Sixth Form Bulletin

Highlights this week include:-

- 2 careers events on NEW: Trowers & Hamlins, Exeter: Solicitor apprenticeships and **NEW: Telegraph Media Literacy Programme**
- **Parking Permits** Applications are now closed for this term. New applications will be considered for Term 3 (after Christmas).
- **Poppy Appeal –** Charity Committee will be coming round to raise money for it.
- **Children in Need** – Friday 13th Bake Sale and Pyjamas/Onesies day for Sixth Formers.
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… NEXT WEEK (WEEK 1):

Monday 09 November	• GCSE Maths Exam Resit
Tuesday 10 November	• **Charity Committee** at Break
Wednesday 11 November	• **Remembrance Day Service** - 12.05 at the muster point for Sixth Form (in tutor group lines)
Thursday 12 November	• Remote assembly (in tutor bases) • **Diversity Committee Meeting** at break (SF4)
Friday 13 November	• **Children in Need** – Onesies / pyjamas day and bake sale at lunch in DTH

Term 2 2026/27:

19 November	**No assembly**. Round 1 of University Challenge in tutor bases
20 November	INSET – school closed to students
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:

NEW: Children in Need – Friday 13 November

Please wear Pyjamas or Onesies for the day. £2 Donations to Children in Need can be made via ParentPay or else cash or card on the day. Meet outside the Sixth Form common room for a photo at break-time!

We will be having a bake sale in the DTH for years 10-13. Please donate your bakes with the ingredients/allergens clearly labelled. Boxes should have your name and tutor group and be delivered to the Sixth Form office in the morning.

NEW: Poppy Appeal

Charity Committee volunteers will be visiting all the tutor groups to raise money for the Poppy Appeal. Donations can be made with cash or via a QR code. Please support this worthwhile cause.

On Wednesday 11 November Sixth Formers are asked to muster at 12.05 in at the Fire Muster Point where a short memorial service will be held. Every student should be on site p3 unless you have an authorised absence.

NEW: Coffee morning for Year 12

The Year 13 sixth form committee have organised for subject representatives from Year 13 to be available during tutor time over the next 2 Tuesdays to provide advice and support to year 12 students. Please register in your tutor base and then as a group you will go over the common room on your allocated day. Collect your pastry (no free coffee sorry!) and then visit the subject tables to talk to students.



NEW: UCAS internal deadline has now passed

The deadline to submit your UCAS application is today 6th November. We will now start to process and send off applications. Late applications will be accepted and we will do our best to send these off before Christmas. Any applications received before Christmas will be sent off by the UCAS deadline of 13th January.

Your tutor will be completing your overall reference and Mr Feven/Miss Haywood will be checking your applications. **You must only Pay and Send once you have been told to do so by Mr Feven or Miss Haywood**. You must check your emails daily as we may need to you to come and see us or to Pay and Send. The Sixth Form team are completing the extenuating circumstances section of the reference so come and talk to us if you think that there is anything that we need to know before your reference is sent off. These are the groups we are checking:

13-1	MJF
13-2	RAH
13-3	MJF
13-4	MJF
13-5	MJF
13-6	RAH

NEW: University Challenge

The first round of University Challenge will be on Thursday 19th November so you need to decide on your teams of 4. The exact schedule will be published next week so you know which tutor group you are up against and where!

Reminders:

Attendance Matters

Your attendance record in Sixth Form will follow you! Employers ask us for your attendance levels when asking for references. Your attendance record is your responsibility. If you are late for tutor time or a lesson you must ensure your teacher marks you as present – better yet, be on time!

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.

If you have any questions about your school study periods please see Mrs Belcher in the Sixth Form Office.

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

NEW: LSE Undergraduate Political Review

Year 12-13 students: enter the LSE Undergraduate Political Review Essay Competition 2026. Write up to 1,000 words on a politics question for a chance to win Amazon vouchers of up to £100, a certificate signed by the Head of LSE's Department of Government, and publication on the LSEUPR blog. Deadline 1 December 2026, 23:59 GMT.

Questions and guidance: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1htAuqP8d-lcVdxPLC3RbjQ1pvZSmfiXD/view
Enter here: https://forms.gle/gkGC17s9abEuCpTJ8"

IT, PARKING, FROG & WIFI

NEW: Parking Permits:

We are currently processing the applications we have received. Look out for an email from 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**

New: Careers Newsletter

The latest November 2026 Careers Newsletter issued last week, **can be found here.**

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

NEW: Trowers & Hamlins, Exeter: Solicitor apprenticeships

- **Thursday 19 November, 10:00am to 4:30pm** | 15 places | **Travel up to £80 reimbursed**
- For: Year 13 students interested in solicitor apprenticeships
- Prioritisation starts Thursday 29 Oct
- Nominate students here*
- **Share this link with students to register directly:** https://uptree.co/events/trowers-hamlins/149709932/

NEW: Telegraph Media Literacy Programme

Applications now open!

The programme aims to break down the barriers to careers in journalism and provide school pupils with the tools and skills to think critically about the media landscape. It gives an insight into what it's like to be a

journalist at an award-winning multimedia news brand. It is open to all 16-18-year-olds across the UK and we would really appreciate it if you could encourage your pupils to apply.

The online sessions will be with a range of Telegraph journalists from departments including News, Sport, Beauty, Politics, Podcasts and Video. Participants will have the opportunity to learn news skills such as headline writing, interviewing, travel writing, and win prizes.

The programme will run for four weeks, beginning on **Tuesday, 2nd March 2027.**

Sessions will take place online from **4:00 to 5:10 pm every Tuesday**. At the end of the programme, each student will receive a Telegraph Media Literacy Journalism Certificate.

To submit their applications, students should visit **Future Talent: Telegraph Media Group Jobs**, from the **2nd November**. As part of their application, they will need to complete a short cover letter outlining why they wish to participate in the programme. **The deadline for applications is 5:00pm, 12th February 2027.**

Legal cheek careers – online event 26 November

The legal cheek careers team are offering a 'Solicitor apprenticeship application masterclass, insight session and careers fair' virtual event series for Year 12/13 students, which kicks off on Thursday 26 November 2026 (4:30pm to 6pm).

It features early talent teams from 24 leading law firms**.**

The session is free and open to all Year 12 & 13 students/sixth formers. The sign-up link is here: **https://www.legalcheek.com/fair/solicitor-apprenticeship-application-masterclass-insight-session-and-virtual-fair/**

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

GEOGRAPHY DEPT



Year 13 Geographers went to Iceland over the half term break. Here they all are.