



HIGH STANDARDS. HIGH ASPIRATIONS. HIGH EXPECTATIONS

5th February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

It seems inconceivable to think that we are approaching the end of another term where, for the majority of our students, your children, we have been unable to be together as a community. Let us hope that this is the final term where that is true and that from the 8th March, in line with the Government's current stated aim, we can at least start to open more widely to students and start the pathway back to normality. With infection rates going the right way (local areas reporting between 30 and 50% reductions across the last 7 days) and the rollout of the vaccine continuing at pace it feels like brighter times must surely be ahead.

With regards updates this week I wanted to let you know about:

Outlook Passwords – We have become aware this week of some students using accounts belonging to other students to then disrupt online events. This is of course disappointing for staff and the other students who are trying so hard to learn in these very difficult circumstances. We have worked out that it is generally happening on accounts where students have never changed their default password. Please could I ask for your support in checking that your child(ren) have changed their Outlook password and that they are happy that only they know it. If they haven't changed it, or if they are at all concerned that someone else knows their password, please ask them to change it immediately. This will prevent them potentially being blamed of any wrongdoing done on an account in their name. They change it by logging in to their Outlook account, clicking their initials in the top right of the screen, clicking "View Account", then "Change Password" and setting it to something secure. If you are using a borrowed device belonging to Bristol Met it may mean you end up with a different password to log in to the device than you do to log in to Outlook but the critical bit is securing the Outlook account. We have changed aspects of the systems to reduce the ability for people to access anything without a Bristol Met login but it relies upon each Bristol Met account being secure. Thank you for your support in this.

Bristol Variant – there has been much media focus and speculation on a "mutant" Bristol variation of corona virus. Many of the media reports are obviously likely to cause concern and anxiety with their headlines. Having had various updates this week from Public Health South West and the DfE the current guidance is really the same as it was...stay at home whenever possible and don't socialise with others outside your immediate household. For schools we are being asked to operate as we were; limiting those on site to only those who absolutely have to be for safe access to remote learning. In addition, although we have never moved away from it, with fewer students on site we have been more relaxed with face coverings but with the data still uncertain about the transmissibility of the new variant we are asking that all staff and students return to wearing face coverings whenever they are in a communal area of the building (ie, outside of their working classroom). Thank you for the continued support.

BT WiFi Offer – we have managed to secure 50 user accounts to BT WiFi Hotspot Network. This would allow any families who do not have broadband at home to access broadband for free until the end of July 2021. You need to check that there is a HotSpot available in your home address (you can check by searching for wifi on a device and looking for one called BT WiFi or something similar). If you think this may help your family then please





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contact your child's House Team who will send you some account details. To check further about BT Hotspots you can check their website <https://www.btwifi.com/find/>

Parents Evenings/Feedback Sessions – We now have an online system installed and running (fingers crossed, it is working well in testing). This will go live with Year 7 on Tuesday followed by Year 9 on Thursday. Events are running 1 to 5pm to try and increase the number of appointment slots available. Families in those two year groups should have received information on booking appointments and how to access the system. I watched it being used at another school last night and it seemed very straightforward. Appointments are 5 minutes long and automatically terminate at the end of your pre-allotted time, the staff have no control over them and cannot extend them if you join late so please ensure you have familiarised yourself with the system and your appointments in good time. It will be different and Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding as we all get used to it.

Year 9 Options – we know that Year 9 will be starting to think about their GCSE Options process. Ensuring that you participate in the Y9 Feedback event next week is a great starting point. There will then be an "Options Evening" in March (most likely virtual and online) and then Options will be selected in Term 5. Mrs Emma Ball, Associate Assistant Principal, will oversee the Options Process and will write specifically next term with further information.

Y11 Assessments – a reminder please to read Miss Barnes' specific Year 11 update around assessments and ongoing evidence for end of Year 11 grades <https://bristolmetropolitanacademy.clf.uk/letters/year-11-update-letter-02-02-2021/>

There is also an upcoming information session for any Year 11 student interested in the Post-16 provision. Details can be found here <https://bristolmetropolitanacademy.clf.uk/wp-content/uploads/Info-Evening-02-21-Flyer.pdf>

Survey Results – thank you to all families that provided responses to our recent surveys. The survey is still open if you would like to contribute and can be found using the following

link: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ViObpySMIkm0IMbibQtAkUBzsJexjkFNqoMEF8Sml4pUM1NYQ1YwVjNZVkrGOUZROFdRUTRVWU0zWS4u>

Based off feedback from both the staff, student, and parent/carers surveys so far, there will be some adjustments to online learning starting from this week. This is to help reduce student and staff screen time and ensure regular screen breaks are being taken.

From today:

All single lessons will now be **40 minutes long**; this is to give students a 10-minute screen break. They are advised not to complete any work within this time.

- Double lessons will also be 10 minutes shorter in length, this may be taken at the end of the lesson, or in the middle as it will depend on the tasks set by the teacher.
- DT lessons in years **7, 8, 9** will be reduced to a single lesson (40 minutes). The other lesson is to be used as an additional screen break for students.



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Principal Mr C Shaw

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Within the screen breaks we are encouraging students to take breaks from all screens e.g. computers, phones, TVs, tablets, or games consoles and (depending on the length of the break) do activities away from screens such as reading, creative activities or going for a walk (with permission and following COVID guidelines).

If you have any questions about the adjustments to online learning. Please contact the school using the email address: info@bristolmet.net. Early results are very positive and we very much appreciate the support and kindness that has been shown in the last 12 months and last 6 weeks in particular. We will share wider information and outcomes shortly.

Hoping to start to see everyone very shortly...

Best wishes,

Mr C Shaw
Principal



Cabot
Learning
Federation



Using Xbox or PlayStation to access Office 365

Accessing your remote learning. An alternative method of accessing remote learning during times of lockdown.

Xbox

1. Plug a keyboard in to the Xbox USB slot (less than £10 from Amazon)
2. Go in to my games and apps
3. Find Microsoft Edge and select
4. Type in Office 365 and log in as you would in school
5. You can then access your work and use key packages including:
 - Word
 - Excel
 - PowerPoint
 - Teams
 - Your emails
6. To move around you use the Xbox controller or plug in a mouse

PlayStation

1. Identify the PlayStation internet browser icon (it is WWW with dots around it)
2. Press the PlayStation logo on the controller
3. Go to the library and find options for games and applications
4. Go in to applications and you will find the internet browser
5. Type in Office 365 and log in as you would in school
6. You can then access your work and use key packages including:
 - Word
 - Excel
 - PowerPoint
 - Teams
 - Your emails

