

14th June 2023

Dear Parent/Carers,

What lovely weather we have been enjoying this week. Just in time for the weekend there may be some rain but then it looks like another week of nice (maybe slightly cooler) weather. I hope that our students and families are enjoying this run of weather.

Many families will have seen the tragic news around the murder of a young person in Bath last weekend. Although the young person was not a student at Bristol Met it is an event local to our community and we are already aware of a number of links into our community. With social media as well we know that the world is a much smaller place and therefore we know that a number of our students had connected friendships. We would like to extend our deepest sympathies to the family and also to any of our community members who are affected. As always in these distressing occasions should any student need any additional support at this difficult time please do ask them to speak to their House Team or a member of the Safeguarding team.

A few requests and some nice news pieces in this letter:

Year 11 – Year 11 are past the tipping point in their exams with most students now having far fewer exams remaining than they have already sat. Not quite able to breathe a sigh of relief yet but I am sure they are feeling more relief each day! Tomorrow we say an “informal” goodbye as it marks the last day of them attending full time and they will switch to attending only for remaining exams. Y11 families will have received a separate communication from Mr A Price, Y11 RAT Lead, with details of the final weeks. We then look forward to the formal celebration assembly and then Prom in two weeks time. I just wanted to publicly say thank you to Y11 and also congratulations for the efforts over the 5 years. It’s definitely not been a “usual” pattern of 5 years but they have navigated it with pride.

England Girls Basketball – following our recent updates around the U16 Girls Basketball team coming 2nd in the country this year it delights me to say that 3 of the team have received call ups to be part of the England team this summer. You can read more in this article [Three Bristol Met pupils called up to the England basketball team - Bristol Parent](#) Congratulations to Angel, Kamilah and Hannah. We are very proud of your hard work being recognised.

Eco Day – (*a message from the student Eco Club*) - With our Eco Day coming up on the 23rd June 2023, we are planning lots of activities, and one of these is an art piece that will be created by students with recycled materials to raise awareness about the need for sustainability. If you happen to have any spare recyclable materials (cartons, plastic bottles etc) could your child please bring these into school and leave these outside Ms Lloyd’s class (C06)?

Bromcom replacing SIMS – On Monday 26th June our current student information system (SIMS) is being replaced by a new system (Bromcom). Although lots of work has been going on behind the scenes for a period of time to ensure a smooth transition, like all big changes there is some apprehension in advance of pressing “go”. It shouldn’t impact on students or families but I just wanted to mention it in case you receive any interesting messages via our parent communication system on that day or in the few days afterwards. Long term it should be a much improved system with a high quality parent interface which will enable real time access to lots of information for families. Further information will come out once the system is up and embedded.

Donation of old uniform for gift/sale – as we approach the summer we know that many young people will need new uniform as they grow. We also know that some students grow so fast that they often have old uniform that is barely used.



HIGH STANDARDS, HIGH ASPIRATIONS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS

We've had a real success this year having supplies available for families in need and also being able to offer 2nd hand uniform available at a very reduced rate at Parents' Evenings. Long term we aim to set up a 2nd hand uniform sales site for families to buy and sell used uniform. However, if you have used uniform that you will no longer need and would like to donate it to the Academy to have available to other families then we will gladly take it off your hands. We will launder and sort all items so please just bag up and deliver to Main Reception at any point and we will do the rest. Thank you in advance for any donations. Any money we do make is reinvested in supporting uniform for families in need.

Electric Scooters – I have written before on this one but felt a reminder was overdue. I know it is likely to cause some upset with a small number of our students. I apologise in advance if that is the case but hope you will understand our position. We have noticed that a small number of students are using an electric scooter to come to and from the Academy. Unfortunately, as you may or may not be aware, it is currently illegal to use these devices anywhere but private land. That means it is not legal to use them on roads, pavements or cycle lanes. That is because they are currently classed as PLEVs (personal light electric vehicles) and are therefore classed as a motor vehicle. That means they require the rider to have a provisional driving licence as a minimum, the vehicle must be insured for use on the road (which no one currently offers for privately owned scooters) and be roadworthy (have lights, indicators etc which are not found on most of the scooters). More information can be found on the Gov website. Unfortunately that means I must ask students to stop bringing them on to site as I cannot condone something which is effectively illegal for them to be doing. I also do not want them coming into potential conflict with authorities who have to enforce the current legislation. The Government are currently reviewing devices of this type and are running some controlled trials in some areas (Bristol being one of them, everyone will have seen the VOI scooters by now). If the legislation changes in the future then we will of course review our position. I hope you can understand our position on this and thank you in advance for your support

Enjoy the current weather and I will write again as we approach the end of the Summer term.

Yours sincerely

Cameron Shaw
Principal