

**HIGH STANDARDS, HIGH ASPIRATIONS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS**16<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the final few days of a dark, and currently windy and wet, Term 3 I wanted to drop you a few nicer news messages as we approach the lighter mornings and evenings as Spring emerges. As there have been little updates in relation to Covid in recent weeks this update can be focused much more on some of the nice things that have continued to happen in and around Bristol Met across this term.

**Eco Club** – The Eco Club momentum has continued to build under the drive of Mrs Lloyd, several other staff and a dedicated group of students across different year groups. The team have been working hard on bringing new life to several areas of the site. This has included planting some new fruit trees, creating raised beds for planting and starting work on a new raised natural pond to encourage biodiversity in the site. Mrs Lloyd has also secured 20 new Oak trees which we are sharing out with other local schools to ensure some amazing trees for future generations. The club are also working with the site team to turn over some areas of the grounds to more natural species. Some of this work will involve not mowing and trimming some areas and allowing them to wildflower. You may notice some of this in and around the site but rest assured these areas are actually now much loved areas which will contribute positively to the local community and wider wildlife.

**Fencing** – Many will know we have a thriving Fencing Club at Bristol Met under Mr Cooley. This is not common in inner city state schools and has been something that has taken a lot of time and commitment to form and grow. After a long break for reasons that we are all only too familiar with, the fencers returned to competition last weekend. Many of those competing were doing so in their first competitions since joining the Academy. In the Under 12s Marnie, Keyon and Gracie took Gold, Silver and Bronze respectively. In the Under 13s Obi and Mae secured Silver and Bronze. In the Under 16s Ezra secured Silver. An amazing haul of medals in this first return to competing and well done to all of the team.

**Bikeability** – This week also saw the next groups of Bikeability taking place, one group in horrendous weather but still managing the training with a smile. This training takes young people through basic bike and road safety and helping them plan the best routes in the local community for safe riding.

**Bristol City Youth Council** – Yolanda, one of our Year 11 students and Student Leaders was recently elected as a Councillor on the Bristol City Youth Council. Votes were cast by all secondary students in Bristol based on seeing pledges from candidates. We are of course delighted and proud that Yolanda was voted on to the council by peers across Bristol and we know Yolanda will use this platform to represent young people and the local community.

**Covid updates** – I said at the start there was little to update but I just wanted to confirm plans for next term. Currently we plan on Term 4 starting similar to how this term has ended. Face coverings are no longer required anywhere on site (though anyone still wishing to wear one may do so). Staff and Students are still being asked to test twice weekly (and test kits are available for anyone wishing one, please collect from Student Reception). It is possible this will change shortly based on current speculation and announcements expected from the Government next week and we will of course update if this changes. Currently anyone testing positive on an LFD has to isolate for at least 5 days until they return two negative tests 24 hours apart on Day 5 onwards. Again, it seems possible



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that this will shortly reduce further or even go completely and when we are formally notified we will communicate. Therefore, in summary, the guidance is still to test twice weekly and isolate for positive test results. The Government are also still clear that the best defence they feel against future variants and a return to more difficult times is to consider vaccination for those able and willing and details for anyone who hasn't yet had their vaccination(s) but now wishes to can be found in my previous letters or by googling for the NHS Vaccination website.

I hope that all of our families manage a relaxing break. I know it has been a challenging term, it always is on the return from the festive period. Students have managed absence (both within student and staff) with maturity and I hope that next term, which is a relatively short 5 weeks, brings brighter days, weather and times.

Best wishes,

Mr C Shaw  
Principal