



20 November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Sixth Form Open Evening

Our 'virtual' open evening is now live on the [Sixth Form Open Evening page](#) of the school website. It contains useful videos and resources detailing what we can offer students for post-16 studies. Prospective students must [apply online](#) via the website and the deadline for applications, for both internal and external candidates, is Thursday 10 December.

Extra-curricular Clubs and Courses during National Lockdown

Our after school clubs and courses are currently suspended due to the nationwide lockdown, however we are pleased to confirm that these will be restarting in the week beginning 30 November 2020. One thing to note is that Comic Art and Yoga will continue to be run virtually for the final few weeks of their course.

We look forward to running these activities again with our students.

INSET Day – Wednesday 25 November

A reminder that Wednesday 25 November is an INSET Day. This means that the school is closed to students. Lockdown restrictions will apply to all students on this date so please reinforce the expectations of the national restrictions at home and, in particular, do all you can to ensure that your child(ren) are not gathering in groups or visiting each other's homes. It has a potentially significant impact on us all, including the school community.

Year 11 Parents' Evening: Thursday 26 November

A reminder that the online system for booking appointments for Year 11 Parents' Evening opened yesterday (Thursday 19 November). The evening itself will take place next Thursday, 26 November with appointments starting at 4.00 pm. Normally this would be held via face-to-face meetings, however, due to the current Covid-19 pandemic, all appointments will be undertaken via video call. Full details on how to book, together with instructions on how to 'attend' your online appointments can be found in the [Year 11 Parents' Evening letter](#).

Year 11 Reports

This is to let parents/carers know that yesterday (19 November) all Year 11 reports were sent out in the post, so they should arrive any day now, in readiness for the parents' evening next week. We also plan to make the reports available to view online via the Parent Portal in the next couple of weeks.

Two Webinars for Parents: County Lines and Online Safety

To support parents/carers in these challenging times, Avon and Somerset Police are offering two webinars for parent/carers who have concerns about their children and safety online. One is about keeping children safe online and the other is about the growing threat of 'County Lines' drug and gang issues in the area.

The first webinar, ***Covid-19 Online Safety - "It is never going to happen to my child..."*** will take place on Wednesday 25 November from 7.00 pm – 8.30 pm looking at Online Safety for parents, given by Avon and Somerset Constabulary in response to the second Covid-19 lockdown. The content will include:

- Overview of online risks.
- Exploitation of children online.
- Technical protective and safety measures available.
- Top tips on starting a conversation with your child about the internet and how to work together to use the internet safely.

To book a place on this webinar (it is free), please follow Eventbrite link below.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/online-safety-for-parents-it-is-never-going-to-happen-to-my-child-tickets-128994797913?aff=ebdssbonlinesearch>

The second webinar ***Gangs and County Lines – Avon and Somerset Parents' Awareness*** will take place via Zoom on Wednesday 9 December from 5.00 pm – 6.00 pm followed by a Q&A. This is being run by the St Giles Trust SOS+ and will help parents and carers to identify signs and triggers that a child or young person might be involved in county lines and gain an understanding of how to respond to such indicators appropriately. More information about the St Giles Trust and full details about what is covered in the webinar can be found on the attached poster.

If you are interested in joining this free webinar, you can register by [clicking here](#).

A Message from the Backwell School Association

Just to let you know that Backwell School Association (BSA) is now registered with "easyfundraising", which means you can raise FREE donations for us every time you shop online. Over 4,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you use "easyfundraising" to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself!

Retailers such as John Lewis, Amazon, Argos and Boots are all part of the scheme. All you need to do is register for FREE and do your Christmas shopping (and any other shopping!) via the website.

These donations really mount up and make a BIG difference to us, so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It's completely FREE and only takes a moment.

You can find the **Backwell School Association** 'easyfundraising' page by [clicking here](#).

Thank you so much!

BSA Chair and Committee

Parent Governor Election

If you haven't already done so, please don't forget to cast your vote in the Parent Governor Election. The email with the voting link was sent out to all parents on Thursday last week. Voting will close at midday on Friday 27 November.

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 \(20 November 2020\)](#)

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

And finally ...

The school is currently looking to recruit a Design Technology Technician to support our wonderful DT Department. If you, or someone you know of, is interested in finding out more about the role, please email recruitment@backwellschool.net for to request a job description and application form.

We are also planning to recruit Examination Invigilators in the not-to-distant future, so please keep an eye out for more information over the next couple of weeks if you know someone who might be interested.

Upcoming Events

Thursday 26 November	Year 11 Parents' Evening from 4.00 pm, via online appointments
Friday 18 December	Last day of term. Non-school uniform day in aid of the local food bank.
Monday 4 January	Back to school!
Thursday 14 January	Year 12 Parents' Evening
Thursday 21 January	Year 10 Parents' Evening

LETTERS HOME ...

[Sixth Form Bulletin \(w/c 23 November 2020\)](#) – Parents/Carers of Sixth Form students

[Year 11 GCSE English Literature – A Christmas Carol](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 11 students

[Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Payment Schedule \(Year 10\)](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 10 students undertaking the Bronze D of E Award