



Dear Parents/Carers

Please find below this week's parents' email of notices, letters home and updates.

We have a number of clarifications and updates surrounding the school operating in the current pandemic situation. They are:

Contingency Planning

Parents may be aware that a number of schools in the local area have had to quarantine groups of students due to positive COVID-19 tests in their school communities.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents of our plans for this situation should it occur here at Backwell School. Please be assured that we are in regular contact with the Department for Education and Public Health England and they will support us in this event.

Should we be in the situation in which we have to instruct a whole year group bubble to isolate/quarantine all learning would automatically move online. All timetabled lessons would still take place via Microsoft Teams.

We will provide guidance for students in Year 7 and Year 12 on how to access Frog, remote learning and use Microsoft TEAMS for virtual lessons in tutor time in the coming days.

Reporting absences to the school

If your child is unwell, or is unable to attend school, please ensure you report this to us; either email absence@backwellschool.net or call 01275 464188 with full details for the reason of absence and an expected return date.

If your child is unable to attend school for a few days as they are isolating awaiting a COVID 19 test result please inform us of this. We are unable to set work for your child in this situation (as is also the case if your child is absent from school for a few days for any other illness for example an upset stomach) but if they are feeling well enough they can complete their home learning, use Frog to access other curriculum resources and activities or use the nationwide resources such as the [BBC](#) or the [Oak National Academy](#).

If your child is required to be absent from school in quarantine for an extended period of time (for example following a positive test result in your household) please inform us of this, and their expected return date. Guidance on isolation and quarantine can be found [here](#). In this situation your child (if well enough) should regularly check Frog and their school emails for work to be completed.

Masks

According to our Covid-19 risk assessment, students and staff must wear a face covering in all indoor communal spaces (with the exception of those who have informed us of a medical exemption). It has

therefore been important that we provide spare face coverings for any student who has forgotten or broken theirs. We have been absorbing the cost of these face coverings since the start of term, but can no longer afford to do this.

With effect from Thursday 17 September, if your child needs us to provide a mask, we will be sending them home with a note for your attention requesting a £2 payment. This should be returned to school reception as soon as possible in a sealed envelope with your child's name and tutor group written on the front. These masks are washable and reusable so are yours to keep from thereon.

Thank you for your understanding on this matter.

Financial Cost of Covid-19

There is a huge amount of cost associated with keeping the students and staff safe during the Covid 19 pandemic. Please take a moment to read the letter below. In it we have detailed all the essential measures that the school has put in place so far, as well as other options that the school would like to be able to provide going forward ... and how parents can help!

[Covid-19 and School Fund 2020-21](#)

Social Time – allocated spaces and ball games

A reminder that all students must spend their outdoor social time in the allocated year group areas. Whilst the weather remains good each year group bubble has access to an area of the school fields, which can be used during their break when they are not allocated use of the canteen. They also have a dedicated outside space, which can be used during both break times. A map detailing these spaces can be found [here](#).

Children are not allowed to play ball games and children should not bring balls (for any sport, football, rugby, tennis etc.) with them. Should a student been seen playing with a ball they will be sent to the Behaviour Support Room (BSR) and the ball will be confiscated.

Travelling to and from school

North Somerset Council have been carefully monitoring all forms of traffic to and from the School over the past few weeks. Please can we remind parents to read our guidance for [Transportation document](#) and adhere to the local traffic enforcement measures in place.

They were delighted to see that the 'Park and Stride' locations are being used, and remind parents must not use Backwell Leisure Centre or surrounding roads (for example The Crescent) as a drop off/pick up point.

Confirmation that cyclists need to dismount their bike at Meadow Close and need to walk it onto the school site and they should not be cycling on the pavement or listening to music. The Highway Code for cyclists can be found [here](#).

Year 7 Flu Vaccinations

A reminder that Year 7 students are due to have their flu vaccination on Thursday 1 October. North Somerset School Nursing Team will be coming into school to give the vaccination and will require a completed immunisation consent form in order to do so. If you would like your child to have the

vaccination and have not yet returned a completed consent form, please ensure you do so by **Friday 25 September at the latest**. Student Services have spare information packs/forms in the event you need another one. Alternatively, a copy of the consent form is attached.

INSET Day – Friday 25 September

A reminder that Friday 25 September is an Inset Day and school will be closed for staff training.

A message from the Library Please return all Library Books

Many thanks to all those families who have returned Library Books to us this week. We will be working through them on Monday after 72 hours quarantine so that they are back on the shelves for our new library services next week. For those still with outstanding books, our Returns Box is in the main Library entrance. Students just need to post their books in.

We are now promoting our new 'Click and Collect' Service to all students. They can log into our Library Reading Cloud Catalogue and reserve books electronically, which will be delivered a few days later (some may have to wait until books are returned from another reader). Our catalogue is also on the iMLS app which can be downloaded and used in the same way. Instructions and links are on the Library Frog Page. You will also find a Request Form for new books there.

Library staff are also more than happy to help ... you can email them on:

librarystaff@backwellschool.net

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 \(18 September 2020\)](#)

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

And Finally Please find below information sent in by David Troy, a researcher at the University of Bristol, about a course he is running, which we are pleased to pass on to parents/carers who may be interested in taking part.

Raising a Resilient Child Course

My name is David Troy. I am a researcher in the University of Bristol interested in improving young people's mental health.

I am running a project that is evaluating an online resilience building course for parents/caregivers of Year 7 - 9 children which will be delivered by a charity called 'Bounce Forward'. They have over ten years' experience of delivering resilience training to parents, teachers and students. You can check out their website here (<https://bounceforward.com>) and details of the course here (<https://bounceforward.com/raise-resilience>). The cost of the course is normally £2,400, however, this is being covered by my research funders, so it's **free** to parents/carers.

Parent involvement would greatly aid my research and help me understand how to develop the resilience of parents and their children and improve the mental health of all. The course will hopefully be beneficial for them and their family.

Parents who have previously attended the course had the following things to say about their experience:

“The course provided you with skills and ideas, concepts to aid your children in their emotional development and allowed me to reconnect with my family and it reminded me that I am a role model and I do matter.”

“A course that focusses on your experiences and helps identify strengths and positives, and gives techniques for supporting your own resilience and that of your children.”

“A very hands-on course where you can share as much as you like, knowing that there are others dealing with the same situations as you.”

Commitment involved in participating in the research project will include:

- Attend six course sessions.
- Parent and their Year 7 - 9 child(ren) complete questionnaires on resilience and wellbeing before and after the course.
- Parent to fill out a course evaluation form.
- Parent to participate in an online interview with me (David Troy) to discuss how the course went, what you learned, etc. (Not all parents will be asked to do this).

Information sheets for parents and their child(ren) are attached detailing what is involved if they decide to participate in the research project. Parents who participate in the research project can be reimbursed up to £50 for their involvement and their child(ren) £10 each.

The online course will run on the following evenings from 6.00 – 7.30 pm:

Wednesday 23 September

Wednesday 30 September

Wednesday 7 October

Wednesday 14 October

Tuesday 20 and Wednesday 21 October

If any parents are interested in attending the course, please email David Troy on david.troy@bristol.ac.uk. He is available over the weekend to answer any questions you may have.

LETTERS HOME

[Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Expedition \(10 - 11 October 2020\)](#) – Parents/Carers of students taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Assessed Expedition

[Covid-19 and School Fund 2020-21](#) – All Parents/Carers

[Sixth Form Bulletin w/c 21 September 2020](#) – Parents/Carers of Sixth Form students

[Home Learning and Parents Portal](#) – Parents/Carers of new Year 12 students