



Dear Parents/Carers

You will be aware that we had our second positive COVID-19 result within the school this week. As a result 35 Sixth Form students are now self-isolating. Whilst rates in the South West are lower than in other parts of the country we all need to continue to be vigilant and follow government guidelines so that we can keep the school community as healthy and safe as possible. We continue to develop our remote learning provision, but clearly classroom based learning with direct teacher support and expertise is the optimum situation for all our pupils.

I have a few things I would like to bring to your attention this week.

#### **Reminder: COVID-19 absence from school**

Please do not send your child(ren) to school if they are displaying [symptoms of COVID-19](#), or if someone in your household is displaying symptoms or awaiting the results of a COVID-19 test. Advice on [self-isolation](#), and when to [request a test](#) from the NHS may be helpful.

If your child is unable to attend school for a few days as they are isolating awaiting a COVID-19 test (either for themselves or a household member) result please inform us of this by either calling on 01275 464188 or emailing [absence@backwellschool.net](mailto:absence@backwellschool.net)

#### **Coach transport to and from school**

I was very disappointed to receive further complaints about poor behaviour of students on the coaches to and from school. Misbehaviour on the bus will be dealt with and can result in this provision being removed from those involved.

I would also like to remind parents and students that face coverings must be worn (unless exempt) for the entirety of the journey. Those not doing so will not be able to continue to use home-to-school transport.

We have also received reports this week from parents concerned that a few bus drivers are not wearing face coverings correctly; thank you for this feedback, it has been raised with the transport providers.

We continue to be in contact with North Somerset Council regarding Home-to-School transport to see what further changes and improvements can be made in relation to year group specific transport.

Incredibly generous parental donations means that the COVID-19 school fund has reached over £4000. I am pleased to report that our order of gazebos, paid for from these contributions, have arrived. They will offer additional shelter during wet weather for each year group bubble. If you would like to contribute to this fund please [click here](#) for more details.

I would like to wish the 80 Year 10 students undertaking their assessed Duke of Edinburgh expedition this weekend the best of luck. The weather forecast certainly looks drier than last weekend! Thank you to the staff who are supporting this activity across Saturday and Sunday.

*Mr J Nunes*  
*Headteacher*

## **OTHER MESSAGES ...**

### **Clubs and Courses at School**

The school's Autumn/Winter clubs and activities will be starting after half term. The Clubs Booklet will be distributed via Tutor sessions next week Thursday.

Fee-paying clubs will go live on ParentPay at 3.30 pm on Friday 16 October. There are limited places; payment on ParentPay will serve as registration for the club.

To register interest for the free clubs, please email [bgibson-patteux@backwellschool.net](mailto:bgibson-patteux@backwellschool.net) in Student Services providing the following information:

**Name and Tutor Group**  
**Club preferences**  
**Whether a place on the late bus is required**

Further information:

- Clubs will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Clubs will operate in year group bubbles and may be on alternate weeks to accommodate multiple year groups.
- At the end of the activity pupils must leave the school site immediately.
- The late bus will be running at 4.30 pm for Year 7 on Wednesday, Year 8 on Thursday and Year 9 on Monday.
- The late bus covers the regular school bus stops only. Depending on passenger destinations, it will run all the way through to Kingston Seymour before turning round and heading to Long Ashton and south Bristol if needed. Students will be required to register their name and inform the driver of their stop when they get on the vehicle.

## **Bikeability Training**

Life Cycle UK are delighted to be returning to Backwell School during the upcoming school holiday to deliver Advanced Cycle Training and Bike Maintenance courses to our Year 7 students. The Level 3 on-road training is designed for independent riders who wish to refine their skills and tackle busier roads and junctions, ideal for those cycling to school.

The Bike Fix sessions are an introduction to cycle maintenance and focus mostly on puncture repair, everyone attending gets a puncture repair kit to take home.

Life Cycle UK operates under Covid-19 secure systems of work; further details are available from the Life Cycle website. Both courses take place at school and parents should book directly with Life Cycle via their website: <https://www.lifecycleuk.org.uk/free>

## **Lost Property**

A reminder that we will be disposing of all unclaimed and unnamed lost property on **Friday 16 October**. In the current climate, it is not appropriate for large amounts of unclaimed items to be left in school ... and there is a lot of it! Therefore we kindly request that if any student thinks they have lost something, please ask them come along to the Lost Property area outside Student Services to have a look for it before next Friday.

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

## **Catering at Backwell School**

Aspens, our school caterers, have widened the food offering available for students to buy. There is now a Week 1 and a Week 2 menu. Please click on the links below to see what's on offer. Please note, all food items are available during both Break 1 and Break 2 from the main and house block canteens.

[Catering menu – Week 1](#)

[Catering menu – Week 2](#)

## **Applications for Year 7 in September 2021**

If you have a younger child who is due to move up to secondary school in September 2021, this is just a reminder that the deadline for submitting your application to North Somerset Council is 31 October 2020. Applications can be made online via <https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/schools-learning/school-admissions/applying-school-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 \(9 October 2020\)](#)

If you have any queries regarding future plans Mrs Ball can be contacted on her school email [cball@backwellschool.net](mailto:cball@backwellschool.net).

### **And finally ...**

Just to let you know further to our email earlier this week, the fault on our student absence line (01275 434188) has now been repaired and so it is back in service!

### **Upcoming Events**

Thursday 22 October	Year 13 Parents' Evening (please see letter below)
Friday 23 October	Last day of Term 1
Monday 2 November	First day of Term 2 (it will be a Week 2B)
Thursday 12 November	Sixth Form Virtual Open Evening

### **LETTERS HOME**

[Sixth Form Bulletin \(w/c 12 October 2020\)](#) – Parents/Carers of Sixth Form students

[Year 13 Parents' Evening: Thursday 22 October](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 13 students

[Important letter to all parents \(6 October 2020\)](#) – All parents/carers

[Year 11 Catch-Up Sessions](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 11 students