



HIGH STANDARDS, HIGH ASPIRATIONS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS

16th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to inform you about recent developments at Briarwood Special School, which is next door to Bristol Metropolitan Academy (BMA). While it is important to make you aware of these developments, there is no direct impact on the pupils or staff at BMA, and therefore **no change to arrangements at our school**.

Following concerns around the health of two students at Briarwood, the school has decided to close for the next seven days. It is important to highlight that these are **not** confirmed cases of Coronavirus, but the school has taken this precautionary approach based on display of symptoms.

Briarwood is a special school catering for students with a wide range of complex needs and therefore has to take a heightened approach in these circumstances. Although the schools are based close to each other, there is no crossover of our student bodies as we have different start and end times for the day and we have completely separate buildings and outdoor spaces. We therefore feel that there is no additional action that Bristol Met needs to take currently and we will continue to operate as close to normally as we can.

A reminder that the Department for Education now have a dedicated helpline available to parents should you require specific advice around schooling at this time. It can be used by parents and young people between 8am and 6pm on 0800 046 8687. Alternatively you can email dfe.coronavirushelpline@education.gov.uk

We will continue to provide updates to parents if our position changes at any point.

Once again we thank you for your patience and support during this unprecedented time.

Yours faithfully,

Cameron Shaw
Principal