



19 March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

It was wonderful to have all year groups back on the school site this week. The students continue to accept and follow the COVID-19 restrictions in place and are adapting well to the testing programme. We look forward to the return of other regular school activities; Year 10 have house matches next week and our clubs and courses are back up and running. [Click here](#) to view our latest clubs and courses booklet – some courses still have spaces.

Testing

The final week of in-school testing will take place next week following the same schedule as this week:

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

We have sent parents information separately on how we will facilitate the move to at-home lateral flow testing from 28 March; Click [here](#) to read the full details. Please ensure your child brings a plastic bag to school with them on their testing day next week to collect and carry their home testing kits.

Grading 2021

We continue to draw up plans for awarding grades to students taking GCSE, AS, A Level and Vocational qualifications this year. Once the exam boards have published their guidance later this month, we will complete our plans and share them with you. Teachers of year 11 and year 13 students will use the parents' evenings on March 25 and March 31 respectively to update parents and carers.

We have a few other key messages and notices or parents below.

Mr J Nunes
Headteacher

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OTHER MESSAGES ...

Year 11 Parents' Evening: Thursday 25 March

Year 11 Parents' Evening bookings opened on Wednesday night this week. 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 11 Parents' Evening Letter](#).

Out-of-Catchment Coach Service

A message for those parents who children use the out-of-catchment coach service ... payments have now been adjusted on ParentPay to take into account the school closure during Term 3 and the first half of Term 4. The adjusted amounts are detailed on your ParentPay accounts. The payment for the remainder of Term 4 is due now and the payment for Term 5 is due on 2 April. If you have any queries, please contact the Finance Office via finance@backwellschool.net

Comic Relief – Friday 19 March

As you are no doubt aware, today is [Comic Relief Day](#) with children wearing non-school uniform to raise funds for this much-needed charity. While we know not everyone will be able to donate, if you haven't yet made a donation (minimum donation amount is £1) you can do so via the attached link on our schools' ParentPay page. Any donations will go directly to Comic Relief itself via the following link. This link will be available for donations until Friday 26 March. Thank you to everyone for all your support.

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

Year 9 Data Check

Earlier this week all Year 9 parents were emailed a link to a data check exercise which parents were asked to complete online by **Wednesday 31 March 2021**. We conduct the data check in Years 9, 11 and 13 to ensure that our records of students' personal data are accurate. So if you are the parent of a Year 9 student and believe you did not receive the email, please contact school so that we can resend you the link.

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 \(19 March 2021\)](#)

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

Upcoming Events

Week beginning 22 March	Home testing kits to be issued to all students
Thursday 25 March	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Sunday 28 March	Start of Covid-19 testing at home
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 22 March](#) - Parents/Carers of Sixth Form students

[Home Test Kits](#) – All parents/carers

[Year 13 Parents' Evening: Wednesday 31 March](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 13 students