



Friday 17 April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

As you will know, it was announced on Thursday 16 April that schools will remain closed to most students for at least another three weeks. Therefore, as we come to the end of the 'Easter Break', but remain in the school closure period, we are continuing with our 'remote learning' programme for students to follow at home.

Teachers will be setting tasks via Frog as detailed in our school closure [workload guidance document](#)

A reminder of safeguarding procedures in place regarding home-school communication: all pupils must email their teachers from their school email account, not their personal email addresses. Parents can continue to contact teachers directly should they so wish.

### **Support for vulnerable pupils and children of key workers**

Thank you to all school staff who supervised students over the Easter holidays - we had students in throughout the holiday period, including the bank holidays.

In-school-supervision will continue over the coming weeks – please remember to use the [online booking system](#) if you need to access key worker supervision for your children (please book before 3pm).

### **Ofqual update and examination results**

The School Leadership Team have been carefully reading the guidance from the Department for Education regarding the School's part in the awarding of examinations results. We now have a thorough, fair and consistent procedure in place and this will be shared with Backwell teaching staff next week. We will consider a wide range of evidence in order to generate a grade that reflects the most likely outcome for each student in each subject. This evidence will include any coursework or NEA completed, Trial Exams results, classwork and home learning over the whole of the course. Teachers will take account of all circumstances affecting a pupil's progress as well as any exam access arrangements in place for the summer.

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, Mr Nunes will ensure that the school follows the Ofqual processes with great care and absolute fairness and that teachers work to ensure all students get the grades they deserve.

A reminder that the latest Ofqual information can be found [here](#) and a video explaining the situation for pupils can be found [here](#)

Ofqual has now clarified that a similar process to that already announced for GCSE, AS and A Levels will apply to students studying 'vocational subjects'.

Despite previous suggestions from Government that results might be earlier this year, it has now been confirmed this week that GCSE and A Level examination results will be published in August on the original planned dates:

A level Results: 13 August 2020  
GCSE Results: 20 August 2020

## **Year 9 GCSE Options**

We have been working on Year 9 GCSE options for September 2020 over the past few weeks and hope to finalise these in the next week. We will then be able to confirm these with families of students in Year 9. Heads of Department are also considering if there are any specific transition tasks that can be completed by Year 9 students as part of their 'remote learning' prior to them beginning their GCSE studies in September.

### **Update on refunds for cancelled trips**

By next Wednesday 22 April, the Finance Office will have processed refunds to parents via ParentPay, for the following cancelled trips:

- French Exchange 2019/20
- 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
- Yr 13 Economics Workshop - March 2020
- Tickets for Spring Concert - March 2020
- Yr 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

Parents will be able to see these 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 ParentAccount 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 3 withdrawals from your ParentAccount within a 3 month period.)

### **Update on Enrichment Week 2020 trips:**

Since the unfortunate cancellation of our Enrichment Week 2020 trips (plus the A level Geography field trip to Nettlecombe Court), the Finance Office have been processing a large number of insurance claims on behalf of our parents. Please bear with us again, as we are unable to refund monies no longer held by the school and it could take many weeks, for these insurance claims to be settled.

As and when a refund has been made for a specific cancelled 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.

## **Free School Meals**

We will continue to offer hampers to those eligible for Free School Meals throughout the extended Coronavirus shutdown. The Lighthouse Schools Partnership (LSP) has decided to continue to offer this provision across all schools within the Trust especially as the government voucher scheme has encountered many issues with implementation.

Hampers can be collected, as normal from the school, between 10.00 am and 12.00 noon on Mondays.

## **Careers bulletin**

The latest Careers Bulletin, including information on apprenticeships, university and colleges can be found [here](#)

## **Message from Dr Dan Magnus, Bristol Royal Hospital for Children**

We have received this important advice for parents from local health and care leaders.

Everyone is doing their bit to help beat Coronavirus. Do your bit by going to the right place for medical care. It is important for parents and families to understand that our local emergency departments are still open for anyone who needs it.

If you think your child has a very serious or life-threatening condition you must go to A&E or call 999.

If your child has a minor injury, please go to your nearest Minor Injuries Units at:

- South Bristol Community Hospital, Hengrove
- North Somerset Community Hospital, Clevedon
- West Gate Centre, Yate

If your child has a minor illness, please contact your GP practice. For 24/7 advice please go to 111.nhs.uk

Do your bit for the NHS.

Finally we will continue to update our website, including our specific Coronavirus closure [page](#), as well as our social media (we are on both Facebook and Twitter!). You may have missed our latest video update, this week from Mr Houghton, which can be found on the front page of the school website. We will email home next week as well to keep you all up to date with what is going on in the Backwell School community.