

HIGH STANDARDS, HIGH ASPIRATIONS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS

6th February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are into the final few days of this term, it has well and truly flown by. Term 3 is always a more difficult term as we often see in schools, more seasonal illness (reflecting wider society) with coughs, colds, flu and sickness bugs. Bristol Met is not immune to that and therefore we recognise that many students will have been affected by that but we also see staff affected at this time of year which can bring some additional disruption to daily routine with lessons being covered. We are always grateful for the support of our community but also for the resilience shown by students. We generally see an improvement in absence levels when we move into next term and we start to see brighter days.

Before we reach the final end of term a few messages for our families:

Y11 Mocks – Y11 have just started their final round of mock assessments and I firstly want to congratulate them for the mature approach they have shown in the first few days. The mocks are designed to ensure they get the precious final feedback to help highlight final areas of knowledge and skills to work on before the final exams start in May. A separate communication will come from Mr Andy Price, Y11 RAT Lead, in the next day outlining live online revision sessions being offered by Maths and English staff across the February break which students can tune into online.

Community Iftar – Ramadan is expected to start around 10th March and will last through until around 9th April. We have been working with Bristol Muslim Cultural Society (BMCS) to plan a community Iftar as part of Ramadan. The iftar is a community event to break the fast observed by Muslims during Ramadan. We are planning to hold an Iftar on **Thursday 21st March 2024**. The event is open to any of our staff, students and their immediate families. Although Ramadan is clearly of high importance and significance to Muslims the Iftar is open to anyone as the intention is to bring community together. More information will follow in the first week of next term along with information on how to secure your tickets (which will be free) but outline information is that arrival will be from 5:30pm. There will be some short input (around 15mins) from BMCS and some of our students on why Ramadan is important to Muslims and then Maghrib (sunset) prayer will take place (which is of course optional for participation or observation) before food is served. A hot meal (meat, vegetarian and vegan) options will be available and are being provided by Bristol Sweet Mart. To help us with initial planning we are asking for any families who may be interested in joining us to complete this [short Form \(available here\)](#). This does not commit you to attending and does not guarantee a space (ticket booking will be sent around start of next term) it just allows us an indication of numbers to start planning.

Communication changes - Messages will be sent by email rather than text as it enables us to send better communication more promptly. Across the next few terms we will be launching the Bromcom 'My Child at School' [MCAS] app which will enable parents/carers to access live data and messages. This will rely upon an up to date email address for any parent or carer wishing to have access.

Measles – following on from my previous letter a few weeks ago you may have seen that the UK Health Security Agency (Public Health as they have previously been known) continue to remain concerned about growing numbers of measles cases across Europe and the UK. The FAQ document which, [can be accessed by clicking here](#), has been put together by the UKHSA to provide information and guidance to families about why measles is a concern, actions that can be taken to reduce spread and then actions to take should someone contract Measles.

Mobile phone reminder – we don't have phones out at any point during the school day. If confiscated they are returned to an adult. This is our policy (and has always been) which can be found [here on the website](#). The policy explains why we think it is important to take this approach and it was a policy created in consultation with staff, students and families.



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The Government have recently announced guidance to make this approach the standard across all schools in the country. Please do speak to your child(ren) about ensuring they don't have their device confiscated as we appreciate it can cause inconvenience to parents and carers if they have to attend site to retrieve the device. As always, if you need to communicate urgently with your child(ren) during the school day please do ring the main switchboard on 0117 377 2071

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of the Academy. I hope all of our families have a restful half term break. We finish at normal time this Friday, 9th February. **All** students return at normal time (8:30am) on **Monday 19th February** (there is no INSET or staggered start). Y11 will return back into their mock examination series so please support them in being well rested for that first morning back.

Best wishes,

Cameron Shaw
Principal