



Dear Parents/Carers

You will be aware that we were informed of our first positive COVID-19 case in the school community this week. Due to the size of the school we are not surprised that this has happened, and we expect to see more in the coming weeks/months. I would like to take this opportunity to reassure parents, and pupils, that the school is following the existing guidance for non-clinical settings and we have clear precautions in place in the school and the vast majority of students have been excellent in following these. Clearly the confirmation of a positive case makes it even more important that every member of the community meets these expectations. As a reminder, students should:

- wash hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds.
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available.
- wash hands as soon as you get home.
- cover mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash hands or sanitise afterwards.

As you are aware, students are expected to wear face coverings (unless exempt) when in corridors, in indoor communal areas and on transport (coach, bus or train) to school.

For those who are now required to self-isolate this does extend beyond attending school. It also includes:

- do not go to school or public places.
- do not go on public transport or use taxis.
- do not go out to get food and medicine – order it online or by phone, or ask someone to bring it to your home.
- do not have visitors in your home, including friends and family – except for people providing essential care.
- do not go out to exercise – exercise at home or in your garden, if you have one

Full guidance on self-isolation from the NHS can be found [here](#).

The NHS have also released new advice for parents this week on deciding whether you should apply for a test for your child. This can be found [here](#).

MESSAGES

Autumn weather – please be prepared

This week we have seen the weather begin to turn more autumnal, including sharp rain showers and colder mornings. Please do speak to your child and ensure they are appropriately dressed for their day at school. A number of students were not wearing coats on a rather wet day earlier this week. Students are not able to enter school buildings before 8.50 am, and as many are now walking and cycling to school, they are spending more time outside. Also a reminder that students should bring their school jumper with them as classrooms will have windows open for ventilation.

We do have plans in place to offer dedicated spaces for specific year group bubbles should the weather be particularly unpleasant. Staff will be made aware on days in which 'wet weather' plans will apply so that they can inform students accordingly.

Contact details

If you have moved house, changed your phone number or email address over the past few months please email us so that we have the correct contact details for you on our system. You can inform us of an update via Frog or by emailing studentservices@backwellschool.net

Virtual Open Evening

Our virtual Open Evening for parents/carers of Year 6 pupils will be available to view on our website from 4.00 pm on Monday 28 September. It will include video tours of the school, a welcome from our Headteacher and information on our curriculum areas and the admissions process. If you have young children in Year 6 you may like to take a look. Also please feel free to make friends/family members aware if they also have children currently choosing a secondary school.

Lost Property

Due to the size of the school and the number of students we have, it's important to name all belongings clearly so that in the event they are misplaced, they can find their way back to their owner easily.

We have a huge amount of unnamed and unclaimed items located outside of Student Services. Many of these items have been there for a number of months prior to and since lockdown.

In the current climate, it is not appropriate for large amounts of unclaimed items to be left in the school. Therefore we kindly ask any student thinks they have an item in the Lost Property area, to please come along and collect it before **Friday 16 October**, after which time the items will all be permanently removed.

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter

Wellspring Support Group for Young People

Wellspring Counselling are planning to run a free virtual 'Mind and Mood' group for students aged 11 – 18 who live or go to school in North Somerset.

This 'Mind and Mood' group involves learning techniques to help manage mood and anxiety based on Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) principles, as well as practicing mindfulness and setting individual goals based on what the young person would like to achieve.

The group is suitable for children with mild to moderate symptoms of anxiety and/or low mood. A thorough risk assessment will be completed with the student over the phone prior to the start to ensure their safety and suitability for the group.

The group sessions will be held every Thursday on Zoom from 4.00 pm – 5.30 pm starting on Thursday 8 October for six weeks. Please note, there will be a week-long break for half-term halfway through so the final session will be Thursday 19 October. Ideally, the young person should try to attend all six sessions.

There are only 12 spaces available so if you are interested, please see the attached poster for details on how to book a place.

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 Information \(25 September 2020\)](#)

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

Upcoming Events

Monday 28 September	Virtual Open Evening for parents/carers of Year 6 students
Thursday 1 October	Year 7 Flu vaccinations
Thursday 8 October	Year 7 Meet the Tutors Virtual Parents' Evening (information coming soon)

LETTERS HOME

[Covid-10 Case - Information for the school community](#) – All Parents/Carers

[Year 10 Child Development - Parenting Manikin Consent](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 10 Child Development students

[GCSE Food and Nutrition - Year 11](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 11 GCSE Food and Nutrition students

[Years 7, 8 and 9 - Food and Nutrition](#) – Parents/Carers of students in Years 7, 8 and 9

[A Level Geography - 'Geography Review'](#) - Parents/Carers of Year 12 Geography students

[A Level Geography - Supporting Textbooks](#) - Parents/Carers of Year 12 Geography students

[Year 11 OCR Sports Studies Course](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 11 OCR Sports Studies students

[Year 7 Baseline Assessment MidYIS](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 7 students

[Year 13 Mathematics Resources \(Sept 2020\)](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 13 Mathematics students

[Year 12 Mathematics Resources \(Sept 2020\)](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 12 Mathematics students