



HIGH STANDARDS, HIGH ASPIRATIONS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS

23rd March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, I hope that the first day of students trying to work independently and remotely has not been too stressful for you as the carer. Given the number of emails and messages we have had from students we know that many have been really keen to continue their learning. This is of course really humbling to see. There have been some teething problems (inevitably) so we have tried to make some changes this end to make things operate more smoothly.

We have moved the storage of the work into a dedicated "Remote Learning" storage area. This has been made "open access" which means that any student who is signed into their O365 account should be able to open the files regardless of which year group they were in (we had some issues with siblings sharing computer access which was then blocking them access to their own year group of work so hopefully that will resolve it).

Unfortunately we haven't yet found a way to share all of the resources completely public access as the default for educational O365 accounts disables complete open link sharing (to provide some GDPR protection) and none of us were preparing for quite this situation. Therefore, until we find a way around this, parents will need to ensure their student is logged in to an O365 account on the machine before the links will work for students. We will continue to try and find a way around this.

This does mean the links have changed. These have been re-shared with students (they will have received an invite to be part of the 'BMA Remote Learning' group) but this hyperlink should also work (if signed into a CLF O365 account on that machine):

[Student Online Work Packs](#)

Students have been asking where they should save completed work and where they should return it to. If work is able to be completed electronically (word, powerpoint etc) then that is good as students can then email it to their **subject class teacher** for some feedback (I know a number have already today). If the work cannot be easily done electronically then students can complete in their Homework/Cover book (for Y7&8) or in class books if they happen to have them and can keep hold of them until such time as we can physically mark them. An alternative could be taking a photo of the work in books and emailing that to the class teacher. We are continuing to explore better and smoother ways of working but, as I am sure you will understand and appreciate, this was not something we had envisaged having to enact in terms of provision in such a relatively short period of time and not something that most schools are resourced to deliver smoothly. We really appreciate the patience and understanding of all students and parents at this time.

As Government advice on social distancing continues to evolve we are adapting our provision. We will have a skeleton staff on site each day so previously published mobile numbers of SLT, Safeguarding and House Teams will be actioned Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4pm. Most staff will be operating remotely and will endeavour to respond to student (and parents/carers) contact as soon as they are able. I would ask that students and parents do understand though that staff are trying to operate remotely whilst also often trying to look after their own children as unless staff are physically working in the building they won't be sending their own children to keyworker childcare provisions in order to contribute to the Government's requests to reduce social contact as much as physically able. I would also please ask for your support in trying to establish routines for our young people in supporting them with trying to do school work and seek support during "normal" school hours and to not expect school staff to respond at unsociable hours.





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Finally, this is an overwhelming time for many young people (and adults). A number of young people are worried that if they don't complete all the work within the week there will be some form of punishment or wider concern. I wanted to take this opportunity to state that the most important thing, at this current time, is for some form of routine and as much normality as is possible in the climate. It is important that students try to complete work. Both to encourage them to make as much progress as is realistic in the situation but also to give a feeling of success for completing work in line with their peers. However, it is also important that students take regular breaks. Get some fresh air and exercise (within the guidance) and spend time together as a family. These are difficult times and time spent reading, talking, creative games and creative arts is valuable as well as completing the provided school work. If we work together as a community we will all navigate this landscape more easily.

We will keep in regular contact and provide updates where we can and as we get more information, specifically we are expecting a lot more information about Year 11 Grades over the week ahead so will be in touch specifically to Year 11 parents and students.

A reminder that if you visit our website (www.bristolmet.net) we have added a "School Closure Learning" section under the 'Curriculum' drop down where we will be putting links to documents. You can also find the Parent and Student information booklets which have contact details and other useful information in them.

Yours faithfully

Cameron Shaw
Principal