

8th September 2023

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Letter for Y8 to Y11 Families

Dear Parent/Carers,

I appreciate it has only been a short (albeit hot) first week back but I just wanted to share a few updates. First though I wanted to say how lovely it has been seeing the return of all of our students. It's a shame that the summer weather held out for the return to school before making an appearance but I hope families manage to enjoy it across the weekend before it returns to a slightly cooler and more usual September.

Canteen Provision – Aspens, who are the catering provider as part of our Skanska management contract, have had to make some changes to provision. Whilst I understand why these changes are needed (ultimately they haven't passed on any cost increases for a number of years despite the well publicised national and even international increases in energy, labour and ingredients) I am disappointed that we were not informed ahead of time meaning I could not update families or students. I have expressed my disappointment to the Aspens area management.

Essentially what comprises a "Meal Deal" has become more restricted. The Meal Deal is a combination offer that costs £2.40. You can see what makes a meal deal [now 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.

Other individual items are not changing cost. The full price list is [available here](#) so you can see the costs of different items to enable you and students to budget appropriately.

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.

Once again I apologise that we were not able to communicate these changes to you before the return to the Academy.

Y10 & Y11 Photos – yesterday all Y10 and Y11 had a new photo taken. This was primarily to update their student record so that they don't still have their Y7 photo (as students do change quite a bit in that time). In time students will bring home a letter outlining the ability to purchase a copy of the photo should you wish.

ID Cards – I think the new photos may have caused some confusion with older students who thought they may immediately be getting a new ID card with a new photo. That is not the case. It will be some weeks before we get the new photos. Students **must** continue to bring their existing card to use the canteen as students not bringing cards causes big delays in the queues which leads to frustration for everyone. From Monday the canteen will insist on every student having their card in order to purchase their food. Any student who has lost their card can purchase a new one in ParentPay and get it from Student Reception. Many thanks in advance for the support.

HIGH STANDARDS, HIGH ASPIRATIONS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS

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.

Summer Building Improvements – to ensure the building continues to provide as high quality environment as possible we made some improvements over the summer break. Several of these were based on student voice and feedback.

- 1) We installed two new staircases. This means that each cluster (set of classrooms) is now served by 3 staircases rather than 2. This should really help with the movement of students around the building during lesson changeovers.
- 2) We modified every toilet cubicle door to ensure they continue to provide 100% privacy. We are very fortunate to have a modern building which is well furnished with toilets but these changes should ensure they continue to cater for all students in the best way possible.
- 3) We installed a scooter rack by the main entrance. This provides a more secure way to lock scooters. If your child brings a scooter to school please ensure they bring a padlock to use the scooter rack or other suitable lock to secure the scooter. ***A reminder please that no student is permitted to bring any electronic scooter onto school site. It is illegal for any student to ride one in a public place and we cannot condone their use currently as a method of transport.***
- 4) We replaced all of the locker locks. Every student is able to have a locker but they need to pay a £5 deposit (via ParentPay) for the key. Once the deposit is paid the House Team will issue the key generally the next school day. Upon return of the key when you leave Bristol Met you will receive your deposit back. If a key is lost £5 is needed to cover the purchase of a new key.

We have some additional works planned in the coming weeks and months, again based on student voice

- a) Sanitary product dispensers will be installed into toilet areas. This is part of our commitment towards addressing period poverty and also promoting a more positive period dignity policy. We hope these will be in place later this term and more information will be shared when they are ready to use.
- b) A new covered canteen space will be installed near the tennis courts. This will provide more canteen seating space in the winter months. We had really hoped to have it in place for now but planning permission took a much longer time than anticipated. We are now hoping it can be done over coming months so that it is in place for some of the winter period.

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.

Uniform – We know across summer many families will have purchased new uniform. We would be delighted to receive any uniform that is in usable condition and is no longer needed (blazer, skirts, trousers, shifts, ties, jumpers, shoes, PE kit...anything!). We try to maintain a loan stock of uniform (which we wash and clean after every use) for any student who forgets uniform or is in need and donations make this viable. If you have anything we would be happy to receive it into Reception on any day between 7:30am and 4pm.

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 \(clf.uk\)](#)



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Principal Mr C Shaw

HIGH STANDARDS, HIGH ASPIRATIONS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS

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

