

23 September 2022

**Year 8 Term 1 Newsletter**

Dear Parent/Carer

I wanted to extend a very warm welcome to you, as we return for a new year at Bristol Metropolitan Academy. I hope you are well at this time, 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 8 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 and particularly in Maths and English, working with other staff and communicating with students and parents/carers to ensure that Year 8 students are getting the very most out of their first year here. I intend to communicate with you via a newsletter on a termly basis to keep you updated about important events and information that will help you to support your child.

**Homework and Knowledge Organisers**

All students should now have been given these two items which they are responsible for and are designed to develop independence. Knowledge organisers are a tool we use to support homework and contain key information for most subjects for that term. There are few expectations which include more practical subjects who will be setting homework separately. They will receive a new knowledge organiser each term which contains key information for every subject. This is to be written in their homework book, following the two-week timetable and with the layout shown in there. 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. The knowledge organiser also has space for the students' lesson timetable to be added as I know a few have lost the loose pieces of paper. There is also an additional reading log to record and reflect on what they have been reading at home each week.

**Reading and subject Assessments**

Year 8 will already have completed a reading assessment at the start of term. We monitor reading ages in all KS3 students across the academy to ensure we have the right support in place where appropriate. Reading assessments take place three times across the year; September, January and June. It is important students engage with these assessments so that we get the most accurate data possible. Students will also complete formal subject assessments in Term 3. These assessments will take place in their normal lessons and will be in different formats depending upon the subject. Students will be prepared for assessments by their class teachers, and I will do some work with them in assemblies about how to prepare for assessments as well as being mindful of their wellbeing and ensuring we look at issues around stress and how to manage this too. I will update you and them about this in my next newsletter, please don't worry about this for now. It's just so you know assessments do happen and when.

**Tutor Contact and Tutor Evening**

Tutor evening is Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October, and this will give you the opportunity to speak with your child's tutor and discuss how they have settled in and ask any questions you need to. The evening will be virtual for Yr 8 as you only need to make one appointment. More information will follow on how to book this shortly. Should you wish to contact them or anyone else at the school beyond these times, please email the school at [info@bristolmet.net](mailto: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 a school want to focus on together is attendance to school. We have an Academy aim of all students having 96% attendance or above. Yr 8 currently have an overall attendance of 94.8% so slightly lower than we'd like. Please ensure child is in every day unless there are exceptional reasons. Please do contact us to let us know reasons for any absence on the morning of every absence.

## HIGH STANDARDS, HIGH ASPIRATIONS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS

### Cost of living

If you are struggling with costs and think you may be able to apply for free school meals please do 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.

### Clubs

Below are some clubs that are currently being offered after school if your child would like to attend.



Term 1 2022 **D&T Club** Thursdays 3:10-4:10

Date	Sessions	Staff
15 <sup>th</sup> September	DT – 3D Printing workshop 1	Mr Vince
22 <sup>nd</sup> September	Food – Pita Pizza	Miss Evans
29 <sup>th</sup> September	Textiles – Rag Rugging 1	Miss Steer
6 <sup>th</sup> October	DT – 3D Printing workshop 2	Mr Vince
13 <sup>th</sup> October	Food – Cornflake/Rice Crispie cakes	Miss Evans
20 <sup>th</sup> October	Textiles – Rag Rugging 2	Miss Steer

Sign up in A03 at break or lunch time. 20 spaces per session. First come first served!

### Black History Month Art workshops

Term 1 for KS3. 3.10-4pm. There is a sign-up sheet outside B12. It isn't always on the same day so students need to check the board in Art.

### Future dates for the diary

Date	Event
06 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	Tutor evening (more information to follow shortly)
20 <sup>th</sup> and 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2022	Inset days (students do not attend school)
22 – 30 <sup>th</sup> October	Half term
31 <sup>st</sup> October	Return to school – all pupils in
30 <sup>th</sup> November – 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Matilda Performances (Ticket sales information will follow)
14 <sup>th</sup> and 15 <sup>th</sup> December	SEND Parents Evening
16 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of term

I would finally like to add that 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