



12 March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I want to start the email home this week with a big well done and thank you: Well done to our students who were incredibly mature and sensible when undergoing testing this week.

Thank you to our Testing Team who have worked incredibly hard this week to provide a supportive and calm environment for students to undertake their testing. They ran the huge logistical process like clockwork, processing students swiftly and safely.

And thank you to all parents and carers who have been supporting their children's remote learning. It is a huge undertaking to act as an auxiliary teacher alongside all your other responsibilities. You have done a fantastic job: albeit one we hope you do not have to do again any time soon.

### Testing over the coming weeks

On-site testing will continue for the next two weeks using the same schedule of days for each year group as follows:

|           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| Monday    | Years 11 and 13 |
| Tuesday   | Years 10 and 12 |
| Wednesday | Year 7          |
| Thursday  | Year 9          |
| Friday    | Year 8          |

Students will step out of their lessons, at their allotted tutor group time, to have their test in the Main Theatre. They will then return to their lesson once the test is complete. Should your child receive a positive result, we will contact you promptly so they can be collected to enter self-isolation as per the Public Health England guidelines.

We will move to home testing from the week of 29 March 2021. More details will follow, including how and who to report the tests results to, in due course.

### Key COVID-19 reminders

- Face Coverings – these must be worn on public/coach transport to and from school and in all indoor areas (except when directly eating/drinking) unless medically exempt.
- Contact tracing - A reminder that we will be continuing with contact tracing this means that close contacts of someone testing positive for COVID-19 will be identified and asked to complete a period of self-isolation.

## Outline plans for Examination Years

Teachers have been welcoming Years 11 and 13 back to the classroom this week and they have been reflecting on and feedback on the 'trial' exams these students sat back in January. A reminder that we have instructed staff not to give grade equivalents for these assessments, as to do so could be misleading.

From next week (Monday 15 March), until the end of this term, teachers will be teaching and revisiting key information, topics and material for their subject with their classes. During Term 5 Years 11 and 13 will undertake a number of assessments, relating to this material, which will help form our teacher assessments for the examination results in the summer.

Once we have more information in the upcoming weeks for these year groups, including leaving dates, we will of course update both students and parents. I respectfully ask parents not to contact teachers asking for predictions or grades for your child; the upcoming Parents' Evenings (Year 11 on 25 March and Year 13 on 31 March) will offer an opportunity to discuss your child's progress and we will share our process for awarding GCSE, AS, A Level and vocational grades in due course.

## Year 11 - After School Sessions

As additional support for Year 11 students in the period between now and the production of their forecast grades, we will be offering after school sessions.

These sessions will not be covering any additional content, but will offer support with the chosen content for their Term 5 assessments.

To comply with our COVID-19 risk assessment all students must sign up for the sessions.

The details of these sessions can be found on frog along with the sign up form (<https://frog.backwellschool.net/1877c60c4748041ebd1167b2742e5d33>)

It has been wonderful greeting students as they have returned to face-to-face teaching and we look forward to welcoming Year 8 back to the classroom on Monday.

Mr J Nunes  
Headteacher

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## OTHER MESSAGES ...

### Comic Relief – Friday 19 March

The last twelve months have been incredibly tough for all of us, but we're so proud of how our students have managed. As parents and carers, you've also had your lives turned upside down and we're so grateful for all of your efforts at home; which is why we're inviting you to enjoy Red Nose Day with us on **Friday 19 March 2021**.



We know there is a lot going on and things will look a bit different this year, but we can't wait to raise a smile and some life-changing money, to transform lives in the UK and around the world.

We are planning to hold a Non-Uniform Day on Friday 19 March and the school has decided to trial a new method of collecting Comic Relief donations this year. We are asking parents/students to make a donation (minimum donation amount is £1) via the attached link on our schools' ParentPay page. Any donations will go directly to Comic Relief itself via the following link:

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=2884>

While not everyone will be able to donate, we are all in this together so we'd love everyone to join us. Please put **Friday 19 March** in your diary and prepare to have some socially distanced fun. With massive thanks for all your support.

### **Year 7 Parents' Evening: Thursday 18 March**

Year 7 Parents' Evening bookings opened last night at 6.00 pm. Appointments can be made by [clicking here](#) to opening the booking system. You can find out more information about how to book and attend your appointments online in the [Year 7 Parents' Evening Letter](#). One thing to note is that, on this occasion, Mrs Hampson will be starting her appointments for French early at 3.30 pm rather than at 4.00 pm when the rest of parents' evening starts.

