



12 February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

We have reached the end of Term 3, which was certainly not the term we were expecting at the start of January! However I am incredibly proud of all the hard work, dedication and resilience shown by Backwell staff and students to adapt to remote learning over the past six weeks.

We will all return to remote learning on Monday 22 February – it will be Week 1A – and we expect to continue with online lessons until Monday 8 March at the earliest.

We are expecting two big announcements from the Government during the first week of Term 4; the plan for the return to the school site for students and the outcome of the Ofqual consultation on examinations and results for qualifications this summer. I will do my very best to update and inform parents on these announcements as swiftly as possible, including how we will address and deal with the detail from a Backwell perspective.

Student Wellbeing

This lockdown has been challenging for many at times; parents and teachers have been juggling remote learning with working from home and childcare, and students have seen an increase in screen time and the loss of socialising with their friends. I mentioned last week that we were looking at planning some 'screen free' learning activities for students for the first few weeks of Term 4. This is what we have decided to do:

- Years 7, 8 and 9 – lessons on Wednesday afternoons (24 February and 3 March) will not be delivered online. Instead different subject areas will devise alternative ways for students to learn, away from their screens.
- Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 – each subject will deliver one lesson in the first fortnight of Term 4 (22 February – 5 March) in an offline format.

Student wellbeing and engagement is very important to us; Our Pastoral Team have been supporting those who are struggling and the Student Wellbeing page on Frog contains help, advice and ideas for looking after your mental and physical health.

'Trial Exams' for Year 11 and 13

Teachers are currently marking the recent Year 11 and Year 13 'trial exam' assessments. A reminder that we will not be using the results of these assessments to inform any teacher

awarded grade; we will be using them to help students understand how to improve their learning by providing them with feedback over the coming weeks. We have instructed staff not to give grade equivalents for these assessments as to do so could be misleading. We respectfully ask parents not to contact teachers asking for predicted or forecast grades as a result of these assessments. If we have any concerns about an individual's progress, we will of course contact home. We do understand this continues to be an unsettling time for these students and as mentioned above, as soon as we know more about the process for qualification awards this summer, we will update you all.

New website for Backwell School

We have been working on a new look website for the school which will be live for the start of Term 4. It contains all the information on our current website in a format and design that we hope you will find easy to view and navigate.

We hope you like it!

Year 9 GCSE Options

A reminder that the deadline for Year 9 pupils to submit their GCSE subject choices is Monday 22 February.

Information on this process can be found by [clicking here](#).

Students should submit their options by logging into Frog and accessing the electronic form visible to them on the Student Dashboard.

I would like to wish all in the school community a restful half term.

Mr J Nunes
Headteacher

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OTHER MESSAGES ...

Careers Bulletin

Please find below a link to the Careers Bulletin on our school website. This bulletin includes a section on online and virtual careers resources, including the school's online careers platform, Unifrog.

[Current Careers Events and Opportunities \(12 February 2021\)](#)

If you have any queries regarding future plans Mrs Ball can be contacted on her school email cball@backwellschool.net.

Upcoming Events

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| Friday 12 February | INSET day and last day of term |
| Monday 22 February | Start of Term 4 |
| Thursday 18 March | Year 7 Parents' Evening |
| Thursday 25 March | Year 11 Parents' Evening |
| Wednesday 31 March | Year 13 Parents' Evening |
| Thursday 1 April | Inset Day and last day of Term 4 |
| Monday 19 April | Start of Term 5 |

LETTERS HOME ...

[Sixth Form Bulletin \(week commencing 22 February 2021\)](#) - Parents/Carers of Sixth Form students