

## HIGH STANDARDS, HIGH ASPIRATIONS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS

20<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this letter finds you well as we come to the end of Term 2. I wanted to write to you briefly ahead of the Christmas break with a few key messages, although there will be more to come ahead in January.

### Key dates for Terms 3 and 4:

**Year 11 Mock Window 2: Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**Year 11 Subject Evening 2: Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**Year 11 Reward Trip to Thorpe Park: Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April**

**Year 11 Subject Evening**

Firstly, I wanted to thank everyone who was able to attend our Year 11 Subject Evening. It was lovely to see so many of you and I am grateful for your support. The conversations between teachers, students and yourselves are so important in helping our young people as they journey their final year. As you will have seen in the dates, there will be another opportunity to meet with your child's teachers this year, later in March.

### Mocks Exams

It feels like a while ago now that students sat their first set of Mocks of Year 11, however I must say that collectively they approached the exams maturely and I can see how hard many students have been working. This work has continued through this term while working on the feedback from teachers and in lessons. The outcomes of those mocks have helped to inform some of the steps we take in supporting students to make further progress, both in class and through work we do with students around lessons.

The last week of next term (10<sup>th</sup> February) sees the start of the second mock window. I will be writing to you early in the new year with the finalised mock timetable which is currently being reviewed before publishing. Students can expect to sit exams in nearly all subjects.

### Revision and Wellbeing

While we have started to make revision plans for the first week back, I have asked students to leave these plans with tutors over the break ahead, ready to come back to in January.

This term, some of tutor time has been dedicated to managing stress and wellbeing, with students thinking about which strategies work well for them. This might include things like exercise, reading, spending time with friends and family, going for a walk or getting outside, ensuring they get adequate sleep and nutrition, etc.

As part of our strategy for supporting their wellbeing, **we have explicitly told them to take a break over the two-week holiday.** I wanted to share this with you, to help reinforce this message at home. They should not have been set any revision or homework by teachers. This may be a more unusual message and an approach not taken by some other schools. However, we firmly believe that while this year places a high demand on Year 11 students, it is essential they get some rest at this point of the year. The next six months will be busy for them with little opportunity to stop and rest in the same way.

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While I appreciate this may cause some anxiety for some young people and cannot physically stop them from doing any work of their own choosing over the break, there is absolutely no expectation for them to do so. You will of course know your own child best, but please do remind them to rest and recover – it is essential they can return fresh in January for the final stretch of their GCSEs so they do not experience burnout later in the year during the most critical time.

**Uniform:**

A reminder that all students, including those in Year 11, are expected to be in school in the correct uniform. When in the school building and moving through the school, students are expected to have their shirts tucked in, blazers/jumpers on, and wearing appropriate footwear. While I appreciate that they do not have long left of their five years here, this expectation remains for the duration of their time at Bristol Met and students will be expected to attend all final exams in full uniform also.

**Punctuality:**

Please remember, students are expected on-site by 8:30am, with the main academy doors closing at 8:35am. Once in school, students are expected in lesson before the late bell; there are still a considerable number of Year 11 students who are not moving with purpose between lessons and therefore losing valuable lesson time. Please remind your child to make the most of their learning time and the importance of arriving for the beginning of every lesson.

**Prom:**

For the third year in a row, we have secured the King's Suite at the Marriott Hotel, College Green, for our Year 11 Prom, and you should have received a letter about this earlier in the week. It will take place on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2025 and is a fantastic way to celebrate our success together. A deposit of £10 is required on ParentPay by Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January, with the remaining cost payable by Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025. If you cannot make the first deadline of January 31<sup>st</sup> for the deposit but would still like your child to attend, please do get in touch so we can try to help. Please see the separate prom letter for more details.

Thank you for your ongoing support as always. I hope you have an enjoyable time with family and friends over the festive period and I will be in touch shortly in the new year.

Kind regards

Emma Ball

Associate Assistant Principal