



HIGH STANDARDS, HIGH ASPIRATIONS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS

28th March 2024

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the end of Term 4! This academic year is flying by. The last few mornings have felt like a touch of spring (and then they have quickly turned) but let's hope we see a bit more of that Spring sunshine over the break.

I'll start this letter with a few information items and then move into some celebrations of some of the things that have been happening within the Academy in very recent weeks.

Absence Notification - At present, parents/carers can text our absence number to notify us of their child's absence on the day. From Monday 15th April (start of Term 5), the text facility will be **turned off**. This is due to a change in Safeguarding procedures for schools. This means we will no longer be monitoring any texts and will only be accepting voicemails. **This can be done by ringing the academy telephone number: 0117 3772071, option 2 and leaving a voice message on each day of your child's absence before 8:30am.** As a reminder, when reporting your child's absence, please provide the following information: Your name, the child's name, their tutor group and the reason for their absence including symptoms in cases of illness.

Free School Meals – Please check that you are not eligible. We know from our data that so many more students are eligible than are claiming which means families are facing further hardship at a difficult time. Unfortunately, we cannot identify from the data the names of specific families. If you are at all unsure if you may qualify please do visit the section of our [website here](#). You can apply online and get an instant decision on the [Bristol City Council Website here](#).

If you are unsure of the process or want any assistance or guidance don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Messages Home – as part of our commitment to use our resources more efficiently, letters and non-immediate urgent messages will be sent via email rather than text message. Please therefore do ensure that you update us with any change in email address so we can keep you informed. This week we have launched the Bromcom Parent App (MCAS – My Child At School) with Year 11 and over coming weeks will roll it out to all year groups. This app will allow you to receive messages from us but will also give you real time access to attendance, punctuality, rewards, behaviour and various other aspects of your child's diet at BMA each day. We hope that the introduction of this app will really improve the flow of information from us to our families.

Fly Tipping Grove Road – Unfortunately we are having commercial waste dumped at the rear entrance of the Academy (Grove Road) on a regular basis. This is obviously unsightly for our students and families as they arrive to the Academy and a general frustration and eyesore to the community. Unfortunately, it is Council land so we are limited in what we can actively do to address but dealing with it and arranging for it to be collected is obviously frustrating. An appeal please to the local community to let us know any information if you happen to see any fly tipping in action so that we can work with the local authorities to address.

Safeguarding Information – we know that there can be many concerns for parents of children in the modern world and that these concerns can heighten as children reach their teenage years and therefore naturally crave more independence. The local Safeguarding team would like to signpost parents to some useful resources around [Keeping Children Safe Online](#) and also in relation to [Ben Kinsella Trust](#) in relation to knife crime.



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And now a few stories of amazing things that our young people have been doing over the most recent weeks...

Community Iftar – last week we held our first Community Iftar as part of Ramadan. Initially we had set the limit at 200 tickets and weren't sure we would use them all...in the end we have nearly 300 people turn up. Students delivered some input to attendees on the importance of Ramadan to them before the Maghrib prayer and then a community meal. It was lovely seeing so many of our community coming together for a sit down meal and we look forward to seeing an even bigger event next year.

Cakes for Syria – led by Mr McNiffe and in collaboration with Cotham School, the last few weeks students have been busy selling Chocolate Fudge Cake to staff and students (and families) to support Islamic Relief. Islamic Relief are a charity working across the world to support emergency relief and early recovery. Due to the amazing efforts of the young people nearly £1100 has been raised.



CLF Big Bake – as part of our trust wide work the 'CLF Big Bake' contest pipped students against each other testing out their baking and decorating skills. This year we were represented by 2 of our Y10 students. A very impressive local heat saw them winning and making it to the grand final. Another impressive performance in the final saw us clinch Silver Medal status. Well done to those involved.

Y11 Food & Nutrition Coursework – Year 11 students, as part of their overall assessment, had to plan and then produce a themed set of dishes which were then sampled and fed back on. There were some truly stunning dishes produced from scratch over the 4 day period. Well done to all students involved!



Bristol School of Acting – Year 10 Drama students hosted a visit from 'Bristol School of Acting' and had a variety of workshop inputs which will help them develop even further for their assessments. Thank you to BSA for giving up their time and working with us.

Flying Start Challenge – Mr Vince recently took 2 of our Y9 students (George and Neal) to the final event in a 6 week programme in collaboration with Airbus. The students had learnt about aeronautics and then produce a glider to take part in a competition. They won the local competition and then participated in the Regionals coming 4th out of 25 schools. This means they are invited to the National competition later in the year. Well done George and Neal.

Cheer Nationals – last weekend our Cheerleading Squads traveled to Birmingham to participate in National Championships. Despite some last minute illness and injuries both the Level 1 (Schools) and Level 2 (Seniors) divisions were victorious and are National Champions! The Level 1 squad scored 83.30 which, for those of us less clued up, is only a 0.2 deduction overall! What amazing work from all of the squad and a massive Thank You to Miss Pine-Smith for coaching and Miss Smith and Mrs Whitcliffe for giving up their weekends to accompany. Finally, Good Luck to Miss Pine-Smith who will shortly be off to America to represent Wales in the World Cheerleading Championships herself!



Young Talent of Tomorrow Fashion Competition – last but not least...the DT Department introduced students to a National Competition to design some items of clothing. I am so proud to announce that Maja, one of our Y8 students, has won the competition beating every other entry in the Country. This means Maja’s designs will be professionally produced and worn on the catwalk at the Graduate Fashion Week and will then be showcased for the whole week. What an amazing achievement at such a young age. Big congratulations to Maja and thank you to Miss Kerlake for launching the competition and Miss Steer for teaching Maja in Textiles lessons.



I hope all of our students, staff and families have a lovely Easter break. Happy Easter to everyone and Eid Mubarak for a few weeks’ time. A reminder that Monday 15th April is INSET and that **all** students return at 8:30am on Tuesday 16th April.

Best wishes,

Cameron Shaw
Principal

