Backwell School

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Headteacher: Will Penny BSc Hons, NPQH

21st September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 7 Baseline Assessment

I am writing to inform you that during this term your child will take a series of short tests on computer, usually referred to as the MidYIS baseline assessment. MidYIS is an established assessment designed by the Centre for Evaluating and Monitoring at Durham University; it is taken by students in over 1800 secondary schools nationally.

The assessment is comprised of vocabulary, maths, non-verbal and skills tests. All tests contribute to an overall measure of ability and aptitude for learning that strongly predicts future achievement. They will therefore help us to monitor your child's progress and to ensure that they reach – and exceed – their potential. The results can also be used to identify students' individual strengths and weaknesses, inform teaching, identify gifted students and help identify students who would benefit from extra support.

No revision or preparation is necessary for the assessment, and it is best taken on an ordinary day without students feeling nervous. The entire assessment can be completed in less than one hour. The results are not made public in any way, either on an individual student basis or as a school. However, we will be happy to provide your child's results to you on request.

Please feel free to contact me here at school if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely

Mrs C Mason
Deputy Headteacher

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