



Dear Parents/Carers

Live Learning

As we come to the end of the second week of live learning sessions, it is clear to see that staff and students are quickly becoming accustomed to this element of our remote learning provision. Well over 500 sessions have taken place in the last fortnight and I know that staff are really enjoying the opportunity to interact with their pupils 'in person'.

A reminder that all Live Learning sessions will be scheduled on Frog, with a clear assignment title, so that both parents and students know when these have been scheduled. The Live Learning Sessions are not optional; teachers will follow up when a child has been absent. These sessions are recorded for students who are unable to attend due to illness.

Teachers have been sharing their experiences on Teams to establish best practice for live learning. One way you could help us is to encourage your child(ren) to keep their camera on. We do not wish to make this compulsory for students, but we have discovered that it has become 'uncool' in some year groups to be visible! What students may not realise is that this makes it harder for teachers to deliver the lesson effectively and therefore gives students a poorer experience.

Remote Learning Parental Survey

A reminder about our Parental Survey on remote learning in Years 7 - 10 and Year 12. The survey can be completed by clicking on the link below:

[Parent Survey on Remote Learning](#)

The deadline for feedback is **12 noon on Friday 3 July**. Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey – your comments are much appreciated.

Overview of Activities on the School Site

It has been fantastic to see increasing numbers of students on site over the last few weeks. The scheduled sessions for Years 10 and 12 end today. However selected students in this year group continue to attend school and we begin 'Check-in' sessions for Years 7 to 9 on Monday. A summary of the way school is working for the rest of Term 6 is below:

Activity in School	Week beginning Monday 22 June	Week beginning Monday 29 June	Week beginning Monday 6 July	Week beginning Monday 13 July
Key worker and invited students	Every day 08:00 – 15:15			
Year 10 and Year 12 invited students	Every day 08:45 – 15:30			
Year 10 face-to-face sessions	Each day by tutor group: 09:45 – 12:15			
Year 12 face-to-face sessions	Each day by group: 13:30 -15:30			
Year 7,8 & 9 check-in sessions		Each day by group: 09:45 – 11:00 11:45 – 13:00 13:45 – 15:00	Each day by group: 09:45 - 11:00 11:45 – 13:00 13:45 – 15:00	

‘Check-in’ Sessions for Years 7, 8 & 9

Thank you to all parents who requested a face-to-face wellbeing check for their child in Year 7, 8 or 9. You will have received an email confirming the exact timings and group for your child. Please ensure you have read the key information document (see link below) prior to your child’s session.

[Years 7, 8 and 9 Face-to-Face Check-In: Key Information](#)

If you have any questions please email us at mailbox@backwellschool.net. We look forward to welcoming these children into school over the next few weeks.

Pastoral Contact with Home

Pastoral leaders and tutors continue to make contact with the families of pupils in their Year or House. We aim for a telephone call, but will use email if we are unable to make contact on the phone. The last round of these phone calls will include a summary from the tutor of how well students have been engaging with the remote learning programme. Subject teachers will be giving information to tutors, who will

then share the wider picture with parents and carers, although they will not be able to answer subject-specific questions.

In addition, for students in Year 12, parents will receive a written report, including three targeted comments, the percentage mark obtained in the Year 12 trial exam and an A level forecast grade. The latter will be particularly valuable for students who, following their future plans support work from the 6th Form Team, are looking at choices for Higher Education, Further education, Apprenticeships or Training.

Government Guidance - Updates

Social distancing: You will have heard about the change from two metres to 'one metre plus' from July 4 - we will not make any changes to our school safety and hygiene systems for the last two weeks of Term 6.

Summer: Our Curriculum Leaders are currently designing appropriate work to set for our Year 10 and 12 students over the summer. They do so in the knowledge of lost time in school, but also the awareness from some families of the strain being experienced by some students who are working extremely hard indeed. We are hoping that our school site, and others in the Trust, will be able to open safely for activities this summer. Programmes are likely to be based around student wellbeing and the wider 'enrichment' curriculum. We are currently contacting local providers of sport and arts summer schools.

The government 'catch-up' plans: We are very pleased to hear that funding is being allocated for this purpose. There are two strands to the proposals: a 'National Tutoring Programme' for disadvantaged students and a catch-up programme open to a wider range of students, also likely to revolve around individual and small group tuition. We have already begun the process of planning for these schemes so that we have robust evidence-based plans for their effective use and have identified the right calibre of tutors to undertake the work.

Examinations in 2020-2021: We do not yet know how the 'Autumn Series' of exams will work or when exactly these exams will take place. Nor have details been published yet of how Summer Exams 2021 will be organised. There is a strong suggestion that exams might be put back by about a month to allow more teaching time for students in Years 11 and 13 next year.

School opening in September 2020: Currently we are awaiting details from government about plans for September. We hope the planned announcements next week will address some fundamental questions which are weighing on the minds of school leaders across the country. These include: what does 'fully open' mean for a Secondary School? Will 'bubbles' be expanded much more widely to include whole year groups, as has been suggested? And, if so, how can schools organise breaks, lunchtime, travel between lessons and home-school travel to keep those different year groups from mixing?

