



HIGH STANDARDS, HIGH ASPIRATIONS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS

6th April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I normally write at the “end of term” so wanted to keep it ‘normal’ but what a strange end to a term and start to the ‘Easter Break’ this is. I remember in my first year at Bristol Met writing at the end of this same term and having had a couple of snow day closures. What we would give right now to only have some snow to contend with.

By now you should have received the first edition of our closure newsletter (if not it is on the website under “News and Events” → “Newsletters”). This is something we are going to try and produce weekly during the closure and will use to try to keep our community up to date with useful links, resources and some of what has been happening in the world around us (outside of Coronavirus). In this difficult time we hope that this newsletter helps keep some ‘togetherness’ amongst the Bristol Met community.

We are incredibly proud of the resilience shown by our students and the wider community during these last few weeks. We are acutely aware of how difficult it has been for everyone to settle into some form of ‘distance learning’ routine, particularly with the ongoing anxieties caused by the global situation. We continue to quality assure the resources provided to students and we now have a team from across our staff body providing feedback to departments on resources provided “through the eyes of a student” before the resources are uploaded. We are also looking at providing an outline timetable to students to help them structure their day (there is one in the initial ‘Student Information Pack’ shared with students and on the website) as we appreciate that, for some students, the amount of work available has been overwhelming. I want to reassure students (and parents) again that no student will be chastised or sanctioned for not completing all the work. We, as the educators, are starting to understand a bit more of this new way of working and recognise that the amount of work completed by students operating remotely, often on mobile devices, is not going to be the same as would be completed in a structured classroom environment. All we ask of our students (with your support) currently is they try to create some form of learning routine that works for them allowing them to complete around 3 hours of good quality learning each day. Future resources will reflect that expectation.

Over the next week, students should expect some direct contact from their Tutor, this is so we are able to keep in touch with them and support them as best we can during this time. Please encourage them to respond to any emails they get from any staff. Staff are really looking forward to hearing from their students at this time.

As well as still providing some provision on site for some of our key working families, we have been trying to be community spirited for our incredible front-line workers during this time. We donated all the safety goggles, visors and some lab coats that we had to the NHS who were incredibly grateful. Over 250 sets of safety equipment were able to be provided. Miss Evans and Miss Flower from our DT team then decided that more could be done so using our laser cutting equipment and our supplies of acrylic, and some open source plans, they spent the day creating full face shields which were donated to our local NHS medical practices. These were deployed on the same day to front line staff and we received immediate feedback from these front-line workers of how useful they have been. We are now planning a second production run. This has been possible with the continued support of our community around the Academy. We will of course ensure that we source replacements when the current situation resolves so please reassure your children that science and DT lessons will still have practicals!

On Friday last week we received updated guidance from Ofqual around the issuing of Year 11 GCSE Results this Summer. This was following the announcement, coinciding with the announced closure of all schools, that all public exams were cancelled this year. I will be sending a separate communication to Year 11 students and parents in the next day or two with greater clarity about what this means for them.





**BRISTOL
METROPOLITAN
ACADEMY**

Snowdon Road, Fishponds, BRISTOL, BS16 2HD
t 0117 3772071 f 0117 3772090
www.bristolmet.net email info@bristolmet.net
Principal Mr C Shaw

HIGH STANDARDS, HIGH ASPIRATIONS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS

For now, I would like to wish everyone a safe and Happy Easter in the current climate. I know it will likely be the strangest 'holiday' any of us have experienced and I look forward to us coming back together as a community as soon as we can.

Yours faithfully,

Cameron Shaw
Principal
Bristol Metropolitan Academy



Chief Executive Officer
Mr S Taylor

Bristol Metropolitan Academy is a school within the Cabot Learning Federation is a company limited by Guarantee, Registered office: Woodside Road, Kingswood, Bristol, BS15 8BD. Registered Company no: 06207590. Registered with the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales, Charity no: 1119322