



Dear Parents/Carers

As we reach the end of the first week of Term 1 I am very proud of how our staff and students have adapted to the return to school and the new health and safety measures in place. This week has been very positive, and it has been lovely to see our school filled with students again.

A reminder that you can find all the information about how the school is currently operating by visiting our dedicated [webpage](#).

We are continuing to monitor and adapt how the school currently runs and there are a few reminders and things we would like to clarify with parents this week:

Face Coverings

Students and staff are to wear face coverings when in corridors and indoor communal areas of the school site. Should your child be unable to wear a face covering in these circumstances, or should your child feel the need to wear a face covering in addition to our expectations, parents will need to request an individual risk assessment for their child from the school. All students must wear a face covering on coaches, buses or trains to and from school - This is the law.

Our supply of spare face coverings is being quickly depleted. Please ensure that your child has their face covering with them and potentially a spare as well, as we are finding many students report to us with broken face coverings. Should a child repeatedly require a new mask because they have forgotten or broken theirs we will have to charge parents for the replacement.

Travelling to and from School

Cyclists and pedestrians travelling to school via the A370 (for example those using the 'Park and Stride' locations at The George and The Rising Sun), should be using the pedestrian gate at the top of the school site, next to Backwell Leisure Centre. There are yellow footprints on the pavement to highlight the route to follow.

We are aware that there have been a small number of teething issues with home-to-school transport this week. We have spoken to the local authority, whose responsibility it is to organise and run this service, and I am satisfied these issues have now been resolved.

Sadly we have already been made aware of students behaving in a silly or dangerous manner on the coach to and from school. I would like to remind parents that students must wear their face covering for the duration of their journey. If students are found to be removing their face covering or behaving in an unacceptable manner their transport provision will be withdrawn.

Future Remote Learning Arrangements

In the event of a whole year group or the whole school being sent home we would revert to our remote learning provision. Pupils not in school would follow their existing time table and all lessons would be taught using Microsoft Teams. Students in Years 7 and 12 who have not used Microsoft Teams will receive training during tutor time next week. All students will be reminded in tutor time about the expectations of learning remotely.

Year 8 and Year 10 Toilets

We quickly became aware this week that there were not enough toilets available to Year 8 students. Therefore we have thoroughly cleaned and changed the allocation of toilets to allow Year 8 students to use the toilets both upstairs (boys) and downstairs (girls) in the MFL block. Year 10 students may no longer use the toilets in MFL, instead they can use the toilets in Mendip House both at Break 1 and Break 2. Year 10 access to Mendip is through the door into Mendip Common Room opposite the Modern Languages block. We have updated our site map to reflect this change. Students in these year groups will be issued with updated maps on Monday.

Purchasing and Consumption of Food

Students in Years 7 to 10 have only one opportunity to purchase food during the school day (either Break 1 or Break 2 as per their [year group schedule](#)) and we do encourage packed lunches at the current time. However they are able to eat during either break period. If they are eating their lunch/snack in their dedicated outdoor areas students need to be mindful of the environment, and the school site, by putting their rubbish in the bin and not littering/dropping food.

PE Kit – Jumpers

A reminder that on days on when your child has PE they should wear their PE kit to school. This means that your child can wear any item on the PE uniform kit list, plus their school jumper, coat and either black sports leggings or black sports tracksuit bottoms (with branding as discrete as possible) for warmth.

We are aware that our black Backwell School PE hooded jumper is out of stock with our uniform supplier. Once our new look Backwell School PE zip-up top is in stock for purchase we will let parents know – we hope this will be available within the next two weeks.

Year 12 and Year 13 Home Study

We emailed all parents of students in Years 12 and 13 yesterday (Thursday 9 September) and we can now confirm that we are amending our home-study policy for Sixth Form Students.

As of Monday 14 September, Backwell Sixth Form students will only be required to be on the school site when they have tutor time, a lesson, supervised study or if a member of staff has made an appointment with them. Students are however welcome to study on the school site in their allocated study spaces if this is their preference. Year 12 are expected to study in the Sixth Form Common Room and Year 13 in the Library. We would remind students and parents/carers that it is imperative that they adhere to our risk assessment and wear masks in these communal spaces when they are not eating or drinking, and that in study time they sit facing in one direction, as they do in lessons. Students will have access to cleaning materials to wipe down the study space that they have been using.

We will be carefully monitoring student progress and if we are concerned that your child is not using home study productively to complete their academic studies, then we may revoke their home study privileges and expect them to study in school under our supervision. If you are concerned about your child studying at home, or feel that this is not appropriate for any reason, please contact their tutor and Head of Year in the first instance, as we may be able to add supervised study to their timetable. Conversely, if your child is in Year 13 and is not entitled to home study, please contact Mr Lewis if you would like to discuss this. A small number of students only have tutor time and no other lessons in a day. If this is the case, please contact their Head of Year to discuss their timetable if you foresee any reason for your child not being able to attend their tutor session. We believe it is essential that students attend tutor time wherever possible, as they will be given important notices, meet regularly with their tutor(s) and take part in PSHE and Future Plans activities etc.

Students who are entering/leaving the school site when they are not in a lesson will need to sign in/out in their respective home study folders. For Year 12 this is located in the Sixth Form foyer and for Year 13 this is located in the library, at the entrance to LB2. Students will need to use their lanyards at the main school gate to enter and exit the site. Please can we ask you to reiterate the importance of wearing a lanyard to your child, not only for access to the school site but also for safeguarding purposes as this allows any member of staff to identify them as a Backwell student.

