



HIGH STANDARDS, HIGH ASPIRATIONS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS

22nd May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following my letter on 11th May after PM Johnson's address I just wanted to write at the "end" of Term to update you on a few areas.

Keyworker and Vulnerable Provision – our daily provision for children of keyworkers (as defined by the Government) and those deemed vulnerable returns to be based at Bristol Met from Monday 1st June. If this is a provision you need to use then please send your child in from 8:45am to 3pm.

Half Term – next week is technically half term. We know it has been a very strange few months with young people working hard to work remotely and parents/carers working even harder to try and enable this. Many families have also been in touch with us to thank education staff for their efforts in trying to facilitate remote learning, a completely new venture for us as well. I have therefore asked staff to not set work for next week. I think our young people need some genuine time "away", so do you and so do staff. Some teams have provided ideas of activities (not curriculum based) which include things to do outdoors (within the rules) and creative tasks as well as some wellbeing activities. None of these are compulsory and are provided purely out of interest. Remote learning will start back on Monday 1st June.

Face-to-face provision for Year 10 only – PM Johnson's last education update set the ambition for students of Year 10 only to have some face to face contact before the Summer. We have been working on our plans for this and a separate letter for Year 10 families will also be sent today. Unfortunately no other secondary aged year groups have featured in any Government updates and therefore I think realistically we have to prepare for the likelihood that students currently in Years 7 to 9 are not going to be back on site before the Summer break. Of course if this position changes we will be in touch.

The Government have also published some guidance and ideas for parents to support young people in this time of remote learning/distance learning which may be of use. It can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-secondary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

Printed work - we are seeing a continued increase in requests for printed work. This is completely understandable as we know that not only are many families having to juggle with electronic device and internet access restraints but that many young people (and all of us) find working on paper easier at times. However, I would ask for your support in only requesting paper based packs as a *last resort* (ie, if you genuinely have no ability to access the online learning platforms). The production of the paperbased packs is incredibly time consuming given the current restraints in many areas including getting printing supplies, engineer visits when machines break, royal mail provision. Although we are trying to cope with the increasing demand there is a danger that if demand continues to increase we will not be able to provide packs for those who have no alternatives. Thank you for your understanding on this matter. If you have previously requested paperbased packs (and are still receiving them in the post) and no longer need to could you please let us know through your child's tutor or House Team so we can remove you from the list and focus our resource where needed the most.

Thank you to those students who took part in our 'Thank You NHS' activity through the Bristol Medical Simulation Centre. The BMSC have come into the academy a number of times to demonstrate careers in medicine to our students so we wanted to channel some return 'Thanks' in this difficult time through them to the wider NHS. We had students write poems, songs, produce artwork and write letters which were really well received by staff working in many sectors of the NHS.



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Finally, if you haven't yet watched it do take a moment to watch our tribute to NHS and other frontline workers with our version of 'Everybody needs Somebody' from 'Blues Brothers'. You can watch it here: <https://vimeo.com/419663256>.

You can still watch our 'Mr Blue Sky' video as well if it brings a smile <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C-zDII8rMGU>

I wish you all and your families a safe and sunny week ahead and continue to thank you for your support, patience, understanding and kindness shown during this situation. I genuinely hope that we see the tide continue to turn and that over the coming weeks we are able to start talking about a wider return of our community back to Bristol Met site. Of course safety of our students, families, staff and community is our number 1 priority so we must wait for the Government and their advisors to recommend when it is time to move towards this stage.

Yours faithfully,

Cameron Shaw
Principal