



HIGH STANDARDS, HIGH ASPIRATIONS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS

31st March 2020

Good afternoon Parents/Carers,

I hope everyone is keeping well. I apologise in advance for the length of this email, [an audio version of it is available here](#). I know that the ongoing situation across the country (world) with regards the coronavirus pandemic is inescapable. It is incredibly difficult for any of us to try to live some form of "normal" life currently but we know that our Bristol Met students, supported by you as families, will be trying their best to persevere with their learning even in these difficult times.

I just wanted to check in with families to provide a bit of an information update (not about the more global issue which is hard to escape 24/7 coverage of) but more around information I have provided to students today and some other information specifically for adults.

Student Work

The single place now for **all** of the work being shared with students is here (note, you have to be logged on to a Met O365 account to access this link so your child would need to log in for you to see the contents, sorry):

 [Home Learning 2020](#)

There are still some students trying to use an old link which was previously shared with them. To try and make it easier to access we had to move the original files storage location so if your child says they cannot access the files because the link has stopped working etc please ask them to check their emails for the most recent email from me which contains this link.

In this folder is a folder of work for every subject studied by each year group at Met. At the end of every week subject leaders will upload the next weeks' worth of work. Please do encourage your children to engage in the work that has been set. We know it is difficult for everyone having to work remotely but it is important that our young people have a routine and are doing what they can so that when we all return to the Academy, in a time not far from now we hope, everyone is ready to continue with their learning.

Where possible please try to get students to complete activities electronically and then send them back to their **class teacher** (as much as I like receiving several thousand pieces of work a day it's very hard to check them all!). To help with that we have also put a few useful files in the folder. There is a file with the name and email address of every member of staff so students (or parents) can contact them directly. There are also a couple of "how to" documents; one on how to create some electronic files and one on how to install the whole Microsoft office suite for free onto a laptop/desktop machine if you have one without office installed.

We fully understand and realise that not every student has access to a suitable device to complete online learning. We know many families are having to juggle devices between multiple children and, in many cases, adults trying to also work remotely. Please be assured that we fully realise this is not a "normal" day or a "normal" way of operating. No student will be chastised or sanctioned for not completing specific work in a specific time period. Of course, we want our young people to try and engage in meaningful education and work during their time away from the Academy but we also understand that many students are having to work to overcome local barriers to their learning currently. We will continue to try and plan alternative approaches if the closure continues longer term.



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We will continue to provide paper based packs where we can on request so please do email info@bristolmet.net to request a pack of work for the following week. Please include name and year groups of students when requesting.

We are working with our central CLF IT Team and our usual procurement chains to investigate obtaining IT equipment which we may be able to loan. As you can imagine, this is a complicated process and one which, if it is possible, is going to require a significant amount of financial investment. To allow us to see the size of what may be needed please [complete this confidential form if your child does not have sufficient IT access at home to allow them to complete online learning.](#)

Please only complete this if your child does not have equipment or internet access and you will not be able to rectify this for yourself. We will then look at what we may be able to do with the resources we can secure access to.

Support

A reminder as well that there is a section on the website with some other useful links. We will add to this over time so keep checking it:

<http://bristolmet.bristol.sch.uk/school-closure-learning/>

'Knowledge Organisers' are on the website. These are useful starting points if children get stuck on anything. If they still need help they can contact their class teacher (maybe after they've tried google for some help as google will still, unfortunately, respond quicker than we can).

If children have any general questions (not related to a particular lesson) please encourage them to email their **Tutor**. If Tutors are not sure of an answer they will pass the question to a member of the House Team or Senior Leadership.

Over the next week we will start proactively checking students are accessing their work so children can expect some direct contact from their Tutor and Class Teachers (as well as their House Team and other pastoral staff). 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.

I know that technically next week and the week after is the "Easter Holiday". However, as I am sure you are anticipating as much as we are, this holiday will be a bit of a strange one. We won't really be able to go anywhere and young people won't be able to spend time out and about with friends. Therefore, we will still be setting some work for our students. It won't be as much work as during a "normal" school week and will involve some different activities as well as some time for them to finish off anything they haven't managed to complete in the first two weeks. This is not a punishment and is just to help them maintain a routine at this time. Normally students would expect some homework across holiday periods anyway so we're just trying to set them up with some work to keep them focussed during the prolonged break.

Scam Emails

Lastly, we are aware of some 'scam emails' doing the rounds. It is unfortunate that even during times of national and international crisis some members of society will try to exploit vulnerabilities.

We are aware of one purporting to be from the 'Government' where they suggest you have been detected as being out of your house "too many times" in one day and have been issued with a fine (as per the new powers given to



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authorities to encourage us to stay at home). There is a link to pay the fine. This is a scam and trying to exploit unsuspecting people and capture bank and card details.

Lastly, and more importantly for us as a school community, there is an email doing the rounds purporting to be from 'free school meals' providers asking for bank details so they can transfer the free school meals credit directly to your account for use in shopping. Again, this is a scam and trying to obtain bank details. Although we are in the process of sending shopping vouchers to free meals families we will be sending secure vouchers and would **never** ask for bank details. If you are concerned you have given any personal information to websites/links that may not have been legitimate please do contact your bank.

I wanted to finish by taking the opportunity to thank you all once again for the overwhelming support that was showing in the two weeks leading up to the enforced closure. We received a large number of supportive messages and I know we didn't acknowledge or reply to them all but I wanted to assure you they were all read and meant a lot. We know this situation is difficult for adults and students alike and would like to assure you that no one is looking forward to re-opening the doors to the Academy and welcoming back our students and community than the staff body of Bristol Met. We hope this will happen in the not too distant future.

Best wishes for the week ahead.

Cameron Shaw
Principal