BACKWELL SCHOOL WEEKLY BULLETIN

FRIDAY 06 November 2026

Dear Parents, Carers, Families, and Friends of Backwell School,

During the half-term break I was especially jealous that our Sixth Form Geography students experienced an unforgettable field trip to Iceland, experiencing first-hand some of the most spectacular physical geography found anywhere in the world. The trip provided a unique opportunity to explore dramatic glacial landscapes, powerful waterfalls, vast braided rivers and the country's remarkable geothermal features, including hot springs and geysers. Students were able to witness the dynamic processes that continue to shape Iceland's volcanic and tectonic environment while bringing classroom learning to life. A particular highlight, and the one I am most envious of, was the group seeing the awe-inspiring Northern Lights (Aurora Borealis) in the night sky. It is experiences like this that provide memories for life, and I am extremely grateful to the staff who gave up their half term break to accompany the students on the trip.





Staying with the Geography theme we had several teams of Year 10 and 11 geographers representing the school at the Geographical Association's Worldwise Quiz at the University of Bristol on Wednesday evening. Competing against schools from across the area, our students demonstrated exceptional geographical knowledge and determination. A special mention goes to Yumi A, Ada V and Jessie L, whose team secured joint third place, tying with QEH and narrowly missing out on second place. Their response to the result was inspiring, already setting their sights on returning next year to challenge BGS for the trophy! Well done to all of our students who took part and represented our school with pride!

Congratulations to our Year 10 Boys' Rugby Team, who were crowned North Somerset Rugby Champions on Wednesday afternoon. The team won three of their matches and drew the fourth, demonstrating skill, resilience and teamwork throughout the competition. Tries were shared across the team, but just as importantly, the squad's defensive efforts were exceptional throughout the tournament.

Next week marks the start of the trial exam period for Year 11. These exams are an important opportunity for Year 11 to test their knowledge, practise exam techniques and identify areas for further improvement ahead of the summer GCSE examinations. I know how hard you have been working and hope you to approach the coming fortnight with confidence, determination and a positive mindset. Remember to balance your revision with recharging your batteries. Good luck!

Also, next week, we will be supporting Children in Need with a non-uniform day on Friday. This fantastic charity works to improve the lives of disadvantaged children and young people across the UK, funding projects that provide support, opportunities and hope to those facing significant challenges. We would be grateful if parents could make a donation via your ParentPay account in lieu of their child wearing non-uniform. Thank you in advance for your generosity and support.



Finally, as we approach Remembrance Weekend this weekend, I hope we all find some time to pause and reflect on the sacrifices made by servicemen and women, past and present, whose courage and commitment have helped secure the freedoms we enjoy today. Remembrance provides an important opportunity for us, as a school community, to come together in gratitude, reflection and respect, while helping our young people understand the significance of service, sacrifice and peace. On Wednesday next week, we will hold a short Remembrance Service in school and observe the two-minute silence, providing students and staff with an opportunity to remember and honour all those who have given so much in the service of others. Lest we forget.

Have a wonderful weekend. *We Are Backwell.*



Will Penny
Headteacher





Reminder - Year 11 Trial Exams

Trial exams for Year 11 students start on Monday, 09 November until Monday, 24 November (mornings only). Please ensure you have read the Year 11 Trial Exams Letter . These exams play a crucial role in preparing the students for their real GCSE exams in the summer and students should continue to prepare for these using the revision techniques taught at school.

Use of AI in assessments/coursework/NEA components – For parents/carers of Y10-13 students

Please click on the link to read the attached information about the use and misuse of AI in assessments. It is very important that all students and their parents/carers are fully aware and follow these regulations regarding the use of AI:

JCQ-AI and Assessments Guide for students

Book of the Week



The Frozen King *(A Greenwild Adventure)*
By Pari Thomson
Eleven-year-old Annika may be heir to the ocean-ruled kingdom of Iffenwild, but she'd much rather be sailing with her traveling theatre troupe than learning how to be queen. But when her beloved uncle Max - the king - returns gravely injured from a secret mission to the Utter North, her world shifts in an instant.
Determined to find a long-lost cure, Annika journeys into the Frozen North: a land of towering ice cliffs, frozen seas, and powerful ice magic. But the deeper she ventures, the clearer it becomes that something far darker is stirring. If Annika fails, it won't just be her uncle's life at stake - it will be the fate of the entire magical world.

Children in Need – Friday 13 November 2026



This year we will be holding a non-uniform day to help raise funds towards Children in Need 2026.

