

HIGH STANDARDS, HIGH ASPIRATIONS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS23rd September 2022

Dear Parent/Carers,

I hope all of our families had a pleasant weekend and enjoyed some good family time during this week's extra-ordinary bank holiday. It's hard to believe that we are now nearing the end of the 3rd week of students being back from the summer break. I hope that all students are settling down into their routine; if it is anything like our house at the minute there will be some tired children as they re-find those routines.

This week I wanted to just give a few updates on a couple of things which I held off from doing during the period of mourning.

Summer Outcomes – we were incredibly proud of our last year's Year 11 cohort when they collected their exam results at the end of August. Despite being the first cohort to return to formal GCSE exams since 2019 and having had significant interruptions to their education across Year 9, Year 10 and even into Year 11 they secured the best results the Academy has ever seen. They built even further on our record results of Summer 2019 and it really highlighted the dedication and hard work they demonstrated as a cohort. Congratulations again to this cohort and we hope their first weeks in the next stage of their education journey have gone well.

Open Evening – this coming Monday, 26th September, is our annual Open Evening for prospective future students. It runs from 4:30pm to 7:30pm and we expect a busy event. Although we have a large car park and many families will walk to the event we apologise in advance for any disruption to our most immediate neighbours from any additional traffic at this event.

Mobile Phone Policy – as we continue to settle back into the more post-covid operating mode (or living with covid operating mode) we have reminded students that we will revert to our published policy on mobile phones and other electronic devices. Students are amazing at following this policy and I know for many it gives a welcome enforced reason to break from screen time. For the small number who do use their devices during the school day the important bit to highlight is that devices confiscated need to be collected by an adult after the end of the school day. We know this is inconvenient to families so we thank you in advance for supporting us in speaking to students about the importance of not using their device during the day when on site. Our published policy can be found in [full here](#)

SEND Inspection of BCC – if you are a parent or carer of a child with SEND (even if that child is not a student at Bristol Met) you may like to know that Bristol City Council are about to have an inspection of SEND provision by Ofsted between 4th and 6th October. As part of the inspection process Ofsted would like to hear from families who have involvement in Bristol SEND provisions. If that applies to you please have a [read of this letter](#) to see how you can contribute.

And a few nice messages to finish off this week...

Chalice Family Walk – I wanted to say well done to the Chalice family who took on a sponsored walk in August to raise money for The Rise Trust who support children's services in the south west. By walking from their home in the local area to Bath they raised over £1100 for the charity. Well done to Isaac and Sequoia for their efforts.

My personal challenge – at the start of term as part of my 'Welcome Back' assembly to every year group I spoke about personal challenges in the year ahead and the benefit of setting ourselves personal challenges. I let the students know that my personal challenge over the last few months had been gearing up for my first (only!) marathon having never really been

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a runner but as I had one of those “milestone” birthdays this summer I decided to set myself a challenge that took me out of my comfort zone. Next Sunday I will be taking on the challenge of the iconic London Marathon.

I also spoke about the fact that if I was going to put myself through the challenge I had decided to try and use it for some greater good and therefore had decided to try and raise some money for the NSPCC. The pandemic period has been difficult for everyone and the NSPCC have seen demand for their support of young people increase significantly. Within the Academy we often use resources from the NSPCC to support some of our young people. The NSPCC also run the well known ‘Childline’ service directly supporting young people who need additional support. Although they receive some government funding much of their vital service is provided through charitable donation.

Ordinarily I would not use my position to reach out in this way but following me mentioning it in assembly a number of students have approached me and asked if they could sponsor me. It wasn’t my intention to generate sponsorship from students so instead I have now promised that if I manage to successfully complete my challenge we will have a celebratory non-uniform day (still the #1 favourite for students!) after the event.

However, if any students or families would really like to sponsor me (money going directly to the NSPCC) then you can use this link: [Mr Shaw’s NSPCC London Marathon Fundraising Page](#)

I am of course mindful that the cost of living currently will be putting significant demands on our families and community so sympathy as I undoubtedly hobble around the building on Monday 3rd October (which also happens to be our Open Morning) will be support enough.



Thank you in advance for any support and I am looking forward to the second half of this term already. Where does the time go!

Wishing a lovely weekend to all families.

Yours sincerely



Cameron Shaw
Principal