



HIGH STANDARDS, HIGH ASPIRATIONS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS

14th October 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to the first newsletter of the year for Year 10. I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the member of leadership with oversight for academic outcomes for this year group. I have been working in the Impact Team on outcomes for 3 years now, taking students through both Year 10 and Year 11 and helping them to navigate the challenges of their GCSEs. In this newsletter I will briefly share some key dates for the year ahead, mention the option process and touch on exam access arrangements. Finally, a word on homework at KS4 and attendance/punctuality.

Key Dates

Event	Date (*subject to change)
Core Mocks and Mid-Year Assessments:	W/C Monday 13 th January 2025
Reports Home:	TBC – in time for subject evening
Subject Evening:	Thursday 13 th February 2025
Term 6 Mock Exams:	W/C Monday 23 rd June 2025
Careers Week:	W/C Tuesday 8 th July 2025
Reports Home:	Thursday 17 th July 2025

Options and Languages

The first big deadline in Year 10 is that of finalising option subject choices. Students were walked through this process and were told that they had the first three weeks of term to consider the start they have made to their options and whether they were still happy with their choices. As of Wednesday 25th September, option choices are locked in, as beyond this point a student changing subjects would simply have missed too much of the GCSE course already. Having been able to visit many of the option subjects myself over the past 3 to 4 weeks, the work going on in these classes is looking strong, and it is great to see students engaging with subjects they have chosen to take through to GCSE.

As with option subjects, languages are another subject that students are committed to study until they leave Bristol Met. We believe in providing a broad and balanced curriculum and languages form part of that offer for us, as explained during the options process in Year 9. All students will sit their exams in their language at the end of Year 11, with only a small handful of exceptions whereby there are specific needs that mean this is not suitable. It is important to note at this early point in GCSEs that the decision not to enter for languages is taken by the school and is not through student preference or parental choice.



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Exam Access Arrangements

In terms 2 and 3, students on the SEND register will be invited for an assessment of need to determine whether they might be eligible for exam access arrangements for the 2026 exam series. If you have yet to return the parental consent form sent out in term 6 at the end of the last academic year, we welcome their return as soon as possible.

Homework

At KS4 we return to a more traditional style of homework in preparation for GCSEs. This homework will normally take the form of exam practice and therefore will be exam style questions. It may also be revision based, depending on the subject and the time of year. Every department has autonomy to set the homework as they see best for the students. As such, some homeworks are online (MathsWatch and Seneca etc), and some are paper based.

The homework policy at KS4 states that core subjects should be setting homework weekly, and non-core subjects setting fortnightly. Missing homework will be recorded in the same way on Bromcom, with notifications coming through on the MCAS app. Although homework is set by class teachers, students should also consider starting early revision. Little and often is the key, and so making an early start to revision on top of any homework will only bring benefits in the long run.

We are currently working on how best to use Bromcom, the parent app (MCAS) and possibly the student app, as a way of recording the homework that has been set. This would allow parents to see what is due and when and allow students to be more organised in completing the work. We are hoping to be able to trial this in Term 2/3 with Year 10s. In the meantime, if your child is struggling with the organisation of having homework set with hand in dates etc, I do have some very basic week-to-view planners photocopied to use. An alternative would be to use a simple diary.

Punctuality and Attendance

Our year group attendance last week was at 93.9%. As we enter winter, I know seasonal illness will be on the rise, but please can I ask that students do return to school as soon as they are well enough to do so and ask their teachers how they might catch up on missed work.

Further to previous communications, I'd like to remind you that all students are expected in the building by 8.35am at the latest, with the main academy doors closing at this time. Some of our students are missing out on our tutor programme and fortnightly assemblies by arriving after this time.

I look forward to working with yourselves and your children over the course of the coming months during this academic year. As always, any questions or queries then please do use our central mailbox where it will be directed to the appropriate person: info@bristolmet.net.

Kind regards

Andrew Price

**Year 10 Raising Attainment Lead
Associate Assistant Principal**