

HIGH STANDARDS, HIGH ASPIRATIONS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS

26th April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Although it has only been a week since term started there were a few bits of information for me to share so rather than save them all up I thought I would write this week:

'The Big Ask' – The Children's Commissioner has launched a survey, titled "The Big Ask", trying to get views from parents/carers about future challenges they envisage for children. There is a separate link for children to give their own contributions which will be shared in time. The link for adults to contribute is [here](#). Ironically I just tried it again (I completed it last week) and it seems offline this morning but I hope that by the time you receive this letter it is back up and working.

David Selwyn Prize – The David Selwyn prize is a prize for social satirical short story writing. It is open to students across all Bristol and Bath secondary students and is run in collaboration with the Jane Austen Society and Bristol Grammar School. Chiara and Marcello (both Y9) were joint runners up winning £50 for their entries. I am immensely proud that two students from Bristol Met were recognised for their efforts and I am sure Chiara and Marcello's families will be rightly proud of this recognition...an amazing feat!

Healthy Schools Physical Activity Specialist Award – last week we were notified that, after 2 years of collecting evidence and demonstrating our commitment, we had been awarded the Healthy Schools specialist award for Physical Activity. This award recognises that Bristol Met has built a culture of physical activity within school, an enjoyment of physical activity and a commitment to removing barriers to an active lifestyle. We are really proud of this achievement. There are a number of staff who have led the efforts on this award but I wanted to recognise Mr Cooley in particular for all of his work on collating this information.



First Aid and Medical advice – we are seeing students arriving to school with notes from families asking us to check ailments and advise on whether they should seek treatment. Our staff are limited to providing emergency first aid. There are no doctors, nurses or other health care providers on site and we cannot provide advice concerning medical treatment. A reminder that medical advice can be sought via telephone on the NHS 111 service 24/7 or online at <https://111.nhs.uk/>

Self-generated online exploitation of children – this message is from the online centre for child protection: last year one third of concerning material involving children that was removed from the internet was "self-generated". That is material made, generally in the home, by young people aged 11-13 at the request of others (obviously some are younger and some are older but this is the key age group that are exploited). These are often people online pretending to be the same or similar age when in fact the truth is often much more sinister. Without causing alarm we wanted to take the opportunity to remind parents of the need to openly discuss online safety and share with you this really good resource bank for parents <https://talk.iwf.org.uk/>

Home Testing – Where willing and able, the Government would like us to encourage students to self-test twice weekly and to continue to do so in the current climate. We know the necessity to continue to do so is harder for young people to understand given the current relatively low prevalence of the virus locally and nationally, but we would encourage, where possible, to continue to support this request. Further test kits have been provided to students at the end of last week covering the next two weeks. As has always been the case, administering these is optional.

What was disappointing though was on Thursday after school when a number of the test kits had been thrown into our neighbour's gardens and instruction leaflets ripped up and thrown around the community. This of course is disheartening

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for our admin team who work hard to facilitate the distribution of the kits on top of their usual roles and reflects poorly on our entire Bristol Met community, despite it being limited to the actions of a reasonably small number. If you are supportive of your child continuing to self-test twice weekly please do check they have come home with their next kit (this time we were provided with a single larger box containing two weeks worth of tests). If your child is not willing or able to participate please do ensure they know not to take a test kit when they are made available (they are optionally picked up from a table so as to not cause any undue pressure or identification of those participating or not). Of course I know that none of us as parents/carers would believe our children would take and discard the resource (not only wasting the NHS resource but also causing a concern in the community) but I would be grateful for any support in conversations with students around littering in general and us taking collective pride and responsibility for our community. Littering in general remains the one area that most upsets me within the Academy so any continued support around this theme in general is really appreciated.

PE shorts – we are continuing to allow students to arrive wearing their PE kits on days they have PE. It is less of an issue at this time of year with (hopefully) dryer weather overall. Whilst we are not prescriptive of too many specifics we would respectfully ask for your support in the general themes of the PE kit standard in the Academy. These can be found [here](#). In particular we are seeing quite a creep in the colour and styles of shorts and leggings and whilst we have tried to make allowances for availability of clothing throughout the pandemic we do ask for your support in our uniform standards. Thank you in advance for this.

PC Myles Connor – finally, and very remis of me, I haven't yet formally introduced PC Myles Connor. PC Connor joined us as we returned to full opening in March as our new Schools Officer. PC Connor has been a police officer within Avon and Somerset for a number of years and has joined us from a response team in Bristol. Bristol Met is one of a number of schools across Bristol who are proud to support the Schools Officer role which means we see a police officer based within our school staff. I will ask PC Connor to write a bit more specifically about his role over the coming months as he settles in but a brief summary is that it is focused around community relationships and a closer working relationship between education, police and local stakeholders working together to safeguard our children and young people. Although PC Connor remains a full police officer his role, in general, is not to deal with community crimes so if you are unfortunate enough to be a victim of crime please do continue to report that directly to the police through the 101 or online crime reporting systems (999 if there is an immediate danger to life or property). PC Connor will of course be happy to be involved in anything appropriate that may involve our students or families. Please do encourage students to say hello to PC Connor who is very excited to be joining the team.



Best wishes,



Mr C Shaw
Principal