



11 December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you saw my email earlier this week confirming that Friday 18 December will be an INSET Day meaning that Thursday 17 December is now the last day of term.

I have a few important things to update parents on this week:

### Self-Isolation

The government has today announced that the period for self-isolation from now on has been reduced from 14 to 10 days. This also applies to anyone currently self-isolating, who can return to school after 10 days of self-isolation.

### 'Test and Trace' during the School Christmas Holidays

Should your child receive a positive test result for COVID-19 during the school holidays please inform us straight away by:

- Emailing [absence@backwellschool.net](mailto:absence@backwellschool.net). Please put COVID-19 positive result in the email subject.
- Please include your child's full name and tutor group. We would ask that you do not share on social media the result as it can cause panic and anxiety amongst other families.
- Also please inform us of the day your child first displayed symptoms, and the date they took the COVID-19 test in your email.
- A member of the senior leadership team may get in touch with you to ask some further questions.

All parents need to be aware that, as a school, we are required to 'track and trace' any cases within the student/staff body until Thursday 23 December. This means that we may have to get in touch with families in the first few days of the Christmas holidays if we have confirmation of any positive cases which will require others to go into self-isolation.

The absence email shown above will be regularly monitored over this six-day period by senior members of staff. We will ensure it is checked by **11.00 am** and **5.30 pm** every day up to and including 23 December. Please try to email by these times wherever possible.

## **Last Day of Term – Thursday 17 December**

School will finish at normal time on this date (3.00 pm - 3.10 pm depending on each key stage) and it will be a non-uniform day to raise money for the local foodbank. Students are asked to donate a minimum of £1.00 to take part. As always, we would ask that no inappropriate clothing is worn or hair dye used. Thank you.

With regard to Clubs and Courses that are due to take place on Thursday, I can confirm that only the Year 10 Football Club will still run after school that day. All other clubs have been cancelled.

## **Start of Term 3**

We will all return to school on Monday 4 January. It will be a Week 1B so please ensure your child has all the right books and equipment. January is likely to be cool and wet so please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather, including coats and school jumpers as well as T-shirts/'skins' layers under their uniform if they are prone to feeling the cold.

## **Student Voice: Survey set as home learning**

As mentioned in last week's email home our student survey is now live on Frog. You child can access the questionnaire via their assignment section of Frog as it has been set as a home learning task for all students.

Please encourage your child(ren) to complete this survey before Friday 18 December. Thank you to all students who have already completed this for us.

Thank you for all your support so far this term, we are looking forward to celebrating the end of term with our students next week – I've heard rumours of a festive video from the Heads of House and Christmas quizzes to be enjoyed on Thursday afternoon!

Jon Nunes  
Headteacher

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## **OTHER MESSAGES ...**

### **Year 7 Christmas Lunch**

Our school caterers, Aspens, usually like to welcome our new Year 7 students to the school by giving them a free school lunch when they first start in September. As this was not possible at the start of the year due to Covid-19, they are now offering all Year 7 students Christmas lunch on Thursday 17 December. This will be held in two sittings in the main dining room; one sitting for Cotswold and Mendip, the other for Quantock and Sedgemoor. This is absolutely free, and no booking is necessary... Students can just turn up!

## Bus Passes

Students who use the council-run school bus service have been issued with their bus passes for next term during tutor time earlier this week. These passes are valid from 4 January until the end of the summer term. Bus route information has also been included alongside the pass.

## New Train Timetable for Bristol/North Somerset

From Sunday 13 December 2020 Great Western Railway (GWR) will be running a new timetable across Bristol and North Somerset. If your child uses the train to travel to and from school you may wish to check the new timetable to ensure that there is no change to the times of the trains they would usually use: <https://www.gwr.com/plan-journey/train-times>

## Information from the NSPCC

The school has received a very useful email from the NSPCC regarding online safety, particularly at this time of year, which they have suggested we share with parents. Please see their message below:

“Giving your child any tech during the festive period? We know that lots of families gift children devices at this time of year. Whether it’s a laptop, phone, tablet or games console, it is important that you set it up safely and have conversations with your child about how they can keep safe online. Check out our tips to help you set up your child’s device.

### [Setting up your child’s device](#)

[Net Aware](#) can help you stay up to date with the latest apps, games and social media sites your child is using. Check out our latest reviews for [Omegle](#), [MeWe](#), [Chatroulette](#) and [Kidschat.net](#).

We also have new advice articles about [How to support your child if they have a negative experience online](#) and [Dealing with cyberbullying on gaming platforms.](#)”

## North Somerset Council – Feedback Request

North Somerset Council are seeking feedback on the alterations made to local highways to support social distancing during the pandemic. In particular they would like to hear views on the changes in the vicinity of the school, be that from parents, students, residents and staff.

To find out if the changes are working North Somerset Council are asking whether the scheme:

- helps maintain physical distancing?
- helps people make essential journeys?
- makes people feel safer?
- means that people are more likely to walk and cycle?
- will have positive impact on the area in the longer term?

The feedback is being gathered via the Sustrans ‘Space to Move’ webpage which you can access via the following link: <https://www.sustrans.org.uk/space-to-move/>

## 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 \(11 December 2020\)](#)

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 17 December	Last day of term (amended from 18 December) Non-school uniform day in aid of the local food bank.
Monday 4 January	Back to school!
Thursday 14 January	Year 12 Parents' Evening – more information coming soon.
18 – 22 January	Year 11 Trial Exams
Thursday 21 January	Year 10 Parents' Evening
25 – 29 January	Year 13 Trial Exams
Thursday 28 January	Year 9 Options Presentation Evening
Thursday 4 February	Year 9 Parents' Evening

## LETTERS HOME ...

[Sixth Form Bulletin \(w/c 14 December\)](#) – Parents/Carers of Sixth Form students

[Additional Inset Day - Friday 18 December](#) – All parents/carers

[Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award 2020-21 - Year 12](#)- Parents/Carers of Year 12 students undertaking the Silver D of E award

[Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award 2020-21 - Year 12](#) - Parents/Carers of Year 12 students undertaking the Gold D of E award