



## HIGH STANDARDS, HIGH ASPIRATIONS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS

8<sup>th</sup> September 2023

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### Letter for Y7 Families

Dear Parent/Carers,

I hope that all of your children have had a good start to their time at Bristol Met. It has definitely been the warmest start in my time (and I think in my 20 years of education in East Central Bristol). I hope that families manage to have a good weekend enjoying the sunshine before it cools down a little at the start of next week.

I normally write to families every couple of weeks with just any updates. Although we are only a few days into the term I just wanted to pass on a few comments.

**Photos** – on Tuesday students had their photo taken by a photographer. Primarily this is for us to have on the system for their student information account. However, in time students will bring home a letter outlining how you can purchase a photo if you wish.

**Parent Pay** – your child should have brought home their ParentPay activation letter yesterday (Thursday). If they didn't, please ask them today when they come home. If they are adamant they haven't had one then please email us on [info@bristolmet.net](mailto:info@bristolmet.net) and we will get another copy directly to you. A massive apology from me for the delay in these coming out. Normally they would be with you before the year starts to enable you to get their accounts up and running. Unfortunately we had to switch data provider just before the summer and although the system seemed to be working fine it decided it did not like the admission of new students! ParentPay and Bromcom (our new data system provider) have worked hard the last few days to get the systems working fully again and we believe that has happened. Please therefore ensure that you have your login and that you credit your child's ParentPay account (unless they are free school meals or not intending to purchase anything from the canteen) before Monday. Students must also ensure they have their Student ID Card with them every day to access the canteen. We have ensured that all Year 7 students have been fed this week but we will not be able to continue to offer that provision now that the systems are working again due to the costs involved. Many thanks for your attention and I apologise again for the bumpy start.

**Canteen Provision** – Aspens are the catering provider as part of our Skanska management contract. Each day at breaktime they offer a selection of snacks. At lunchtime they offer a choice of main meals as well as a range of grab and go items as well as a range of drinks.

The most cost effective lunch offer is a "Meal Deal." The Meal Deal is a combination offer that costs £2.40. You can see what makes a meal deal [using this link](#). Any student who is eligible for free school meals has the credit for a meal deal allocated each day. They do not have to purchase a meal deal (though that is the best value for money) and can choose to spend the £2.40 value on whatever items they choose. The Meal Deal price hasn't changed in 10 years but at the end of the month the meal deal is likely to increase to £2.60 subject to approval from the management company. I am sure you can understand the need for a cost increase given substantial operational cost increases in the last decade. The free school meals credit will increase to £2.60 at the same time so students can continue to get a meal deal each day.

The full price list is [available here](#) so you can see the costs of different items to enable you and students to budget appropriately.

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The menu offer from Aspens, for now until Christmas, is available [on this link](#). Here you can see what main meal options are being offered each day. As well as the main meal options there are a selection of sandwiches, baguettes, paninis and also 'grab and go' options as well as a wide range of drinks.

**Free School Meals** – we appreciate that, particularly recently, lots of families have been facing additional financial pressures with the cost of living. The Government estimate that many more families are eligible for free school meals than are currently claiming. If you are in any doubt it is always worth checking whether you may now be eligible for free school meals. This can be done online with information on our [website here](#). If you need any support with checking or making an application please do not hesitate to contact us on 0117 3772071 or pop into Reception between 8am and 4pm.

**Lockers** – there are lockers available for every student. They are not compulsory but highly recommended. They are useful for leaving PE kit, wet coats, umbrellas, etc in the wetter months. We ask for a £5 deposit for the key which should be available to pay in your ParentPay account now they are set up. Once paid the House Teams will issue the key normally the next day after payment is made.

**Websites** – we are having a few issues with our own and any CLF website with our web security software (Cloudflare). If you try to load the website you may get a security check from Cloudflare. If you refresh the page a few times it should load. Cloudflare are looking into the issue. The websites are still fully functional and online.

**Letters Home** - Letters home to parents are always published on the website so please do take a moment to check the Letters section if there is anything you are still unsure of [Letters Home Archive - Bristol Metropolitan Academy \(clf.uk\)](#)  
I appreciate that, particularly starting at a new school, there may be information overload or worries about not knowing enough. If you have any questions which you still feel are unanswered please do look at the Parent/Carer Handbook on [this link](#). If you feel your question is still unanswered please do email us on [info@bristolmet.net](mailto:info@bristolmet.net) and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Best wishes for a good second (and slightly cooler) week of term. As the weather is meant to cool significantly we will be returning to our usual full uniform from Monday. As always students are able to remove their blazers in any classroom and on any particularly warm day we remove them completely. If we feel for any reason that we will have to revert to PE kit then that will be communicated separately.

Yours sincerely



Cameron Shaw  
Principal