



Dear Parents/Carers

School Re-opening and Government Announcements

There has been a lot of speculation this week in the media about the possible plan for the country coming out of lockdown, including the re-opening of schools. We understand that the Prime Minister will be outlining the government's initial plans for this on Sunday.

Although we do not yet know when Backwell will be open again, we do know that re-opening will be a gradual process. It is likely that attendance will be for certain students only and there may be use of staggered start and finish times. We have already begun thinking about different scenarios for re-opening the school as well as the additional complexities that may need to be overcome. For us at Backwell, transport to and from school will be a key limiting factor on how we can organise school: therefore we have been in communication with North Somerset Council to discuss how best to deal with home-to-school travel. In all our planning, our priority will be to ensure that attending Backwell School will be safe for our students and staff.

We promise to communicate clearly with all in the Backwell community, throughout the process of school re-opening. We envisage three forms of education being provided by the school. Firstly full-time provision for children of key workers and students identified as 'vulnerable' will continue. Secondly, will we see the start of phased or staggered school attendance by some or all students. Finally, we will maintain a continually-developing 'remote learning' programme for all students who are not in school. Thank you for your ongoing patience and support as we plan these new ways of providing high quality education to the children at Backwell School.

Year 9 GCSE Options

Parents/Carers have been sent a letter this week detailing the Year 9 options for their child(ren). We hope these letters will arrive in the next week or so (as you are aware the postal service is currently dealing with increased demand due to the lockdown).

Please note that at this point in the options process students are unable to change their GCSE options. There could be the possibility of this in September.

Should you have any problems, following the receipt of the letter, please do not hesitate to contact us via mailbox@backwellschool.net and we will do our best to respond to you as quickly as possible.

Year 10 Work Experience

Following the announcement on 27 March that Year 10 work experience would not take place this June, the school has now contacted all employers with whom a placement was organised to confirm the cancellation. We would encourage students to make direct contact with employers to thank them for the opportunity. Further to the skills that they have already gained through the research and securing of placements, continued communication with employers may help students to maintain the option of work experience with them in the future.

Year 11 Students who intend to go to Backwell Sixth Form

We'd like to remind those students who intend to study at Backwell Sixth Form that there is transition work and guidance available on the student home page of FROG entitled "Year 11 into Year 12 remote learning". Parents can access this on the parent portal under "resources".

Queries regarding subject material should be directed to the subject leaders (contact details available in the course prospectus on the website) and queries regarding any other Sixth Form matters should be addressed in the first instance to our Sixth Form administrator Mrs Bangham (sbangham@backwellschool.net). We are receiving a high number of requests for subject changes - please can students now wait to make these changes until either Induction day if this is able to go ahead, or results day. As we are unable to confirm subject choices until results day, students are encouraged to look at the transition material for all subjects that they are interested in.

Booking system for in-school supervision for vulnerable students and key workers – a polite reminder

Please ensure that you book your child(ren) into school supervision by using the online booking sheet (www.backwellschool.net) on a daily basis. The system is open until 3.00 pm each day, for bookings the following day. Staffing, transport and catering all depend on the daily register so we need to ensure that we have accurate records of students attending school.

Transition for Year 7 September 2020

For families who have siblings joining us in Year 7 in September - a reminder that the deadline for the completion of the electronic transition data form is Wednesday 13 May. All information can be found on our dedicated transition page – <https://www.backwellschool.net/transition2020>

Community spirit

Over the past few weeks we have been delighted to share some wonderful stories of fundraising and volunteering by staff at Backwell School. The local community is also reaching out to help us – thank you to Waitrose in Nailsea who has donated a large number of 'bags for life' to the school to enable us to continue to put together free school meals hampers for families. We are also incredibly grateful to all the key workers who are working incredibly hard to keep us all safe and well.

Library Support for students ... A message from Mrs Gibson, our Librarian

We hope this finds everyone well and keeping calm.

As always, we are advocating reading for pleasure to allow students time to get away from any stress in everyday life and to encourage their imagination to take flight. We are now posting our regular newsletters with *links to online literary, creative and imaginative events* on our Frog Library Home Page (find the icon on Quick Links).

Our next instalment contains links to live *author, illustrator and theatre productions* occurring over the next couple of weeks. Many are happening on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter - if your child does not have an account, maybe you could share yours with them in order to view them. Live events are often accessible after the streaming, so worth checking. You will probably enjoy them yourselves!

We are also on Twitter and Instagram posting many more ideas as we find them: *@booksatbackwell* on Twitter, *@LibraryLadiez* on Instagram.

Stay calm and keep reading!

Careers Bulletin

Please click on the following link to read about current careers events and opportunities: [Careers Bulletin \(7 May 2020\)](#)

And finally ...

We hope that families have a good, socially distant, bank holiday weekend. The 75th Anniversary of VE day is a landmark historic event, occurring during a period that will make history in the future.

We will email again next week with updates from Backwell School.

Emailed to parents: 7 May 2020