

HIGH STANDARDS, HIGH ASPIRATIONS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS

2nd December 2022

Dear Parent/Carers

It is definitely true that the days are getting colder! It is also true that many of our staff and students have been suffering from seasonal illness. I therefore wanted to start this letter with a large thank you to our students and families for their understanding over the last two weeks. Many students will have had lessons covered by someone other than their usual teacher. Whilst this is always a part of school life the amount has been higher than usual these last two weeks (though very much as all other schools in the South West and wider are reporting) and students have shown amazing resilience. We know from attendance figures for students that illness is also affecting the student population so I send all families our best wishes for a restful weekend.

There have been some lovely events over the last few weeks which I wanted to highlight:

Children in Need – On Friday 18th November we took part in highlighting Children in Need. £800 was raised from non-uniform and a further £650+ from 'The Big Read'. Thank you to everyone for supporting the event and to Mrs Harman for organising The Big Read and Pudsey Cake (and of course to the students who took part)

Parkrun – privilege to join a group of students for their first ever ParkRun in Eastville Park on Saturday 19th November. 5km around the park at 9am on Saturday with a couple of hundred other people. Students, supported by Miss Wallace, have been training for the last few weeks to undertake this challenge and it was lovely to see some friends and family turning out to cheer them on.

Fencing – latest competition on 26th November saw the U14s bring home a Bronze (Mary) and a Gold (Mae) along with great performances from Toby (Y7) and Leila (Y8). In the older group the opposition was fierce though a Bronze was secured (Ezra) with strong performances from Darya and Rafael. Well done to all and thank you to Mr Cooley for giving up another Saturday to enable the competition to happen.

Matilda – I had the pleasure of attending the opening night (of 6 nights which are all sold out) of 'Matilda' on Wednesday this week. After 3 years away due to Covid it is safe to say that the students and staff of 'Met Productions' well and truly smashed it. I won't say too much as there are still 4 nights to go and lots of families still to come but anyone with tickets will not be disappointed.

And a few upcoming events to highlight for action:

Festive Jumper Day - on 9th December we will participate in the annual Christmas Jumper event in aid of 'Save the Children'. Although it is an otherwise normal school uniform day students are permitted to wear a festive/seasonal jumper. The jumper can be either shop bought or can be home accessorised in the spirit of the season. It is also absolutely optional. Anyone wishing to donate to Save The Children we are suggesting £1 on arrival on the day. Thank you in advance for any support.

Foodbank Donations – again, each year we collect some items for the local foodbank. We know this year will be particularly challenging for many residents and families in our community. Anyone who feels able to donate some items to their collection is asked to send them in with students. Tutors will collect them during tutor time across the coming weeks with Met Points available for each tutor group. We will then transport all items to the foodbank at the end of term to enable distribution for Christmas time. Please have a look at the link below to see what the foodbank is requesting. Again, thank you in advance for any support.

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[Christmas | South & East Bristol Foodbank](#)

Finally, some messages of importance to our families:

Consultation on Road Safety Improvements – since I started at Bristol Met (still hard to believe it's my 6th year) I've been lobbying the local authority on road improvements, particularly around Snowdon Road at the main entrance. It is great to say that finally we seem to be gaining some traction and Bristol City Council have now launched a consultation of some suggested improvements which should benefit students but also local residents. These include a zebra crossing, pathway widening and some other measures. The local authority are requesting feedback on these proposals before they proceed to implementation so please read the letter linked below and given any feedback (positive or negative though they are particularly interested in supporting comments as well) by 23rd December.

[Snowdon Road Mail Merge \(clf.uk\)](#)

[Layout2\(clf.uk\)](#)

Online safety for parents/carers – the Department for Education have provided a comprehensive booklet on Online Safety and asked that we circulate to parents. Please have a look at the link below (it's a long document but worthy of a read)

[Online-safety-guides-booklet-1-2.pdf \(clf.uk\)](#)

And, very finally, we've had some lovely news over the last two weeks when the national validated data from the Summer 2022 GCSE season was released. We knew our Year 11 cohort from last year had worked incredibly hard to stay on track during a very disrupted period of education. I am humbled to say that our GCSE outcomes were the 2nd strongest of any state secondary schools in Bristol (out of 22) and the 6th best in the greater South West area (out of 64 across Bristol, Bath & North East Somerset, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset). This really does reflect the hard work, commitment and determination of these students (and of course their teachers and families supporting at home). I wanted to say one final **Congratulations** to this cohort even though they have now moved on from us. Of course we look forward to seeing the hard work pay off for our current Year 11 students in Summer 2023.

Yours sincerely,



Mr C Shaw
Principal