Students in Years 7-11 can wear non-uniform to school on this day, in exchange for a £2.00 donation towards Children in Need. Donations can be made via your ParentPay account

Sixth Form Students will be able to wear their Pyjamas into school in exchange for a £2.00 donation.

There will also be a bake sale running in the school theatre during both lunch breaks. Students can purchase cakes/sweet treats at a cost of £1 per item? Purchases can be made by cash only. Pudsey merch will also be on sale at £1 per item.



Pen Pal Club

We are very excited to announce the launch of our new **Pen Pal Club**, which will give children the wonderful opportunity to connect with pupils from a school in Australia!

Through this exciting international link, students (Years 7-11) will have the chance to exchange letters with children of a similar age, learning about each other's lives, schools, hobbies, interests and cultures.

The club will meet once a month after school, giving students dedicated time to write, draft and prepare their letters to send to their pen pals with the support of staff. This will be a lovely opportunity for children to develop meaningful connections while discovering what life is like for children growing up on the other side of the world. Once we have gauged interest, the day we meet will be determined.

As part of the club, children will have the opportunity to:

- Develop their writing, spelling, punctuation and communication skills.
- Write for a real audience and a meaningful purpose.
- Learn about Australian life, culture, traditions and geography.
- Share information about their own school, community and experiences.
- Build friendships and develop an understanding of different cultures.
- Grow in confidence and enthusiasm for writing.

Interested in joining?
If your child would like to be part of this exciting new club, please complete our expression of interest form using the link below:

Expression of interest form - Pen Pal Club – Fill in form

Please complete the form by Wednesday the 11th of November so that we can get an idea of numbers and begin organising our first pen pal exchanges.

We are really looking forward to beginning this exciting journey and seeing the friendships and connections that develop through our letters. We students will enjoy this unique opportunity to communicate with pupils from another part of the world.

Thank you for your support. We can't wait to get started!



Kind regards,
Miss Frankum

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.

This information can also be viewed and downloaded via the website

	Year 7	Key Questions
Autumn Term 1	Relationships: Important Relationships	What does it mean to have a healthy relationship with yourself?
		How does wellbeing impact our relationships?
		What strategies are there for building stronger relationships at school?
		How do relationships change through life?
	Relationships: Friendships	What is belonging and how can it help us?
		Why might someone feel lonely?
	Relationships: Belonging	How can social media affect our relationships?
		What are the effects of feeling lonely?
		What strategies can we use to help someone who is feeling lonely?
	Careers Education at Backwell	What is a career?
		What skills do I have already?
Autumn Term 2	Careers Education at Backwell	What do we mean by job sectors?
		What are the differences between the Public and the Private sector?
	Careers Education at Backwell	What do we mean by job skills?
		How can our interests influence our job aspirations?
	Careers Education at Backwell	What is Unifrog and how do I use it?
		What resources are available to me via Unifrog?

	Year 8	Key Questions
Autumn Term 1	Health Education: Healthy Lifestyles	How does physical activity affect wellbeing?
		How does sleep affect wellbeing?
		What strategies are there for boosting wellbeing?
	Health Education: Puberty	What are the physical changes in puberty?
		What is a period?
		How might our hormones affect our moods?
	Health Education: Looking after your teeth and mouth	What is good oral hygiene?
		How can we maintain good oral hygiene?
		How do people access dental appointments?
	Careers Education: Going to work	Why do people go to work?
		What would help me choose suitable work?
Autumn Term 2	Careers Education: Jobs of the Future	How are jobs changing?
		What might future jobs involve?
	Careers Education: Skills and Competencies - UniFROG	What skills and competencies do I have?
		What job areas interest me?
	Health Education: Fire and Water Safety	What does being 'fire safe' mean?
		How do we stay safe around water?

Personal Development cont…

	Year 9	Key Questions
Autumn Term 1	Online Safety: Boundaries	How do we set online boundaries?
		What is grooming?
		How can we end an online relationship safely?
		Why might bullying behaviours occur online?
	Online Safety: Cyberbullying	What is cyberbullying?
		How can we respond to something unkind or unsafe online?
		What causes the pressure of creation online?
	Online Safety: Social media	How do people generate Fear of Missing Out?
		How does social media impact wellbeing?
		Do we trust people online as much as people we know face to face?
	Online Safety: Trust Online	What can help us decide who to trust online?
Autumn Term 2	Online Safety: Viewing Harmful Content	What do we mean by 'harmful content'?
		In what ways can online content be harmful?
	Health Education: Emotional impact of puberty	How might puberty impact our thoughts and decisions?
		How might you know if you are experiencing abnormal periods?
	Health Education: Reproductive Health	What is PMS and might it be managed?
		What are the symptoms of other common menstrual conditions?

