



Dear Parents/Carers

### **Live Learning**

Live Learning sessions for all students have begun this week. Over 200 sessions have taken place so far and we know it has been very positive for staff and students to see each other again.

Parents can keep track of live sessions by using the FROG assignments app and looking for assignments with "Live Lesson/Session" in the title. All live sessions will last approximately 30 minutes, although some might be longer depending on the work being completed, and parents can view our expected frequency of these sessions for their child [here](#).

A reminder that we have put together [training and guidance](#) for students on using Microsoft Teams to access their Live Learning Session.

### **Years 10 and 12: Face-to-Face Sessions**

We have really enjoyed welcoming Year 10 and 12 students back to school this week for their face-to-face sessions. These will continue next week as well, the letter detailing the arrangements can be found [here](#).

### **Years 7, 8 and 9: Check-In**

Government advice changed this week and we have welcomed the opportunity now provided - to bring students from these year groups into school later this term. Yesterday we [emailed](#) all parents/carers with children in Years 7, 8 and 9. The intention of these one-off 'check-in' sessions would be to help us get a clearer sense of how pupils have found learning from home, to check on their wellbeing, and to plan further teaching. It will also allow students to visit the school site and see a small group of familiar faces (both friends and staff).

The deadline for completing [the online form](#) to request a session for your child in Year 7, 8 or 9 is 9.00 am on Wednesday 24 June.

### **Year 13 students:**

We would like to confirm that all students will retain access to their FROG accounts and emails until at least September and potentially beyond this date if it is deemed necessary, so students continue to have full access to school resources.

We are working with subject departments to ensure that students have contact with their 'A' Level teachers this term and are given the necessary instructions and

resources on how to complete courses and revise if they choose to do so at this time. As you may know, the Ofqual consultation on an additional GCSE, AS and A level exam series in autumn 2020 ended on 8 June 2020 and we are awaiting the outcome of this consultation before offering further advice to students on any exam preparation.

The Sixth Form team and Year 13 tutors will be in direct contact with students this term to give them useful updates and to say a farewell for now - we still have every hope of celebrating their achievements with them later in the year! We'd like to remind Year 13 students that the deadline for making UCAS final decisions is 18 June 2020 and that the Careers Bulletin contains a number of opportunities that could increase their employability skills and enhance their learning ahead of starting Post-18 courses.

### **Looking further ahead**

Since last week there has been a little more information announced regarding plans for schools after Term 6.

Yesterday we heard the outline of a plan for student catch-up based around tutoring. £1 billion has been set aside - a third of which is earmarked for 'disadvantaged students'. This is clearly very welcome, but schools are anxious to see the details as well as information about other key questions, which include:

- "When will schools finally receive the laptops promised for Year 10 pupils?"
- "What form should our planning take for September – for example, will guidelines on social distancing, class sizes and rotas be the same as now? If not, when will we be informed?"
- "How will GCSE and A Level Results Days be different this year?"
- "When will we know the arrangements for next year's exams? How will the content or assessment arrangements for current Year 10 and 12 students be adjusted to reflect exceptional circumstances?"

As we hear answers to these questions, we will share them with parents and carers.

### **Key COVID-19 documents for parents/carers**

The Government regularly publishes and updates its guidance about coronavirus.

The latest information on what parents and carers need to know about schools and other education settings during the coronavirus outbreak can be found [here](#). You should also familiarise yourself with the [expectations regarding isolating](#) should a member of your household become ill.

### **Update on Refunds for Cancelled Trips and Events**

The Finance staff would firstly like to thank parents, for their continuing patience and understanding, as regards waiting for their respective refunds for cancelled trips. We know that many families find themselves in a difficult situation at the moment, during this challenging Covid-19 situation.

It is proving to be a very long drawn out process, which relies heavily on the insurance claims being settled, as the school no longer holds the monies for these cancelled trips. Once an insurance claim has been settled, the Finance staff will then arrange to forward this money to ParentPay so that, once cleared (which can take up to two weeks), the school can begin to issue the refunds back to parents. The whole refund process has been taking from between one and two months to complete, depending on how long the school has to wait for a particular trip insurance claim to be settled.

As and when a refund has been made for a specific cancelled trip, we will continue to 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.

### **Cancelled trip/event refunds already processed via ParentPay:**

#### **Cancelled day trips:**

- North Somerset Dance Festival - March 2020
- English trip to Globe Theatre - March 2020
- Nat West Schools Cup Rugby Finals at Twickenham
- La Casa de Bernarda Alba - March 2020
- Year 13 Economics Workshop - March 2020
- Year 7 Breakout Day - March/April 2020
- English trip to A Christmas Carol - March 2020
- GCSE English trip to Macbeth - March 2020
- A Level Theatre Studies trip - April 2020
- French Exchange 2019/20

Bush Camp 2020

Fishing 2020

London 2020

Music Tuition fees for Terms 5 and 6

Tickets for Spring Concert - March 2020

Clubs and Courses fees for April – July 2020

### **Timeline for the remaining cancelled trip refunds:**

By 24 June	Little Canada 2020 and Osmington Bay 2020
By 1 July	Ardeche 2020 (Deposits and instalments)
By 15 July	Tregoyd 2020, Nettlecombe Court 2020 (A level Geography field trip) and Sorrento 2020 (deposits only*).
By 15 July	New insurance claims: Base Backwell, German Exchange and A level Biology Field Course

\*Please note: the school is unable to provide a date, for refunding the Sorrento 2020 instalment payments at the moment, as these monies are still part of an outstanding insurance claim.

## **How to withdraw the trip refund payments from ParentPay:**

Parents will be able to see their trip refunds in the 'basket' area on their ParentPay account. To withdraw these funds back onto their debit/credit card, they need to go into their Parent Account on ParentPay (top of screen); Statements; then click on the 'withdraw' box at bottom left of screen. (Please note: ParentPay only allows a total of three withdrawals from your Parent Account within a three-month period.)

## **Live Lounge**

If you didn't tune in 'live' to this online concert last night, you're not too late to go to the Music pages on FROG and watch. You won't spend a more uplifting 30 minutes - some beautiful performances and a number of original compositions from students from Year 7 to Year 13. Thank you to all the contributors and to Alex Pearson and the Music team for masterminding it.

## **Mental Health and Wellbeing**

As the Covid-19 pandemic continues to prevent many students from coming in to school, we remain concerned about the impact this has on their mental health. I just wanted to take this opportunity to remind you that the Wellbeing Practitioners who work in school providing help and advice during the school year are still available to support your children from their Wellspring office in Nailsea. Please see the posters attached and if you have concerns about your child, please encourage them to make contact.

I would also remind your child that they can also contact Kooth, the online counselling service at [www.Kooth.com](http://www.Kooth.com) if they have any concerns.

## **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 \(19 June 2020\)](#)

## **Letters Home**

[GCSE Science Courses from September 2020 - For current Year 9](#) – Parents/Carers of Year 9 students

[Face-to-Face Sessions for Years 7, 8 and 9](#) – Parents/Carers of students in Years 7, 8 and 9

## **And finally ...**

You may well be interested to read about a project featured on the BBC News last week created by two ex-Backwell School students entitled 'World from my Window'

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-bristol-52833076>

*Emailed to parents 19.06.20*