



23 October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As we reach the end of term I wish to look back and celebrate all we have done as a school community since September. Students, staff and parents have adapted well to the changes put in place due to the pandemic.

I would like to thank parents for all the kind messages of support and generous donations to our COVID-19 school fund over the past few weeks; further outdoor furniture is now on order to try to make break times more comfortable for all. Also I would like to thank the students for their 'can do attitude', taking so many changes in their stride. Finally, my staff have all worked incredibly hard, in challenging and often stressful times, over the past few months; I am very grateful for all the patience, resilience and determination they have shown during this term.

Attached to this email is a small selection of photographs highlighting some of the exciting things (including marquees purchased from parental donations) that have been taking place this term.

One further brilliant thing that happened this term was the [Virtual Live Lounge](#) which was streamed last night by the Music Department. If you haven't already done so, then I recommend you watch this fantastic collection of performances from our students, including original compositions and a huge range of participants, including year 7 students! This virtual event followed hot on the heels of our first online parents' evening for subject teachers. From the school's point of view this seemed to go very well – with record attendance - but we would welcome feedback from parents who took part: Year 11 parents' evening will take place in the same format on Thursday 26 November.

All deserve a restful half term; however we would really appreciate your support by ensuring that social distancing and the rule of six is observed during any half term activities to try and help minimise the spread of COVID-19 in the wider community. We would hate to be sending students home to self-isolate at the start of next term as a result of irresponsible socialising over the break. A reminder that those students currently in self-isolation due to the case at school earlier this week, will need to observe the self-isolation rules during the half-term until the end date as stated in the self-isolation confirmation email sent to you.

Mr J Nunes
Headteacher

OTHER MESSAGES ...

Reporting Covid-19 Cases over the half term holiday

In the event any student tests positive for Covid-19 over the half term holiday, please could parents ensure that this is reported to school as soon as possible by emailing mailbox@backwellschool.net. Please do not use the absence email or phone line as they are not monitored during the holiday period, whilst mailbox is. Many thanks for your cooperation in this matter.

Year 11 After-School Catch-Up Sessions

After-school catch up sessions for Year 11 students will be continuing after half term following the timetable in the link below. The first block of after-school sessions have been very popular with over half of Year 11 signing up to take part. The second block of sessions will run from 2 November to 16 November 2020, please encourage your child to sign up and take part. The sign-up page and all information can be found on Frog by following this [link](#).

North Somerset Council Bus Passes

Students travelling to school on council-run buses from Yatton and the surrounding area, Bristol Airport and Barrow Gurney have been today been issued with their bus passes for next term ... so please ensure you check bags etc to retrieve them!

Important Note - There have been a few changes to some routes, so it is very important that you look at the bus pass to check the route letter and coach operator, as your child may now be on a different bus, or have a slightly different pick-up time. If there is a change, the bus stop will remain the same, but they will need to look for a different vehicle. (There are a couple of students whose stop has moved, but they have been contacted separately by North Somerset Council). These changes are being made because North Somerset Council have agreed to provide additional transport to allow students to be 'bubbled' by year group on the buses.

The revised route timings can be viewed on the school website by clicking on the following link: [Bus Route Schedules from 2 November 2020](#)

PE Uniform

A reminder that from Monday 2 November if your child requires an additional layer of PE uniform 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

Clubs and Courses

Thank you to all those who have registered for [Clubs and Courses](#) so far, and indicated the need for late buses. This greatly helps our planning. Before the full extra-curricular programme starts after half term, there is still time for some last minute registrations. Apart from Coding Club and Textile Club which are fully subscribed, there a handful of places to be had ... so don't miss out. How about an hour of self-care with Karina's yoga sessions; Year 7 table tennis fun and games or learning the tricks of the trade from a published comic artist and author... these are some of the highlights of the autumn/winter offering.

Please get in touch with [Mrs Gibson-Patteux](#) in Student Services for further information and to register.

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 \(23 October 2020\)](#)

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

Upcoming Events

Friday 23 October	Last day of Term 1
Monday 2 November	First day of Term 2 (it will be a Week 2B)
Thursday 19 November	Sixth Form Virtual Open Evening (<i>postponed from 12 November</i>)
Thursday 26 November	Year 11 Parents' Evening (<i>postponed from 15 October</i>)

And finally A message from our fantastic Music Department

We're excited to bring you this term's **Virtual Live Lounge**. This is the culmination of a lot of hard work - thank you to everyone who made it happen. We hope you enjoy watching, and happy half term!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tbl-pVpSr4U&feature=youtu.be>



LETTERS HOME

[Sixth Form Bulletin \(for w/c 2 November\)](#) – Parents/Carers of Sixth Form students

[A Level Art Textiles 2020-21](#) – Parents/Carers of A Level Art Textiles students

[GCSE Art Textiles 2020-21](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 10 GCSE Art Textiles students

[Key Stage 3: Design Technology](#) – Parents/Carers of DT students in Years 7, 8 and 9

[Important Letter to all parents - update for the school community](#) – All parents/carers