		Year 10	Key Questions
Autumn Term 1	In Tutor Time	Careers and Skills: Being Successful in Year 10 and 11	What strategies can we use to ensure success at school?
			What are our academic goals?
			What is Work Experience?
		Health Education: Challenging negative thinking	What are negative thinking patterns?
			What motivates us?
			What strategies are there for challenging negative thinking patterns?
		Health Education: Self Respect and Self Esteem	What do we mean by Self Respect and Self Esteem?
			How do Self Respect and Self Esteem influence our feelings?
		Health Education: Drug and Alcohol Risks	What are the risks associated with drugs and alcohol?
			How does the law classify illegal drugs?
		Health Education: Drug and Alcohol Decisions	What might influence our decisions about whether to take drugs or alcohol?
			What might be the consequences in law of taking illegal drugs?
			Why do people misuse prescription medication?
		Health Education: Misuse of Prescription Medication	What are the physical consequences of misusing prescription medications?
			What are the laws around misusing prescription medications?
	In SMSC	Health Education: Looking after our mental wellbeing	What are the differences between everyday uncomfortable feelings and overwhelming feelings?
			What supports can we use to help prevent us becoming overwhelmed?
		Health Education: Stigma and Mental Health	What might be the consequences of stigmatising mental health conditions?
			How can we challenge stigma around mental health?
		British Values and Citizenship: Understanding Democracy	What does democracy mean?
			Is every country a democracy?
			What is a representative democracy?
Autumn Term 2	In Tutor Time	Health Education: County Lines and Drug Gangs	What does County Lines mean?
			How do people end up being recruited by Drug Gangs?
		Careers and Skills: School report reflections	What is the purpose of a school report?
			What do I think my learning strengths are?
		Careers and Skills: Job Applications	How to set a realistic target to improve?
			What targets do I want to set myself?
		Careers and Skills: Job Applications	What information is needed on a job application?
			What are Employability Skills?
		Careers and Skills: Writing a CV	What is a CV?
			What should I include in a CV for a WEX placement?
		Careers and Skills: Writing a good CV	What are the dos and don'ts for CV writing?
			How to write a covering email to go with a CV
	In SMSC	Citizenship: Democracy systems	What is 'First Past the Post'?
			What are the advantages and disadvantages of using our democratic system?
		British Values and Citizenship: The Rule of Law	Why do we need laws?
			How are laws enforced in the UK?
		British Values and Citizenship: Human Rights	What are Human Rights?
			What does Freedom of Speech mean?

Personal Development cont …

		Year 11	Key Questions
Autumn Term 1	In Tutor Time	Careers and Skills: What happens after Year 11	What can I do after Year 11? What support can Backwell Offer in helping me make a decisions? What helps good decision making?
		Careers and Skills: Qualification Levels	What are the different Qualification Levels? How do Levels affect next steps?
		Careers and Skills: A-Levels	What is an A-Level? Why might I choose to do A-Levels?
		Careers and Skills: Vocational Qualifications	What is a Vocational Qualification? Why might I choose to do a Vocational Qualification?
		Careers and Skills: Apprenticeships	What is an Apprenticeship? Why might I choose to do an Apprenticeship?
		Careers and Skills: Post 16 Options	Who influences our decisions? What next steps do I need to take now?
		Health Education: Healthy Lifestyles	How do unbalanced lifestyles affect our long term health? Who is responsible for our lifestyle choices?
	In SMSC	Health Education: Cannabis	What are the effects of cannabis on the body? What are the effects of cannabis on mental health?
		Health Education: Other harmful drugs	What other substances are harmful to our health? How are the risks to health associated with ketamine use?
		Careers and Critical Skills: Dealing with exam stress	What might our body responses be to exam stress? How can we manage stressful feelings before, during and after exams? How can we seek support if needed?
Autumn Term 2	In Tutor Time	Careers and Skills: School report reflections	What is the purpose of a school report? What do I think my learning strengths are?
		Careers and Skills: Trial Exams	Trial exam prep Trial exam prep
		Careers and Skills: Trial Exams	Trial exam prep Trial exam prep
		Health Education: Healthy Lifestyles	What small changes could improve our wellbeing? What does good sleep hygiene look like?
		Health Education: Navigating the NHS	What services does the NHS offer? When should you use each service?
		Health Education: Barriers to Healthcare	What might some people not access the health services they need? What might help remove those barriers?
	In SMSC	Careers and Skills: Trial Exams	What to expect in exams? How to navigate an exam season
		Careers and Skills: Trial Exams	What results am I expecting? How do I think I managed the trial exams?

