



6 November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, I would like to share with parents and carers my pride in the way Backwell students have coped with the different circumstances of school during term one. The prevailing mood at school was one of calm, with students understanding the necessity to follow new routines and be mindful of their responsibilities regarding the health of those around them.

I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate a few key points from our Risk Assessment:

- Students should be wearing a face coverings in corridors and indoor communal areas, including canteens/wet weather spaces (unless when eating or drinking). Face coverings should be permanent and washed regularly if they are to be fully effective. Please can students bring a zip-lock bag or similar in which to store their masks during lessons?
- Even within the same year group 'bubble', it is important to minimise close contact between students. Students should maintain social distancing from all other students whilst in school. They should not be hugging or play fighting for example.
- Students should also be maintaining social distancing whilst travelling to and from school. This includes from members of the public, as well as not waiting for friends from other bubbles and walking in large groups.

As the country enters another period of 'lockdown', we are reviewing our Risk Assessment to ensure that it is as robust as possible.

- New government guidance has been published for schools, which includes the ending of extra-curricular clubs and activities in secondary schools during the period of lockdown. Therefore, reluctantly, we need to stop all after-school clubs, including PE, Drama, Music and Art, until further notice. However, Virtual Yoga will continue and Comic Art Masterclass will move to Teams sessions (participants will be contacted). I am pleased to be able to confirm, however, that I have received clarification from government that means we can continue our after-school academic catch-up sessions.
- I am pleased to see that the changes to the home-to-school-transport we negotiated with North Somerset Council are now in place, meaning that the majority of our

coach transport is now grouped by year group bubble with social-distancing in place in any 'shared' coaches.

- Should we make any further amendments to our COVID-19 related policies or procedures we will of course keep you informed and updated.

The latest information for parents from the Government can be found [here](#).

I appreciate that many parents are anxious about the spread of COVID-19 and the impact this may have on their families, however your child should be attending school, unless they have been asked to isolate by the school or they are required to self-isolate due to circumstances outside of school (for example a family member or test and trace connection). Guidance from the NHS on self-isolation or requesting a test can be found [here](#) – please familiarise yourself with them as we all have a duty to our community, to ensure we are following these guidelines correctly.

We have had a case in our Year 7 cohort this week, and it is likely that we will have further cases and self-isolation periods throughout this term. As I mentioned in my last email, we have a plan in place to provide remote learning for those in isolation/awaiting a test result:

- If your child is off school in isolation either awaiting the result of a COVID-19 test, due to a school related case or circumstances outside of school, they should check Frog and their school emails regularly.
- Work will begin to be set for them one full school day after notification of the isolation period. For example, the school is contacted at 1.00 pm on Monday – remote learning will be accessible for the first lesson on Wednesday onwards. In the meantime, they can complete any home learning they have been set.
- Remote Learning will take the form of live learning via Microsoft Teams whenever that is possible. This will be the case for all Sixth Form lessons and for all other lessons when the whole class is self-isolating.

If as a family you feel you may have problems with accessing remote learning provision at home please email us [mailbox@backwellschool.net](mailto:mailbox@backwellschool.net).

The new lockdown may also cause anxieties for those pupils with GCSE and A Level exam next year. This week the Prime Minister and Education Secretary have been clear that exams will go ahead next summer as “they are the fairest and most accurate way to measure a pupil’s attainment”. We will continue to plan and prepare with our students for this.

I would like to thank you for your ongoing support.

Mr J Nunes  
Headteacher

## OTHER MESSAGES ...

### Self-isolation ... what does it mean?

We thought it would be useful to remind everyone what it means when you receive a 'Requirement to Self-Isolate' email.

If your child is asked to self-isolate by us because they have been in close contact with a child at school who has tested positive, they need to self-isolate for 14 days from the last point of contact with that person. This date is worked out by the school and we will send you an email specifying the date on which your child can return to school.

In this situation, only the child sent home needs to self-isolate within your household. Other family members are not required to self-isolate, but must adhere to current Government lockdown restrictions.

If your child goes on to develop Covid-19 symptoms then they should get a test and advise school immediately. At this point ALL members of the household must self-isolate whilst waiting for the test result.

The school asks that you **do not send your child into school if any member of the household is symptomatic or awaiting test results.**

If the test comes back positive, all other members of the household should complete a self-isolation period of 14 days. This begins from either the day the Covid-positive person started displaying symptoms or, if they were asymptomatic, from the day the test was taken. Other members of the household should ONLY get a test if they develop coronavirus symptoms themselves.

**Self-isolation requires the person(s) isolating to stay at home for the entirety of the required time.** They should only leave the house for medical reasons (including a Covid test) or in the event of an emergency.

A [Quick Reference guide](#) is attached for information.

Please click on this link to review government [Isolation Guidelines](#).

### Year 13 In-class Mock Exam Assessments

Please note that from 16 – 20 November, Year 13 students will be undertaking in-class mock exam assessments. The purpose of this assessment week is twofold. Firstly, to give students the experience of preparing for and undertaking multiple assessments in one week ahead of their trial exams in January. Secondly, feedback from these assessments will enable students to make improvements to their revision and exam techniques before the trial exams. Students should revise for these assessments, although not to the detriment of coursework and NEAs, which count towards their final results and should be prioritised. Whilst we expect students to take these assessments seriously, we do not want them to be

unduly worried about how the results may be used. Please support this process by talking to your child about their revision and ensuring that they attend their exams.

Please also note that a small number of assessments are taking place outside of normal lesson times and students are required to attend the assessment – we have ensured that they have study periods at this time.

### **Change to Students' Kerboodle Account Logins**

Please note that with effect from Monday 9 November our IT department will be changing the username format for students logging in to use Kerboodle, the online educational resource from Oxford University Press. The new student Kerboodle usernames will match the username format that students already use to log in to school computers or Frog. For example, Joe Bloggs is a current Year 7 student so his Kerboodle username will become *20joeblo*.

When students first log in to Kerboodle after this change they will be prompted to update their password. We recommend that they set their Kerboodle password to match the one they currently use for Frog or the Backwell School computers.

If ever a student needs a password reset they can click the text on the Kerboodle login screen that reads "Trouble logging in?", enter their school email address and they will receive an email to their school email account from Kerboodle with a password reset link allowing them to update their Kerboodle account password.

### **Non-School Uniform Day**

Friday 13 November will be 'Children in Need' 2020. For a minimum £1 donation students will be permitted to wear non-school uniform to raise money for this important charity. Students will need to dress appropriately for the weather, and the school day; so, as always, we would ask that no inappropriate clothing or hair dye is worn. Those students who have a PE lesson that day are able to wear appropriate non-uniform sports/workout clothing suitable for doing PE.

### **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 \(6 November 2020\)](#)**

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

## Upcoming Events

Thursday 19 November	<a href="#">Sixth Form Virtual Open Evening</a> , from 4.00 pm
Thursday 26 November	Year 11 Parents' Evening ( <i>postponed from 15 October</i> ). Further information to follow shortly.
Friday 13 November	Non-school uniform day in aid of Children in Need.
Friday 18 December	Last day of term. Non-school uniform day in aid of the local food bank.
Monday 4 January	Back to school!

## LETTERS HOME ...

[Sixth Form Bulletin \(w/c 9 November 2020\)](#) – Parents/Carers of Sixth Form students

[Key Information and Reminders for Term 2](#) – All Parents/Carers

[Important update for parents \(5 November 2020\)](#) – All Parents/Carers