### **Instrumental Lessons ... a message from the Music Department**

We are very pleased to let you know that instrumental lessons will be resuming face-to-face at school as of Monday 15 March. If your son/daughter has been having remote lessons during lockdown, they will automatically be timetabled for next week.

If you didn't have lessons during lockdown for any reason, please let Mrs Cooper know as soon as possible whether you wish to resume next week, in the summer term, or not at all. All times will be up on the board in the Music Department in the coming days, so please encourage your son/daughter to check very carefully when and where their lessons will be.

Thank you for your ongoing support with instrumental lessons.

Victoria Cooper  
[vcooper@backwellschool.net](mailto:vcooper@backwellschool.net)

### **Year 11 and Year 13 Reports**

This is to let parents/carers know that reports for students in Years 11 and 13 will be issued in the post early next week and will also be available to view on the Parents' Portal at the same time.

The Parents' Portal can be accessed on Frog via: <https://froglearn.backwellschool.net/app/os#>

Please log on using your unique User Name and password. The report can then be found on the dashboard under 'My Child', 'Attainment'. You can find out more about how to access your Parent Portal account in the attached document 'A Guide to Accessing the Parent's Portal'.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school

## After-School Activities: Spring-Summer 2021

After-school activities will resume from Monday 15 March. The [Clubs and Courses Booklet](#) for Spring/Summer 2021 is now available to view on the school website.

Due to the pandemic, we will not be distributing hard copies of the booklet this term so please refer to the school website for the electronic version of the [booklet](#), where you will also find schedules for the [sports](#) and [performing arts](#) clubs. Just as a reminder, there is no need to re-enrol for clubs which are continuing on from last term. The **late bus** will be running at 4.30 pm as follows:

Monday – for students in Year 9  
Wednesday – for students Year 7  
Thursday – for students in Year 8

## Year 9 Vaccinations

You may remember that North Somerset School Nursing team were hoping to undertake the Year 9 Meningococcal ACWY and Diptheria/Polio and Tetanus vaccinations in school in January this year. However, these had to be postponed due to the lockdown. We are pleased to advise that vaccinations have now been rescheduled to take place on Tuesday 25 May and Wednesday 26 May 2021. Please note that all the consent forms that parents previously submitted have been kept in readiness, so there is no need to complete these again. If you did not complete a form and would like your child to receive the vaccination, you will find a copy attached which we would ask you to complete and return to Student Services.

## Exploitation Awareness for Parents - It can happen to my child!

Avon and Somerset Police are offering a couple of free online sessions on Exploitation Awareness to mark the National Day for Child Exploitation which takes place on 18 March 2021.

- Have you heard of CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation)?
- Do you know about County Lines?
- Do you know what Online Grooming and Exploitation is?

Maybe you would like to know more about all the above or some of the above. The prevention officer from TOPAZ exploitation team, Avon and Somerset Police is bringing you 60 minutes virtual awareness/guidance sessions.

This is a perfect opportunity to increase your awareness.

To book a place, please follow Eventbrite links below.

Tuesday 16 March 2021 at 7.00 pm (290 spaces available)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/child-exploitation-awareness-for-parents-it-can-happen-to-my-child-tickets-143071030303>

Friday 19 March 2021 – 7.00 pm (290 spaces available)

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/child-exploitation-awareness-for-parents-it-can-happen-to-my-child-tickets-143294211845>

## 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 \(12 March 2021\)](#)

If you have any queries regarding future plans Mrs Ball can be contacted on her school email [cball@backwellschool.net](mailto:cball@backwellschool.net).

## Upcoming Events

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Thursday 18 March  | <a href="#">Year 7 Parents' Evening</a>       |
| Friday 19 March    | Non-school uniform day in aid of Comic Relief |
| Thursday 25 March  | <a href="#">Year 11 Parents' Evening</a>      |
| Wednesday 31 March | Year 13 Parents' Evening                      |
| Thursday 1 April   | Last day of Term 4 (Inset moved to 5 March)   |
| Monday 19 April    | Start of Term 5                               |

## LETTERS HOME ...

[Sixth Form Bulletin for week commencing 15 March](#) - Parents/Carers of Sixth Form students

[Year 11 Parents' Evening Letter and Instructions](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 11 students

[Year 9 Geography Option - Virtual Work Experience Opportunity](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 9 students who have opted to study GCSE Geography from September 2021