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.

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.

Royal British Legion Poppy Sales

Poppies, pin badges, wrist bands and other poppy items are on sale in school until Wednesday, 11 November. Please advise students to bring in cash to purchase items. Students can use their phones to make a purchase using a QR code, at the end of the school day from Reception. Recommended minimum prices / donations of £1 for poppies and wristbands. Minimum price for pin badges is £3.00.

Thank you for your support

Quick Links

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

Letters Home

- Year 11 – Information applying to Backwell Sixth Form
- Year 11 Leavers Hoodies
- AI Letter to Parents / Carers - November 2026

Dates for your Diary

Friday 13 November	**Non-Uniform Day: Fundraising for Children in Need** **£2:00 donation via ParentPay**
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 & Tuesday 01 December	**Flu Vaccinations – Years 7-11 inc** Click here to access the Sirona Consent Form *If you have any questions relating to the flu vaccination, please contact the School Immunisation Team directly on 0300 124 5515 or email sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net.*
Monday 30 November – Friday 04 December	**Year 13 Trial Exams**



Where Our Food Comes From

At Aspens, we aim to source the ingredients for our 85% freshly cooked menus from within 50 miles of each school we serve. This means we can support local, British farmers and suppliers, while keeping food miles low.

For our LSP schools, we have curated our supply chain to feature the Best of Bristol and its surrounding areas, with key groups sourced from the businesses below:

Fresh Fruit and Vegetables - Arthur David



Based at Hillside Farm, Bishop Sutton, Arthur David has been delivering fresh produce to Bristol and the West Country for over 60 years, earning accolades including UK Family Business of the Year 2017 and Bristol Life Family Business of the Year 2019.

Based on their strong values and consistent quality, Aspens partners with Arthur David to offer LSP students a range of tasty produce, including local Cheddar Valley Strawberries from Warrens Fruit Farm and seasonal Rhubarb, Blueberries and Beans from Cobrey Farms in Ross-on-Wye.

Meat and Dairy products - John Sheppard

Over their 80-year history, John Sheppard has grown from a Bristol high street butcher's shop to one of the West Country's leading meat suppliers, all while staying faithful to their trusted, high-quality local farm network.



LSP students can enjoy fully traceable, welfare-first meat and dairy from John Sheppard's local farms, including Award-winning, Red-Tractor-certified local beef from Alec Jarrett's, farmed in Oldland Common, Bristol.

Bakery Ingredients and Products - Hobbs House Bakery



As a fifth-generation family business with B-Corp certification and over 100 years of serving Bristol and its communities, we are proud to call Hobbs House Bakery our key bakery supplier for the LSP schools.

Hobbs House works to minimise environmental impact and support local farming, with their Shipton Mill flour travelling less than 15 miles from the field to their oven in Greater Bristol, ensuring LSP students can enjoy bakery items made with fresh, local ingredients.

STREATERIES

Autumn/Winter 2026-27

MAINS

	MAINS	VEGGIE
MONDAY	CLASSIC SAUSAGE, MASH & ONION GRAVY	QUORN SAUSAGE, MASH & ONION GRAVY (V)
TUESDAY	CHICKEN CURRY With Braised Rice	VEGETABLE CURRY (V) With Braised Rice
WEDNESDAY	TRADITIONAL ROAST OF WEEK With Garlic Roasties	ROASTED ROOT VEGETABLE GALETTE With Garlic Roasties
THURSDAY	BBQ GLAZED VENISON BURGER With APPLE SLAW & HAND CUT WEDGES	VEGGIE DOG & APPLE SLAW (V) With HAND CUT WEDGES
FRIDAY	BATTERED FISH SAUSAGE/VEG SAUSAGE PIZZA SLICE With CHIPS, GRAVY or IRISH CURRY SAUCE	PIZZA SLICE (V) VEGGIE SAUSAGE (V) With CHIPS, GRAVY or IRISH CURRY SAUCE

Home Style · Pan Asian · Home Style · American Diner · Chips & More

VEGETABLES/SALAD

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
PEAS & CARROTS	TOMATO & CUCUMBER CHILLI SAMBAL	MIXED GREENS	MIXED SALAD	GARDEN PEAS OR BAKED BEANS

DESSERTS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
ASPENS COOKIE	OLD SCHOOL SPRINKLE	BANANA CHOC CHIP CAKE	CHOCOLATE BROWNIE	HOMEBAKE FAVOURITES

Fresh Cut Fruit & Yogurt Pots *available daily*

KEY: VEGGIE (V)







