



27 November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Following the Government's announcements earlier this week, and confirmation that North Somerset will be in Tier 3 from Wednesday 2 December, I want to update parents on what this means for us here at Backwell School.

The Government has clearly stated that all schools are to remain open in whichever tier their local community is placed in and the updated Department for Education guidance on operating a school in the new system of tiers from Wednesday 2 December does not require any changes to the procedures and processes we already have in place here at Backwell School. However [Tier 3](#) does contain strict restrictions on socialising. Please do all you can to ensure that your children are not gathering in large groups in outdoor areas and please note that visiting/socialising indoors is banned. Any breaches of these expectations has a potentially significant impact on us all.

I appreciate that many parents are anxious about COVID-19 and the impact it is having on their children, be this the potential health implications or the mental health impact of social restrictions. My staff are all working incredibly hard to ensure that as a school we are complying to all expectations set out by the Government (these can be read [here](#)) as well as provide a positive educational environment for those in school and remote learning for those in isolation. I politely request that you read the government guidelines, and the [dedicated school information on COVID-19](#) before contacting us about any concerns you may have.

We must follow the information given to us by central government, the Department for Education and Public Health England and ensure we are complying with our risk assessment. Our risk assessment is regularly updated and is checked and signed off by our Governors and the Board of Trustees at the Lighthouse Schools Partnership.

We are doing our very best to keep parents and students informed and updated – all letters, and the Friday email home, are saved on our website for you to refer back to.

The ongoing pandemic is challenging time for everyone and I am very proud of how school staff continue to adapt under the immense pressures they are currently facing.

Mr J Nunes
Headteacher

Cooler weather and school uniform

Whilst the forecast for the next week is dry, it is predicted to be cooler than previous weeks. A reminder to all that due to COVID-19 we are required to ventilate all classrooms by opening windows and doors, so students may like to do the following to keep warm:

Students are welcome to wear extra layers to school; for example a plain white/nude T-shirt or vest under their polo shirt. They can also wear long sleeve 'skin' thermal layers as well should they wish under their polo shirt and school jumper. They should have their school jumper with them at all times as well as a coat appropriate for the weather.

If a classroom is particularly cold teachers are able to use their discretion to allow students to wear their coats inside.

Parent Governor Election - Announcement

In October the Governing Body advertised one vacancy for a new parent governor and were delighted to receive three nominations. Following the online ballot which closed at midday today, governors are very pleased to confirm that Mrs Annabelle Richards has been elected as Parent Governor to serve a term of four years, with immediate effect. We look forward to welcoming her onto our team of dedicated governors.

Governors would particularly like to thank the other candidates who put themselves forward for election, for their willingness to volunteer their time and services to the school, and also to parents for taking the time to vote for their new representative.

Student Reports

This is to let parents/carers know that reports for students in Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 are now available to view on the Parents' Portal. Reports for students in Years 7 and 13 will be available in the week beginning 14 December.

The Parents' Portal can be accessed on Frog via: <https://froglearn.backwellschool.net/app/os#> Please log on using your unique User Name and password. The report can then be found on the dashboard under 'My Child', 'Attainment'.

You can find out more about how to access your Parent Portal account in the attached document 'A Guide to Accessing the Parent's Portal'.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school

Clubs and Activities

A reminder that after-school activities will resume from Monday next week. For your information, if the club operates on alternating weeks for different year group bubbles, next week is Week 2B. Students can check their FROG student dashboard homepage to check the timetable week. As per usual, late buses will be running on the following days: Year 7 on Wednesday; Year 8 on Thursday; and Year 9 on Monday.

Backwell School Association - Easyfundraising

A reminder that the 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 (including Amazon, John Lewis, Boots and Argos to mention but a few) will donate to us when you use 'easyfundraising' to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself!

In this current climate, where we are no longer able to raise much-needed funds via our usual means, such as the Christmas Fair, refreshments and raffles at shows or concerts, these donations can really mount up and make a BIG difference, 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!

BSA Chair and Committee

Two Webinars for Parents: County Lines and Online Safety

In last week's Bulletin we advertised two webinars that were being offered through Avon and Somerset Police regarding online safety and the growing threat of 'County Lines' drug and gang issues in the area. Unfortunately places on both of these webinars filled up extremely quickly and we are aware that a number of parents were disappointed. We have contacted Avon and Somerset Police who have advised us that they plan to arrange more dates and will let us know once they do.

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 \(27 November 2020\)](#)

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 Examination Invigilators. If you, or someone you know, is interested in joining our pool of invigilators, please email recruitment@backwellschool.net to request a job description and application form.

Also, just to let you know that the deadline for applications for the post of Design Technology Technician, is 9.00 am on Tuesday 1 December. So if anyone is interested, please ensure that applications are made online via [E-teach](#) by then.

Upcoming Events

Thursday 10 December	Deadline for applications to join the Sixth Form in September. Prospective students must apply online via the website.
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
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 for week commencing 30 November](#) – Parents/Carers of Sixth Form students