



1 April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for your support over this past term as we returned to school, and adapt to a regime of regular at home testing for both students and staff.

### **COVID-19 Testing – throughout the Easter Holidays**

Students are encouraged to continue at-home-testing throughout the Easter Break, preferably on a Sunday and Wednesday evening. Results are to be reported by parents to both the school (via the [Frog Parents' Portal](#)) and the NHS. Please [click here](#) for more information on the home testing process.

Should your child receive a positive test result for COVID-19 during the school holidays please inform us straight away by:

- Emailing [absence@backwellschool.net](mailto:absence@backwellschool.net). Please put COVID-19 positive result in the email subject.
- Please include your child's full name and tutor group. We would ask that you do not share the result on social media as it can cause panic and anxiety amongst other families.
- Also please inform us of the day your child first displayed symptoms, and the date they took the COVID-19 test in your email.
- A member of the senior leadership team may get in touch with you to ask some further questions.

All parents need to be aware that, as a school, we are required to 'track and trace' any cases within the student/staff body until Wednesday 8 April. This means that we may have to get in touch with families in the first few days of the Easter holidays if we have confirmation of any positive cases which will require others to go into self-isolation.

The absence email shown above will be regularly monitored over this six-day period by senior members of staff. We will ensure it is checked by **11.00 am** and **5.30 pm** every day up to and including 8 April. Please try to email by these times wherever possible.

## **COVID-19 Testing - For those with symptoms**

Confirmation that should your child be displaying symptoms of COVID-19 please do not use an at-home-testing device, you must book them in for a PCR test.

Guidance on self-isolation and testing for those with symptoms can be found on the [NHS website](#).

## **Face Masks**

As you are aware, since Monday 8 March, the [Government guidance for schools](#) outlines the wearing of face masks in lessons, where a 2m social distance cannot be observed. The guidance states “These measures will continue to be in place until Easter. As with all measures, we will keep it under review and update guidance at that point”. At time of writing we have not had any further updates or information from the Department for Education.

Our students have adapted well to this COVID-19 control measure and should expect to continue to wear a face masks in all indoor areas at school until we can confirm otherwise. We will of course inform students and parents of any changes to our Risk Assessment in Term 5.

## **Assessment and Grading Update for Exam Year Groups**

We emailed all parents with children in Years 11, 12 and 13 earlier today with an update relating to assessment and grading. Please [click here](#) to view a copy of this information.

## **Year 11 and Year 13 Balls**

We currently have provisional dates for both of these end of year celebration events for Year 11 and Year 13. We are currently in conversation with the venues, and our insurance company, to ensure that running these events will be safe for all attending. We also need to find out more about the cancellation/postponement policies for these events if required. Whilst the government roadmap for reopening suggests that events such as these can take place from 21 June, this is still not yet confirmed, and hospitality have not yet received any guidance on reopening restrictions they may need to put in place.

Please be assured that these conversations are being held to ensure that if we can offer these events to our students it is without putting anyone at risk; financially or health wise.

I would like to wish you all a very Happy Easter.

Mr J Nunes  
Headteacher

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## **OTHER MESSAGES ...**

### **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 continuing to offer after school sessions.

These sessions will not be covering any additional content but will be offering 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 the Term 5 sessions can be found on Frog along with the sign up form: (<https://frog.backwellschool.net/1877c60c4748041ebd1167b2742e5d33>)

### **Student Wellbeing**

Just to let you know, the Wellbeing page on the student page of Frog has been updated to include:

1. Tips for students to looking after themselves and how to help others.
2. For our students with assessments Term 5 - a guide to wellbeing and revision.
3. A new 'Tips and Tricks' section set up by Beth in Year 11 - we want students to post wellbeing ideas of their own and share feel-good tips with others.
4. Some new apps suggestions.

### **Walk for Wellspring**

Over the past couple of years the school has been very fortunate to have benefitted from having a Wellspring counsellor available to talk students, and especially so during this challenging year. Wellspring also sees a large number of young people and adults in Nailsea and the surrounding area and the demand for their counselling services is likely to grow further as we emerge from lockdown.

Nailsea and Backwell Rotary Club run Charity Walks event in June each year supporting a number of local charities and [Wellspring Counselling](#) is one of the charities who will benefit from the funds raised. Walking has become quite popular during lockdown and we are lucky to have some beautiful scenery in North Somerset that these routes will pass through .... We all know how beneficial walking is for our physical and mental health! So we would like to encourage students, staff, and their families to participate in this fundraising event and in doing so, help themselves and help Wellspring Counselling to continue to help others.

<https://www.rotary-ribi.org/clubs/page.php?PgID=828176&ClubID=613>

## 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 \(1 April 2021\)](#)

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

Monday 19 April	Start of Term 5
25 and 26 May	Year 9 Meningitis (MenACWY) and Diphtheria/Typhoid and Polio (DPT) vaccinations

## LETTERS HOME ...

[Sixth Form Bulletin for week commencing 19 April](#) - Parents/Carers of Sixth Form students

[Assessments and Grading \(GCSE, AS, A Level and vocational qualifications\)](#) – Parents/Carers of students in Years 11, 12 and Year 13

[Year 10 GCSE PE - PEP Deadline](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 10 GCSE PE students