



Dear Parents/Carers

## **Examinations 2020**

This morning Ofqual published their guidance on how grades will be awarded. Please read the letter to students, which is the clearest summary:

[Ofqual letter to students](#) (3 April 2020)

Ofqual have also provided this more detailed document for parents:

[Ofqual guidance for teachers/students/parents and carers](#) (3 April 2020)

Please note that this guidance refers to GCSEs, AS Levels and A Levels which would have been taken in summer 2020. We have not yet had details about how grades will be awarded for other qualifications. Therefore, Year 13 students taking CTEC qualifications in Business, Performing Arts and Health and Social Care, as well as students taking the AQA Extended Certificate in Applied Science, should continue with any work set until we receive more details. Year 12 students taking the Extended Project Qualification are not affected by these decisions, as they will be entered for the EPQ in the November exam season.

We will now establish a thorough, fair and consistent process to ensure all students get the grades they deserve from their years of hard work and study at Backwell School. This process will require time and strategic leadership. Therefore, please can we ask that as parents and students you do not contact staff directly. Ofqual have been explicit that no member of staff can discuss any student's individual case with either a parent or the student themselves. As Head of Centre, it will be my responsibility to ensure that the school follows the Ofqual processes with great care and absolute fairness. I am very confident in the ability of the school and its staff to do so. I will continue to keep parents and students informed as we go through the process.

## **Partial Opening**

The school will remain open for children of key workers throughout the Easter holiday period, using the daily online booking form:

[Booking Form for Key Workers](#)

## **Remote Learning**

We continue to monitor remote learning. We are seeing some fantastic work from students, many of whom are taking advantage of the opportunity to communicate with their teachers to develop their learning further (please remember to use school

email accounts only). Through Frog we are also able to identify where some students appear not to be fully engaging with the work set; in these cases, parents can expect contact from tutor and teacher via email or telephone.

Although it may not be as easy to identify as normal, we are now about to start the Easter holidays! I am not expecting staff to be setting new work or responding to students' work during the holidays, but students can still carry on with the tasks set. Year 12 students should be reminded that Year 12 exams take place in the week commencing 27 April, although clearly not in the manner originally envisaged.

Ofqual have been clear that predicted grades for Year 11 and Year 13 will not be affected from any work they complete from now onwards. However, there could still be good reasons for completing such tasks; not only for their intrinsic value and interest, but also because students who subsequently decide next year to re-take qualifications may well need to finish key topics at that point. Certainly, no student should throw away any work!

I would like to remind all parents of Year 11 students that we have set up a folder entitled "Year 11 into Year 12 remote learning" on Frog. There is transition work for every subject for students who intend to stay on at Backwell Sixth Form as well as study guidance and useful future plans links. For those not staying on at Backwell, there is again useful future plans information and a link to our guidance around well-being.

### **Free School Meals**

This week we have worked with our caterers, Aspens, to offer a weekly hamper of food to families of students eligible for free school meals, collected from school, which appears to have been well received. Although the government has now launched a 'voucher scheme', this does not include the two-week Easter holiday period. For the time being, therefore, we are staying with the hamper system.

Hamper collections will take place on Monday 6 April and Tuesday 14 April between 11.00 am and 2.00 pm from school as usual. The hamper on Monday 6 April will contain food for six days and the one on Tuesday 14 April will be enough for four days to account for the Easter weekend.

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

A reminder that 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 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.

## **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 \(3 April 2020\)](#)

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 13 Leavers' Hoodies**

The deadline for ordering a Year 13 Leavers' Hoodie has been extended until Monday 20 April to allow people more time to get their order in. Please see the letter on the website for information about cost, sizing and colours etc. Payments are to be made via [ParentPay](#) as usual.

### [Year 13 Leavers' Hoodies \(extended deadline\)](#)

## **Library Support for students**

We encouraged students to borrow extra books before they left school and some may have finished them already, while others may well be wishing they had borrowed some books too!

So, we have been collating links to online resources that are either free, or fairly cheap to use. As the list is constantly changing, we are going to upload them onto the Library blog, [Booksatbackwell](#) so they are easily accessible by all. The first list went up this week - with links to Libraries West (the public library online), ebooks, emagazines, digital news, and audio books.

The next instalment will include links to literary events and videos etc, some with worksheets and activities attached.

Meanwhile follow [Toppsta](#) on Twitter or Instagram for a daily timetable of online events running.

We are there too: [@booksatbackwell](#) on Twitter and [@LibraryLadiez](#) on Instagram.

*Emailed to parents: 3 April 2020*