



Backwell School

A National Teaching School

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Headteacher: Jon Nunes MA

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Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly I would like to introduce myself – I am Mr Stephens, Assistant Headteacher; Head of Year 7 and I will be leading the Year 7 Team in welcoming your child to Backwell School later this year.

I have been working very closely with Mr Nunes, and other school staff, over the past few weeks planning and preparing for all our new Year 7 students.

I am writing to you today to update you all on transition to the school, especially as we still work within restrictions due to COVID-19.

Induction Day, Parents' Information Evening and Explore Week

Sadly we are having to cancel our Induction Day (scheduled for Tuesday 30 June), the Parents' Information Evening (on Thursday 2 July) and Explore Week (the first week of the summer holidays).

We are disappointed that we are not able to run these events. This is due to the restrictions still in place due to Coronavirus which means that we are not allowed to welcome new students or parents onto our school site. We are currently looking into alternatives for providing parents with key information that would have been shared on Thursday 2 July.

These restrictions also means that our uniform supplier will not be able to offer a retail day on the school site this academic year.

Virtual Transition

We appreciate that moving up to secondary school is an emotional time - children will feel excited to meet new friends and experience new lessons. It is also normal for children to feel worried or nervous about this move and our Induction Day would normally help children with these feelings.

Over the past few weeks we have been working very hard to create a Virtual Transition for your child to help them feel as familiar with Backwell School as possible. We have a [dedicated webpage on our website](#) for transition which contains a number of videos about life at Backwell School.

I have created two welcome videos, covering FAQs of new students as well as details on life at Backwell School. A virtual tour of the school will be uploaded to the website very shortly.

We have also produced a 'Transition Workbook'; all children will be sent one of these in the post over the next week or so. It contains tasks and activities to help them prepare, and feel acquainted, with Backwell School.

Please take some time to look at our website, including the transition videos with your child. You could also support them with the completion of the transition booklet as we begin to welcome your family to the Backwell School community.

Next Steps

Next week you will receive an email detailing the tutor group and language allocation for your child as well as information on purchasing uniform for September. Whilst forming tutor groups this year, if a clash of preferences occurred, Mr Nunes and I have prioritised friendships over all other requests. This may mean that for some families the house-sibling link may have been lost, or your child will be studying a different language to the one requested.

It may be that you or your child have questions about joining Backwell School, which are not covered in our virtual transition. If so please send an email to mailbox@backwellschool.net FAO Mr Stephens. Please include your child's name and current primary school. We will then collate any questions we receive and I will answer them before the end of Term – possibly by way of a video update.

You may like to follow the school on social media – we use both Facebook and Twitter to update on events and activities at the school, including our weekly video to students during the closure period.

I promise that we will continue to update you over the coming weeks and months as we move towards the new academic year. We are all awaiting further details from the Government regarding their plans for schools from September.

Best wishes to you all.

Mr P Stephens
Assistant Headteacher