

8 October 2024

Year 7 Term 1 Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer's,

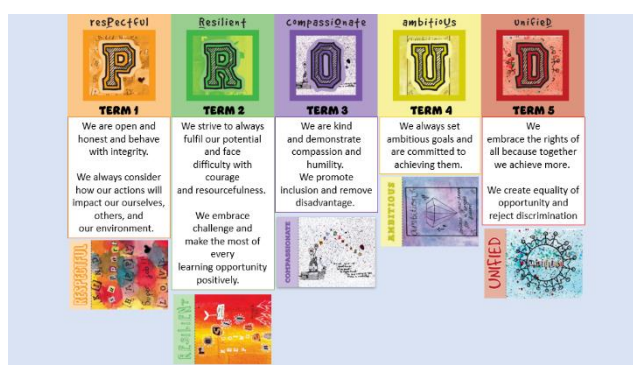
I want to extend a very warm welcome to you, now you and your children are part of Bristol Metropolitan Academy. I hope you are well, and that your child has been enjoying their first term settling in at Bristol Met. I am writing to you to introduce myself as the Raising Attainment Lead for Year 7 this year and to explain this part of my role and my involvement in your child's education. My focus is on your child's achievement across all subjects, working with staff and communicating with students and parents/carers to ensure that Year 7 students are getting the very most out of their first year here. Lucie Morrish, our transition lead, and myself have worked together through the transition process of your young people from Year 6 to Year 7. We have enjoyed getting to know them during Term 1 so far and are looking forward to continuing to work with them as they begin their journey with us. If you have any specific concerns regarding behaviour or attendance support then please direct these to your child's Tutor or Head of House.

Uniform

I want to thank you for your patience regarding uniform and the delivery of jumpers etc. We appreciate this may have caused additional anxiety for some young people but we have ensured that Year 7 in particular are supported with this and we are starting to see the orders coming in. Please ensure that jumpers and kit are all clearly named for an easy return of lost items. Students first port of call for any lost property is Student Reception at break and lunch time. Please do let us know if you have any further issues.

Rewards

I hope that your young people are discussing rewards they are achieving at school. Students receive Proud Points during lessons when demonstrating positive attitude to learning, students are also awarded Proud Postcards for extra effort based on our Proud Values. Please do ask your young person about these. They are celebrated weekly as part of our tutor program.



Homework and Knowledge Organisers

I have had a few emails regarding homework and just wanted to clarify a few points. First of all, this term is about supporting you and students to get routines in place and support where there are issues. We understand the transition to Secondary school is a big one and we want all our young people to be confident in the new routines. All students should now have been given their Knowledge Organisers and Homework Question Booklets (also

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available on the school website) and Homework Book. Students are responsible for these items, designed to develop their independence and study skills. Knowledge Organisers are a tool we use to support homework and contain key information for most subjects for that term. (There are a few exceptions which include science and some more practical subjects who will be setting homework separately.) The homework timetable does not reflect the lessons students have that day, the students need to follow the homework timetable and complete the questions they are given in their homework booklets for the respective date. Homework completion will be checked daily by tutors and where not completed, we have a graduated response system to address and improve this with students. This is not something that will be implemented this term for Year 7 although logs will be made, but there is no follow up sanction this term. The Knowledge Organiser also has space for the students' lesson timetable to be added, I know a few students have lost the loose pieces of paper so having it on the Knowledge Organiser is another tool for them to use.

Tutor Contact

I hope that you had a positive Tutor evening. It was lovely to see so many of you and listen to the many positive conversations happening about the fantastic start your young people have made with us. Should you wish to contact House Teams or tutors directly, please email the school at info@bristolmet.net with details of the member of staff you wish to speak to and your child's name and tutor group.

Attendance

One of the key areas, we as an Academy, want to focus on together is attendance to school. We have an Academy aim of all students having 96% attendance or above. Year 7 currently have an overall attendance of 95.6% so slightly lower than we'd like. Please ensure your child is in every day unless there are exceptional reasons. Please do contact us on 0117 3772071 (option 2) to let us know the reason for any absence on the morning of every absence. Please include your child's name, their tutor and the reason for absence, including symptoms, before 08:30.

Cost of living

If you are struggling with costs and think you may be able to apply for free school meals please contact main reception who will be able to support you, or follow this link <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/schools-learning-and-early-years/travel-and-free-school-meals/free-school-meals>.

In school we also provide breakfast club from 08.10 which is free to all students where they can get a warm breakfast. Please do also speak with house teams or reception if you are struggling with other costs relating to school and we will do what we can, where possible, to help.

Belonging

Belonging is a key area at Bristol Metropolitan, we focus on different areas of belonging across the year. We raise awareness of key months across the year through assemblies, tutor time and lessons. We also mark a variety of key days as well. Some examples of things we will cover over the next two terms:

Term 1: Black History Month (October) - World Mental Health Day (10th Oct) -

Term 2: Men's Mental Health Month (Nov) – Disability History Month (Nov) – Universal Month of Human Rights (Dec)



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Future dates for the diary

Date	Event
24 th and 25 th October 2024	Inset days (students do not attend school)
26 th October – 3 rd November 2024	Half term
4 th November 2024	Return to school – all pupils in
20 th December	Last day of term Term 2

I would finally like to add that I am so pleased that you chose to send your child to Bristol Met and I am immensely proud of the start that the year group have collectively made. Thank you for all your ongoing support and welcome to Team Met!

Kind regards

Jo Fisher
Associate Assistant Principal