



Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to start this week's email with a big thank you to all the parents who have sent us kind words of encouragement over the past few weeks. To receive these messages of support acknowledging the hard work of staff at Backwell and thanking us for our communication with parents and carers has been greatly appreciated. I have not had the opportunity to reply directly to all of your emails, but would like you to know that have provided a much needed boost to school morale at a challenging time.

I would like to say a further 'thank you' for the incredibly generous donations totalling nearly £3000 to our COVID-19 fund. This, together with another £3,000 kindly allocated by the BSA from their reserves means we can now begin planning and procuring some of the things we would like to improve around the school. Whilst this is a great start, and we have now purchased five new marquees to increase our 'wet weather' capacity, there is still a lot more we would like to do to improve the suitability of our outdoor spaces for students as winter approaches. The letter outlining our plans, and giving details on how to donate, can be found [here](#). If you haven't yet donated and plan to do so, we would ask that when you are on ParentPay and have selected 'Covid-19 Donation' please make sure you select the second option box the 'choose payment amount' and enter the amount you wish to donate yourself, rather than the first option box, which is 'pay full amount (£50.00)'. We would like to stress that this is a voluntary donation and all donations are very gratefully received!

I do have a few things I would like to confirm and clarify to parents and students this week:

Wet weather and cooler classrooms

We have asked parents to ensure that their child is appropriately dressed for the day at school; this includes ensuring they have their school jumper with them and are bringing a suitable coat to school. We are having to ventilate classrooms (windows and doors open) meaning they could be cooler than normal.

Whilst we have begun putting the heating on, I am aware that some students will still feel the cold. I can confirm that students can wear a plain white/nude colour t-shirt or vest under their polo shirt as an additional layer. They should also wear their school jumper if cold. Should a teacher feel the classroom is on the cool side they will allow students to wear their coats. This decision will be made by the teacher, using their professional judgement.

This week we have used our current plans for wet weather during Break 1 and 2. A reminder that students must be wearing face coverings in indoor social spaces, which includes a common room during wet weather. Those who refuse to wear a face covering

without good reason will be subject to sanctions under our behaviour policy. I am expecting to review our arrangements again over the coming weeks, especially when our school fields can no longer be used.

We will of course communicate any changes in these areas to you all.

Parents' Evenings

We are beginning to prepare for Parents' Evenings which begin this term. Due to COVID-19 these meetings cannot currently be held face-to-face in school, however our parents evening online booking system has a video call feature which we will be utilising instead. We will be training staff over the next few weeks so that they are familiar with the new software in advance of these evenings.

Parents will be given instructions on using the system as part of the letter home informing them of upcoming parent's evenings for their child.

Next Thursday 8 October is the Year 7 'Meet the Tutor Evening' – I know our Year 7 tutors are looking forward to speaking to you all about how your child is settling in. We have also created a number of videos covering topics such as the Maths, English and Science curriculum, as well as one for our Frog Parents' Portal which we will make available on the school website from 8 October. The letter detailing the arrangements for this evening can be found [here](#).

Jon Nunes
Headteacher

OTHER MESSAGES ...

PE Kit – Jumpers

I would like to confirm that the new PE zip up top is not a compulsory piece of PE uniform. It is an optional item which students may choose to wear during PE lessons if they feel the cold.

We have been very clear to parents, on how PE kit is to be worn for this academic year (details were [emailed out](#) over the summer and is included on our September re-opening webpage) and our full uniform list and expectations are clearly detailed, and always have been, on our [website](#).

There was a two-week period in which Backwell School logo PE hoodies were not available for purchase, as they were out of stock. We informed parents of this in the email home on Friday 11 September. As promised we updated parents that the new PE zip-up fleece-lined top was now on sale earlier this week.

At no point have we informed parents that a plain black hoodie/zip-up top was a suitable alternative and they are not part of our school uniform. I can confirm that if your child requires an additional layer for PE from Term 2 onwards they can wear either:

- a Backwell School logo PE hoodie (if they already have one)
- a Backwell School logo zip-up, fleece-lined, mid layer top
- a Backwell School logo long-sleeve rugby top

Mr C Budd

Curriculum Leader for PE

Catering Provision at School

We are pleased to announce that processes are now all in place to enable our caterers, Aspens, expand their hot food offering and provide students with more choice from the canteens at both break times. You can view their revised menu by clicking on the following link: [Catering Menu – October 2020](#)

Backwell School Association – Notice of AGM

On Thursday 22 October the BSA (Backwell School PTA) plan to hold their Annual General Meeting at 4.00 pm online via Microsoft Teams. All parents and carers are welcome to attend and more information on how to join the meeting will follow in due course.

Cycling to School

We have received a number of complaints this week from concerned members of the public about students cycling to school. They have reported that students are cycling dangerously, in groups taking up the whole road, pulling 'wheelies', and listening to music via headphones. Should you allow your child to cycle to school please ensure they abide by the [Highway Code](#). We also strongly recommend that they wear a helmet and suitable hi-visibility/reflective clothing as the days shorten for their own safety.

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 \(2 October 2020\)](#)

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

Upcoming Events

Thursday 8 October	Year 7 Meet the Tutors Virtual Parents' Evening
Thursday 22 October	Year 13 Parents' Evening (further information to follow)
Thursday 12 November	Sixth Form Virtual Open Evening

LETTERS HOME

[Sixth Form Bulletin \(w/c 5 October\)](#) – Parents/Carers of Sixth Form students

[Year 7 Meet the Tutor Parents' Evening](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 7 students