



Dear Parents/Carers

I want to send my very best wishes to all Backwell families and their loved ones. In such an uncertain period of time, I will endeavour to give you as much clarity as possible about how school is working.

### **Remote Learning**

Thank you for being patient while we adapt to the difficult task of remote teaching. FROG found the volume of traffic tricky to handle on Monday, however actually held up a lot better than many other national platforms. Since then, FROG has been working well but we will keep monitoring its functionality. Please find below a link to a document outlining what to expect regarding how work is being set and accessed. Please can pupils in Years 7- 10 submit work to their teachers via their school email account or FROG.

[Guide to expectations on setting work](#)

We know that being at home in these circumstances - supporting children with their work alongside the other work or family issues you may be dealing with – is extremely challenging. We are sharing this document with you, which has some useful advice, especially around mental health

[Coronavirus - Wellbeing Advice](#)

### **Examinations (Years 11 - 13 ) and Learning for Year 11 and 13**

We await details from Ofqual and the Exam Boards about how schools will produce their assessments of predicted performance and we will share any information with you as it arises. The government have now confirmed that this will be before Easter. In the meantime, there is plenty of work for students in these year groups to be doing. Students in Year 13 should ensure that they complete any coursework or substantive piece of work and submit this to their teacher. They should also keep checking their school email account for any updates, as well as the Sixth Form page on FROG for up- to-date advice about next steps.

Year 11 students staying at Backwell Sixth Form should know that we are in the process of collating transition work for the courses that they wish to study with us in September. It is important that these tasks are completed as they are designed to help Year 11 students transition into the sixth form as smoothly as possible. These will be available on FROG from 31 March 2020 entitled “Year 11 into Year 12 Remote Learning”. In addition, those wanting to study a subject/s where they had not fully completed the GCSE syllabus should look at

the revision programme that was given to them at the start of March and keep checking Frog to ensure they have the most up-to-date information.

For those Year 11 students who are not staying at Backwell Sixth Form, there will be section on the above mentioned FROG page with advice and guidance on next steps and how to make the most of the coming months. Please remember for example that they have access to Unifrog which is incredibly useful in preparing for their future.

### **A message for parents/carers of Year 11 students who have applied to Backwell Sixth Form**

If your son/daughter didn't have a chance to hand in his/her reply form to the offer of a place in Backwell Sixth Form from September 2020 before school was closed, please can you email Sharon Bangham: [sbangham@backwellschool.net](mailto:sbangham@backwellschool.net) to confirm whether his/her offer is **accepted** as **first** or **second** choice or **declined**. Thank you.

### **Partial opening**

School has now been running for a week for a small group of students, including children of key workers. We have a very effective programme for the day, including academic work, games, film and exercise. We have a very strict social distancing policy and students are being diligent in hand-washing and hygiene. I am very grateful to all the staff who have volunteered to come in and staff this provision, including during the forthcoming 'Easter holidays'. Parents who qualify for this provision and who have no alternative way to supervise their children can book a place for the next day by completing the form at the following link by 3.00 pm:

[Booking Form for Key Workers](#)

### **Enrichment week**

It is with regret that we have made the decision to cancel Enrichment Week 2020 for all year groups. If school is fully open again by that time, we will have a normal timetable week as part of the essential process of making up for time missed in the classroom. This decision applies to all years, including Years 10 and 12. Year 10 will not have work experience at that time – in fact many employers have already contacted us to withdraw their offer of a place – we will look at how we can support students to gain an appropriate placement out of school time instead. Students will have gained employability skills through the research conducted and the application process which they will be able to use in future. The post-18 programme that Year 12 students would have experienced in that week will be reorganised.

The Finance Office will be working hard to sort through a large number of insurance claims and subsequent refunds. Please bear with us, as we are unable to refund monies that the school no longer holds and will therefore be putting in insurance claims for all Enrichment Week trips on your behalf. As we are sure you will appreciate, this will not be a quick process and could take many weeks, due to the sheer volume of cancellations. As and when

a refund has been made for a specific Enrichment Week 2020 trip, we will communicate with parents via the Friday email home. Unfortunately, we will be unable to respond to individual requests and we apologise for any inconvenience caused.

In addition, we have decided to carry out a review of Enrichment Week 2021. This review is needed in the light of uncertainties surrounding travel, the probable need for further opportunities to ensure students catch up with their studies and the opportunity to re-evaluate our priorities in areas such as air travel.

### **Free School Meals**

We have arranged with our caterers, Aspens, for those eligible for Free School Meals to receive a weekly hamper from now on, (although the government is also working on a 'voucher' scheme). Most families have responded positively and have chosen the school from which they wish to collect this. If you need to know more about this, or are in hardship and need additional support, please contact the school.

I also wanted to make you aware of a warning we have received from the Department for Education that a scam email is going around at the moment with regard to free school meals. The Department for Education have tweeted the following:

"We have been informed some parents have received an email stating:

**'As schools will be closing, if you're entitled to free school meals, please send your bank details and we'll make sure you're supported'.**

This is a scam email - do not respond: and delete immediately.

### **Communication**

While trying not to bombard you with messages, we will try to keep parents up-to-date with all school issues. This weekly bulletin will be the main source of information, along with the school website. We want all Backwell pupils to continue to feel an active part of the school and to know we are still working to support them. From next week, my staff and I will send a weekly video message directly to the students: this will be published on Mondays. In addition, teachers and other members of staff will be making contact directly with families by telephone or email to check on student welfare and follow up any issues with academic work. Teachers and students can communicate by email, but only using their school email address please.

### **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 Advice and Opportunities \(27 March 2020\)](#)

If you have any queries regarding future plans Mrs Ball can be contacted on her school email [cball@backwellschool.net](mailto:cball@backwellschool.net). Students in Years 12 and 13 can also look at updated guidance via the Sixth Form pages on Frog.

### **Year 11 Hoodies**

The deadline for ordering a Year 11 Leavers' Hoodie has been extended until Monday 6 April to allow people a little more time to get their order in. Please see the letter on the website for information about cost and sizing. Payments are to be made via [ParentPay](#) as usual.

[Year 11 Leavers' Hoodies](#)

*Emailed to parents: 27 March 2020*