



## HIGH STANDARDS, HIGH ASPIRATIONS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024

If you would like to convert this letter into another language, please [visit this website](#).

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the end of Term 5! This term has zipped past. We have seen a peak of Summer (and a downpour of Spring) but let's hope for some brighter and stable weather over the coming weeks.

I'll start the letter with some amazing achievements of our Basketball Teams from recent weeks and then outline some operational items.

**Basketball** – This term has been an incredibly busy term for our Basketball Teams. All teams were entered into the National Championships and, for the first time in our existence, 3 teams made it into the Semi Final! The U14 Girls, U16 Girls, and U16 Boys all had difficult Semi-Finals to get through to make the finals in Manchester. Our two oldest teams secured their wins (and our U14 girls played admirably and show lots of promise for the coming years, we are so proud of them) and travelled up to Manchester last week for their final games.



The U16 Girls were defeated by Trinity School Manchester and the game was close. Trinity School Manchester has some of the strongest international players of their age range and our team really took it to them, but it just wasn't to be on that day. We received some amazing comments and feedback from Basketball England for the professional approach and play on the day. Many of the squad are now Y11 and will be leaving us in the summer but we hope to see them continue in Basketball in the coming years wherever they continue their education journey. For those remaining at BMA we have high hopes for the coming years.



The U16 Boys though were victorious and secured the National Championship (the 5<sup>th</sup> time Bristol Met has now secured this crown in the last 8 years) beating a strong London team from Greig Academy. Dylan scored 37 of our 80 points including 4 3pointers and multiple dunks securing the MVP performance and 8 different members of the team contributed to the overall points scored demonstrating the depth that has been developed in the squad over the last 5 years. The majority of the squad are Y11 and will be leaving us this summer so we really do wish them all the best for the coming years and hope to see some of them in the NBA in the future!

Massive congratulations to all of the players. A big Thank You to all of the staff who have given up their time and energies to run the teams. There are a number of staff who have given up big swathes of time but notable mentions



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go to Ms Wallace and Ms Zilbeti for their work with the Girls teams and to Mr Williams, Mr Heesom and Mr Wallace-Hall for their work with the Boys teams. Finally, a particular Thank You to Mr Hooper, Head of PE, for the growth of the programme over his time at BMA and for nurturing the development of both staff and students. We look forward to next season already!

**Duke of Edinburgh** – last weekend saw a group of our Y10 students completing their Silver Practice expedition. Across the 3 days students walked over 30 miles carrying all of their equipment and supplies successfully pitching their camp each evening before walking on again the following morning. Attitude and effort was exceptional throughout so a massive congratulations to them all. After the break they will complete their final assessed expedition to hopefully complete their Silver Award. Thank you to Ms Wallace, Mr Thomas, Ms Morrish and Mr Vince for giving up their evenings and part of the weekend to enable this.



**Flying Start Challenge** – On Friday last week George and Neal in Y9 attended Aerospace Bristol for the National Finals of the Flying Start Challenge I have written about previously. The challenge was for the team to build a glider by hand which could carry a specified payload. There were additional challenges on the day and then the competition culminated in the team having to throw their glider as far as possible whilst remaining underneath the bottom of Concorde! I am really pleased to say that George and Neal came 3<sup>rd</sup> overall in the Country in the challenge. What an amazing outcome and well done to them both. Thank you to Mr Vince, Ms Evans and Mrs Collins for their support throughout.



**Road Safety** – periodically we have concerns raised with us from other families or from local residents around road safety. We've had a few pieces of feedback in recent weeks about students not taking as much care as they need to both immediately after the school day but also later on in the evening (which is likely to get worse as the evenings become lighter for longer). We will speak to students in assemblies but please also take the opportunity to remind students of basic road safety particularly around junctions and crossing roads. We know local roads like Manor Road and Snowdon Road can be very busy at peak times and we do not want any of our students involved in accidents.

**Arriving at school on time** - Arriving at school on time is essential for the pupil's own learning, it encourages habits of good timekeeping and lessens any classroom disruption. Late arrival means pupils risk missing important information which can seriously disadvantage them. A large proportion of our students live within a distance that could be travelled on foot or bike/scooter. It is worth considering these alternatives to buses and cars in order to save money and remove risks of delays.

Pupils can arrive from 8:10am. Tutor time begins at 8:40am on each school day. Free breakfasts are available for all students from 8.10am.



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We endeavour to work with pupils and families to support all aspects of attendance. With this in mind, we are moving away from our current system of breacktime and afterschool sanctions for late arrival. From term six, we will be running several attendance and punctuality workshops which your child may be invited to participate in. These workshops have been designed to support pupils to improve attendance.

**Cards for Lunch** – I know I have written about it recently but I really would like the support of all families in ensuring that students have a working card for the canteen (new ones can be purchased on ParentPay and collected by students from Student Reception) **and** that balance alerts are set up on ParentPay ([please see this link for instruction on how to do this](#)). We are still seeing significant numbers of students every day without their cards or without credit to purchase food. This places unsustainable pressures on Reception staff and the canteen in terms of trying to ensure students get fed during lunch. Biometrics should be in place for September which will give an alternative option to cards but will not solve proactive balance checking and topping up. We cannot provide food for free but, as I am sure you can appreciate, we also don't want to turn students away from being served so we really do need families to work with us on this one. Just an FYI- ice lollies will be available during Term 6 from £1.25 to £1.75 each at lunchtime.

**FSM** – Linking in to the above, 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.*

The poster features logos for Cabot Learning Federation, TOTAL PRO SOCCER, and TFS. It includes a 'FREE!' badge, a photo of a soccer player, and the following details:

WHO	WHEN	WHERE
Year 10 - Year 13	Wed 29th May 12:00-14:00	Kings Oak Academy 3G BS15 4JT

At the bottom, there is a green 'APPLY NOW' button with a right-pointing arrow and a QR code labeled 'SCAN ME'.

**Total Soccer Session** – On Wednesday during half term Total Soccer are running a talent ID session for students in Year 10 and Year 11. This will run at King's Oak Academy between 12pm and 2pm next Wednesday. Please see the QR code below for information and to register should you wish to attend.

I hope all of our students, staff and families have a lovely week away from the Academy. Hoping the weather picks back up for the bank holiday weekend and week. **All students return at 8:35am on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024.**

Best wishes,

Cameron Shaw  
Principal

