

HIGH STANDARDS, HIGH ASPIRATIONS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS

20th October 2023

Dear Parent/Carers,

Before I talk about anything else I wanted to acknowledge the conflict between Israel and Hamas affecting the people of Palestine and Israel citizens. Acknowledging that this has been a complex and long-standing issue, the suffering of both Israeli citizens and Palestinian residents of Gaza, through the loss of lives and destruction of homes and livelihoods as well as the general sense of insecurity that pervades the region, is difficult for all to see. We have taken our time to consider the best approach, as educationalists, to this increased conflict and will be doing some work across next term. In the meantime we have reminded students of how to seek support for any concerns they may have.

On a more local note, I can't quite believe it is the end of the first term of the year already. The time has flown by. Thank you to all of our students for the strong start to the year. I hope all our Year 7 students have settled well into their new routines and are feeling firmly part of Bristol Met. Year 11 students have started their mock exams this week (and shown a very mature attitude so far) as they tick closer to the end point of their studies with us.

In my last letter I mentioned Renewal Gospel Choir coming in to run a workshop for the start of Black History Month. Since then we've had a number of other activities that have been lovely to see within the Academy and wider community:

- 'Wear something red' in support of a local sickle cell charity. £675 was raised, a £100 increase on last year. Student's were particularly keen to support a sickle cell charity given the higher prevalence of the condition within African and Caribbean heritage. Thank you to Mr Dixon for taking the lead on this and for all staff who supported.
- We celebrated 'World Afro Day' within the academy with a pop up photo booth in the Main Street at lunchtime. World Afro Day is about championing hair pride and challenging hair discrimination. Some amazing photos were taken which will be used to create a display of hair pride across our Academy community. Thank you to the Art & Photography department for the work on this.
- Lady Sanchez, a local DJ, gave up her time to come and put on a DJ set at lunchtime for students. It was very well received. Thank you to Ms Williams for securing Lady Sanchez and Mr Miller in Music for setting up the equipment.
- Gaspard Zamble, who is from the Ivory Coast, came in and ran some traditional dance and drumming workshops for students. There were some performances at lunchtime from students who had thoroughly enjoyed the morning sessions. Thank you to Mr Miller in Music and Miss Morrish in Drama for supporting this day.
- We ran a competition for students to spot the "Bristol Bus" when out and about and send their photos in. We had a lot of entries, well done to everyone who has spotted the bus and an extra well done to those who managed a selfie with the bus!
- The kitchen offered some African Caribbean inspired food themes. The food was very well received, thank you to Terry and his team for putting on a lovely series of dishes.

We hope to be able to share some pictures from the different activities across BMA next term.

School of Rock – From the 29th November through to the 6th December the main hall will transform into the West End for this year's musical extravaganza, 'School of Rock'. I am told it is very funny and taking shape nicely. I am looking forward to seeing the countless hours of hard work from all cast members. Tickets this year will be exclusively available on ParentPay



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from 1st November. They always sell out and relatively fast so please do make a note of the date so as to not be disappointed.

Meal Deal Price – As I mentioned in my letter to parents earlier in the term, the price of a meal deal is increasing from £2.40 to £2.60. This is the first time a meal deal price increase has been applied in over 10 years. We continue to work with Aspens, through our management company Skanska, to ensure that the best value for money can be provided to families.

Library Books – a plea from Mrs Harman our Librarian please to have a good look around over the break for any outstanding library books. Any that are lurking at home can be dropped back into the returns box when the Academy re-opens.

Parking in the community – we’ve had a few complaints from local residents recently around people parking inconsiderately in local roads. Particular concerns are parking on double yellow lines, on corners causing obstructions and obstructing driveways. Please could I ask that we are considerate of our community when dropping off and picking up from the Academy. Consider using car parks at Bingo, B&M/Iceland shopping area or Morrisons. These areas can be walked to in a few minutes by students exiting from our rear gates and reduce the need for parking in local roads.

I hope all of our families have a restful week ahead. The Academy re-opens to **all students** on Monday 30th October and we look forward to seeing everyone back on that day.

Cameron Shaw
Principal