As always, I will try to keep parents and carers fully informed on all these questions

Information for Particular Year Groups

Year 8

This term students in Year 8 should have had 'Careers' as part of their PSHE tutor-time programme. So that they don't miss out this term, we would like them to complete a small task using UNIFROG, our virtual Careers platform, which will take them no more than 10 minutes and which should be fun and interesting - we would appreciate parental support with this. The task will be set today by our Careers Adviser, Mrs Ball.

Year 11

Today should have been Year 11 Induction Day into the Sixth Form and we are sorry to confirm that due to COVID-19, we are unable to invite students into school this term. However, the Sixth Form team (along with current Year 12 students) are putting together virtual activities and information to be sent to students in the week commencing 6 July and there will be more details on this next week. We will also be posting home our Sixth Form Handbook which will help students to understand what to expect next year. A-level teachers are currently reviewing the materials provided as part of the "Year 11 into Year 12 remote learning" and we will let you know once updates have been made - we know that some students are keen to have more subject specific work to do! We would remind all parents and students that these resources are currently available on FROG and that there are tasks that students are required to complete before starting a course in September.

Year 12

We have been delighted to see almost every Year 12 student in school for Future Plans sessions over the past fortnight and to hear about the new skills they have been developing during the lockdown period, so our thanks go to parents for supporting this initiative. Any student who missed this session will receive hard copies of the resources in the post and the Sixth Form team will follow up shortly to ensure that they have understood the materials. Parents can find copies of the Future Plans resources in the links below and we hope to be able to give you more advice on supporting students with Future Plans at a Parent Information evening in September. Furthermore, students have been emailed the details of a number of leadership opportunities in the Sixth Form, including applications to be a Senior or Head student, so please encourage them to apply.

[Year 12 Applying to Further Education Booklet 2020](#)

[Year 12 Post-18 Options: Non Higher Education Booklet 2020](#)

[UCAS Guide 2021](#)

Year 13

As mentioned above, the results of the Ofqual consultation on autumn exams have not yet been published and so we are unable to give any further guidance to our students on preparation for this eventuality. Our advice to Year 13 students during this period has been to focus on their wellbeing; undertake pre-university materials and activities; complete applications for apprenticeships; gain work experience and volunteer in their communities where possible, so that they develop skills to make them more employable. Where students do not have a clear Post-18 plan, we will be contacting them early next term to offer our support.

We are aware that some students have kept up their A level studies or may wish to do so in the coming months and A level teachers will therefore be organising a live lesson for Year 13 over the coming three weeks. The purpose of this is to give final instructions and resources for course completion, revision and exam practice, and to enable the students to ask questions, if needed, as well as say a final goodbye.

Students should all be aware that they will retain access to FROG until at least September and subject teachers will ensure that they know who to contact for guidance. Lastly, Year 13 tutors will also be organising a final farewell session via Microsoft Teams which we hope students will be able to attend. Guidance on how to use teams can be found here: <https://frog.backwellschool.net/teams-forhome>

Year 6

I'm sure parents and carers with children in Year 6 will have been kept informed of transition plans by their primary schools. However, if you would like to see all our transition information, including a number of entertaining and informative videos, please visit our Transition page on the school website here: <https://www.backwellschool.net/transition2020>

Library News - ebook platform trial

The Library has been offered a free trial for Wheelers' ebook platform and we are looking for students to participate. They will be able to access ebooks and audio books free of charge from a wide selection through an app on their own mobile devices. The books will be suitable for all ages and include adult titles (with a few restrictions for younger readers). This is a great way to see what the demand might be should we introduce it fully in school, and to see what students think of the choice and reading/listening experience.

If your child is interested in taking part, please ask them to email Mrs Gibson over the weekend so that she can let you know the app details and sort out logins ready for the coming three weeks: agibson@backwellschool.net

Careers Bulletin

The Careers Bulletin contains lots of really useful information about work experience and apprenticeship opportunities, as well as virtual careers fairs and virtual college and university events. Please take a look by clicking on the link below:

[Current Careers Events and Opportunities \(26 June 2020\)](#)

Letters Home

[Years 7, 8 and 9 Face-to-Face Wellbeing Check-In – Key Information](#) – Parents/Carers of students in Years 7, 8 and 9

[Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award 2020-21 : Finance Information](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 9 students who submitted an Expression of Interest form

[Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award 2020-21 : EV5 Medical Form](#) (for completion electronically) - Parents/Carers of Year 9 students who submitted an Expression of Interest form

[Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award 2020-21 : Enrolment Form](#) (for completion electronically) – Parents/Carers of Year 9 students who submitted an Expression of Interest form

[Vaccination Catch-Up Opportunity for Year 9](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 9 students

Water Safety Advice from RNLI

We have been asked by the RNLI and Avon Fire & Rescue Service to share some key safety advice for you and your children this summer. Each year, the RNLI helps thousands of people who end up getting into difficulty in or near water. RNLI Lifeguards can't be on every beach, meaning a heightened water safety risk to beach goers. This is particularly important as the easing of the pandemic restrictions come into place this summer. As well as the number of Lifeguards, RNLI staff have not been able to engage with school communities as they normally would in recent months. Here are some great resources to share with your children at home:

<https://rnli.org/youth-education/water-safety-from-home>

And finally ...

In these rather extraordinary times, why not let our talented Music Department bring you some added sunshine with their cover of "Sunshine Day" by Osibisa! You can watch it on YouTube via the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LSgvTvlo8KA&feature=youtu.be>

Emailed to parents 26.06.20