Year 7 Flu Vaccinations

All Year 7 students should by now have brought home information about the flu vaccination programme that is being made available for all Year 7 secondary school-aged children, together with a Flu Immunisation Consent Form 2020/21. The vaccination is due to be administered by North Somerset School Nursing Team here at school on Thursday 1 October. Completed consent forms should be returned to the Student Services office. Student Services have a stock of spare forms in the event you need another one.

Year 10 Booster Vaccinations

Last year's Year 9 students were due to have booster vaccinations at school last March for Diphtheria, Polio, Tetanus and Meningitis C which would fully protect them against these diseases into adulthood. However, this was cancelled when we went into lockdown. The North Somerset School Nursing Team have advised that they will be in school on Thursday 17 September vaccinate Year 10 students who were unable to get to a clinic over the summer holidays. If your child has not yet had their booster there is no need to complete a consent form, the Student Services team have retained the ones completed earlier in the year. If, however, you are not sure whether you completed a consent form you can always send in another. A copy of the form is attached to this email.

Collecting children for an appointment during the school day

If your child has an appointment during the school day, eg with a doctor or orthodontist, parents will be allowed on site to collect them. We would ask that you notify our Student Services office in advance by emailing absence@backwellschool.net giving details of the appointment and the collection time/leaving arrangements. On arrival at the main school gate, please buzz for entry and expect to be asked your name and reason by our Reception team. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

Instrumental and Vocal Lessons Autumn 2020

We are pleased to let you know that instrumental and vocal lessons will be starting again from Monday 14 September. Measures are in place to ensure these lessons are in large, well ventilated rooms and cleaning will be taking place in the same way as classrooms.

We are finalising timetables this week so would like to remind parents that, unless they contacted the school to cancel lessons last term, all lessons will carry on into the new term. If you would still like to cancel, please contact both the Finance Office and Mrs Cooper in the Music Department as soon as possible.

Locations, times, and days are all different from last year, so please encourage pupils having lessons to check the timetables board during the first week of term.

The instrument cupboards will still be in use, but we will operate a one-in-one-out policy to access these rooms. Hand sanitiser and masks should be used whilst doing this.

Parents of new Year 7 pupils who have applied for lessons, should already have received an email from Mrs Cooper (Head of Music) explaining options for lessons and how these will be timetabled. If this is not the case, please contact Mrs Cooper (Vcooper@backwellschool.net) as soon as possible.

If anyone would like to apply for lessons starting in January 2021, please also contact Mrs Cooper (Vcooper@backwellschool.net).

Performing Arts Extra Curricular Opportunities Autumn 2020

There will be several Music, Dance and Drama after school clubs running from Monday 14 September. Please see the timetable attached.

	Music	Drama/Dance
MON	Year 12 Choir (Miss Caldwell) in MU1 – 15 spaces Year 9 Music Technology Club (Mr Salida/Mrs Cooper) in MU3 – 20 spaces	Year 9 Miss Merry - 20 spaces in SFT
TUES		
WED	Year 7 Choir (Miss Caldwell) in MU1/DTH – 15 spaces Year 11 Band (Mr Salida) in MU2	Year 7 Miss Johnson – 20 spaces in SFD
THURS	Year 8 Band (Mrs Cooper) in MU2 – 15 spaces	Year 8 Miss Picton – 20 spaces in SFT Year 8 Miss Hayward – 20 spaces in SFD
FRI	Year 13 Choir (Mrs Cooper) in MU1 – 15 spaces	

Pupils have been asked to email the lead teacher to register their interest. Please ensure they have done this before turning up next week. They will get a reply confirming their place and then should come straight to the room of the club at the end of the day.

Clubs run from 3.15 - 4.15pm. The late bus will be running at 4.30 pm for Year 7 (Wednesday), Year 8 (Thursday) and Year 9 (Monday). Please ensure your child is able to get home from school safely at 4.30 pm.

We will cater the groups to the abilities of the pupils' involved, so welcome instrumentals and singers in any of the Music sessions!

Covid-19 precautions:

- Sessions are Year Group specific in a cleaned space supervised by a member of staff at all times.
- Singing will be in large ventilated spaces in very small groups.
- Instruments will either be the pupil's own or designated to that group only.
- Hand sanitiser and cleaning will take place at the start and end as per lessons.

A message from the Library Please return all Library Books

For safety reasons, the Library is only open for Year 13 students at present, both as their Private Study Area and Social Space. However, we are planning to offer access to our resources for all other students, via a Click & Collect system and an ebook platform. More information on this will follow shortly.

In the meantime we would very much like to collect in all the books that are out on loan right now. We issued a lot of library books in the lead up to Lockdown, which we hope our students enjoyed and made good use of. Students are now able to place them in our Collection Point, just inside the main Library entrance. We would be grateful if you could ensure items are gathered together ready for your children to return next week.

Jon Nunes
Headteacher

LETTERS HOME

[Year 7 Mathematics Setting](#) - Parents/Carers of Year 7 students

[English Key Stage 3 - Home Learning Scheme](#) – Parents/Carers of students in Years 7, 8 and 9

[Year 7 - Home Learning and Parents' Portal](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 7 students

[GCSE Art and Design 2020-2022](#) - Parents/Carers of Year 10 Art and Design students

[GCSE Photography Contribution 2020-2022](#) - Parents/Carers of Year 10 Photography students

[A Level Art, Craft and Design 2020-21 \(Year 2\)](#) - Parents/Carers Year 13 Art, Craft and Design students

[A Level Art, Craft and Design 2020-21 \(Year 1\)](#) – Parents/Carers Year 12 Art, Craft and Design students

[A Level Photography 2020-21 \(Year 1\)](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 12 Photography students

[Change to GCSE History for Summer 2021 Examinations](#) - Parents/Carers of Year 11 History students

[Geography GCSE and A Level Changes for Summer 2021 Examinations](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 11 GCSE and Year 13 Geography students