HOT DELI KITCHEN

SELECTION OF PIZZAS AVAILABLE DAILY

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
CHICKEN THIGH BURGER	LOADED GARLIC BREAD WITH HAM & RED ONION	ROAST OF THE DAY ½ BAGUETTE	CHICKEN BIRYANI BURRITO	BBQ CHEESE LOADED CHIPS

PASTA, RICE & NOODLE POTS

AVAILABLE EVERY DAY
TOMATO SAUCE & CHEESE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY

HOMEMADE TOMATO SAUCE & PASTA AVAILABLE EVERYDAY



BIG BOWL SALADS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY

AVAILABLE EVERYDAY PLEASE PRE-ORDER AND PAY AT MID MORNING BREAK
MIXED SUMMER SALAD, TOMATO PASTA, CRUNCHY SLAW WITH A CHOICE OF EITHER HAM, CHEESE OR CHICKEN SERVED WITH CRUSTY BREAD

DAILY
MEAL DEALS



Backwell School Weekly Bulletin

Train to teach with the Lighthouse Learning Partnership

The Lighthouse Schools Partnership offers school-based teacher training through the Lighthouse Learning Partnership.
These training placements take place in our own schools and are offered with our Higher Education Institute partners, University of Bristol and Five Counties SCITT.

Across the partnership, we offer secondary teacher training in the following subjects:

- Art & Design
- Computer Science
- Design Technology
- Drama
- English
- Geography
- History
- Maths
- MFL
- Music
- PE
- RE
- Sciences

Some of these placements are offered at Backwell School. Please refer to the LSP website for further information and how to apply for vacancies.

LIGHTHOUSE LEARNING


YATTON
YOUTH CLUB
WHAT'S ON
MONDAYS
BACKWELL SCHOOL LUNCH CLUB 12.30PM-1.10PM
PILATES - 1.30PM-2.30PM - BOOKING REQUIRED
TUESDAYS
MONTHLY DEMENTIA CAFE 10AM-12PM
JUNIOR YOUTH CLUB 6PM-7.15PM YR4-YR8
SENIOR YOUTH CLUB 7.30-9PM YR7-YR13
WEDNESDAYS
MONTHLY LIONS COFFEE MORNING 10AM-12PM
SENIOR SUPPER CLUB 6PM-8.30PM
THURSDAYS
YATTON FOODBANK 9.30AM-12PM
JUNIOR YOUTH CLUB 6PM-7.15PM YR3-YR7
SENIOR YOUTH CLUB 7.30PM-9PM YR7-YR14
FRIDAYS
PILATES - 9.15AM-10.15AM - BOOKING REQUIRED
SATURDAYS
MONTHLY SEN D&D 10AM-12PM
ROOM HIRE - AVAILABLE ON REQUEST
1-2-1 SUPPORT SESSIONS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
SEASONAL DETACHED YOUTH WORK PROJECT
FOR BOOKINGS OR FURTHER INFORMATION ON ANY OF THE ABOVE PLEASE CONTACT ADMIN@YATTONYOUTHCLUB.ORG

❄ HAF Winter Activity Bookings NOW OPEN! ❄

Children who receive targeted free school meals are entitled to free HAF activity days over the Winter holidays.

We're excited to share that bookings for **North Somerset HAF Winter activities** are now LIVE!

There are some fantastic activities on offer this winter, with something for everyone to enjoy! From multi-sports clubs and gymnastics to family swim sessions, bring-a-friend gym sessions, Mendip Activity Centre experiences, arts and crafts, and so much more.

There will also be some wonderful festive experiences to get everyone into the Christmas spirit, with plenty of opportunities for children and young people to try something new, make friends, stay active and have lots of fun over the winter holidays! 🎄 ⛄

📅 **Bookings open: Friday 6th November at 9am**

🔗 **Visit our booking platform:** https://eequ.org/northsomersethaf

We look forward to another fantastic HAF winter full of fun, laughter, and festive memories.

HAF NORTH SOMERSET Holiday Activities & Food

BEST START IN LIFE Funded by UK Government

West of England MUSIC & ARTS

NEW AT WEMA MUSIC CENTRES



DJ skills
Music Production

Brand new sessions for young musicians.
Mix, produce and make your own tracks.

- **Saturdays** · Backwell · from 9.30am
- **Mondays** · Little Stoke · from 6.30pm
- **Wednesdays** · Bath · from 5.45pm

Bookings open now

wema.org.uk/music-centre-lessons

Discounts available for children eligible for Pupil Premium

Backwell School is looking to expand our pool of invigilators.
If you'd like to apply, please see here for full job details, and to make your application.
Job profile

