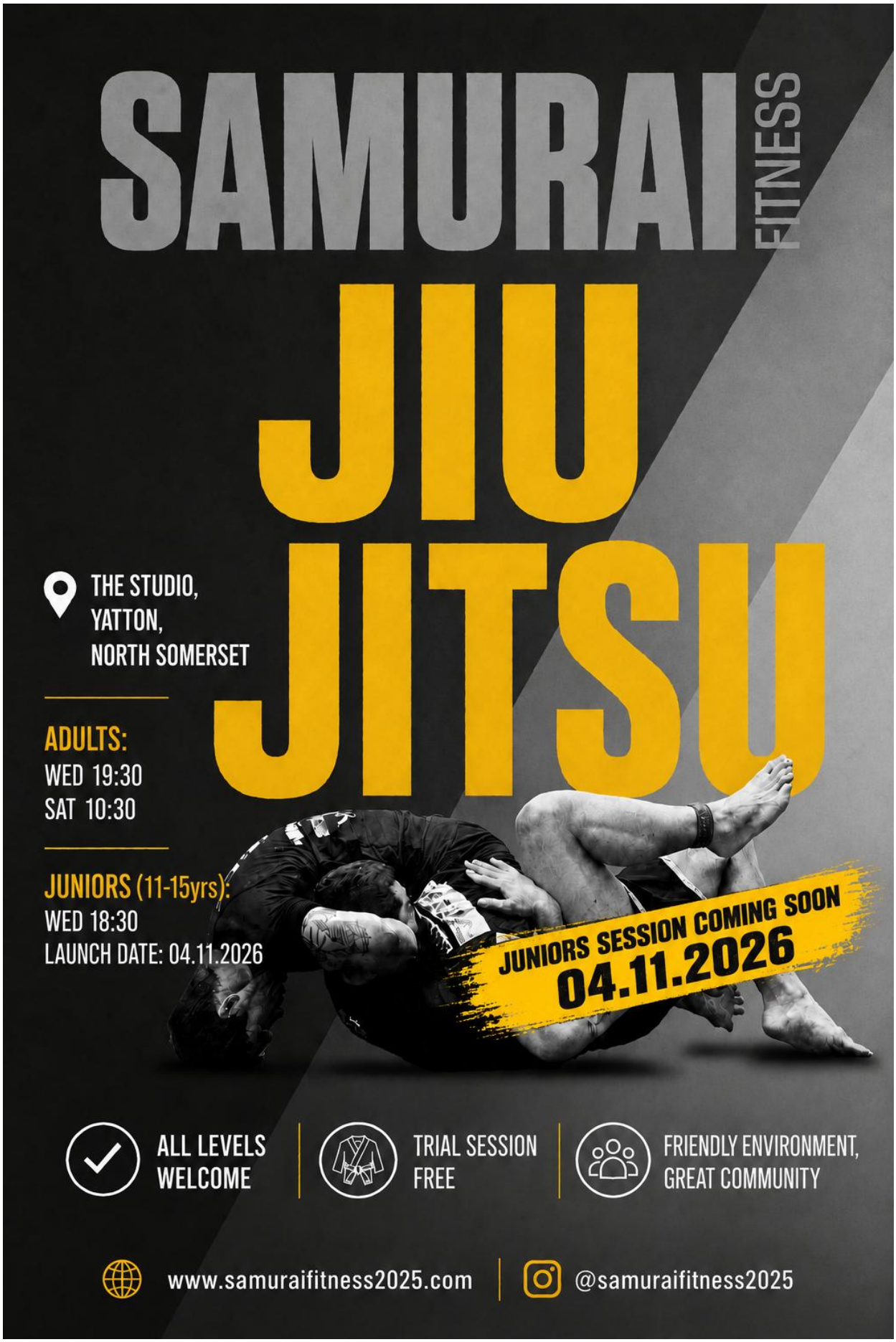


Local. Low key. No pressure

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


SAMURAI FITNESS
JIU JITSU
THE STUDIO,
YATTON,
NORTH SOMERSET
ADULTS:
WED 19:30
SAT 10:30
JUNIORS (11-15yrs):
WED 18:30
LAUNCH DATE: 04.11.2026
JUNIORS SESSION COMING SOON
04.11.2026
ALL LEVELS WELCOME
TRIAL SESSION FREE
FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT, GREAT COMMUNITY
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HOURLY RATE IS BASED ON M6 PAYSCALE
£37.12 AN HOUR

PLEASE EMAIL
RECRUITMENT@BACKWELLSCHOOL.NET
FOR AN APPLICATION FORM

Codingbug

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION OF CODERS & MAKERS

Python Coding Club Term 2

Learn to code in Python while building **games**, **apps**, and **simulations**. Develop problem-solving skills that boost creativity and confidence. Explore **machine learning**, and discover how to work with data and visualise it.

Python opens a door to many career opportunities.
Suitable for students in **Years 7–11**.

IN PERSON

5pm – 6pm
WEDNESDAYS

Hangstones Pavilion
Stowey Road, Yatton,
BS49 4HS

HOW TO JOIN →

Scan the QR code to book or visit:

codingbug.co.uk/python-coding-club/

ONLINE

5:15pm – 6:15pm
MONDAYS after shool

HOW TO JOIN →

Scan the QR code to book or visit:

codingbug.co.uk/online-python-club/



VISIT OUR WEBSITE
codingbug.co.uk

info@codingbug.co.uk


EVERGREEN
CHORUS
Sing Together. Grow Together.
ANNUAL CHARITY
CHRISTMAS
CONCERT
IN SUPPORT OF
Supporting
children's hospice
SOUTH WEST
Registered Charity No. 1003314
SATURDAY 5 DECEMBER 2026
Backwell High School Auditorium
Backwell, BS48 3BX
DOORS OPEN
5:30 PM
CONCERT STARTS
6:00 PM
RAFFLE AND REFRESHMENTS AFTER THE CONCERT
A FESTIVE PROGRAMME FOR ALL AGES
Traditional Christmas carols, songs from the Great American Songbook,
jazzy favourites, classical pieces and music from the movies.
With new discoveries and much-loved favourites.
Come and share the magic of Christmas
while supporting a wonderful cause.
BOOK YOUR TICKETS
SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT
tickets4musicians.co.uk/u/evergreen-chorus