

HIGH STANDARDS, HIGH ASPIRATIONS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS

11th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope the first weekend of this current lockdown went OK for all of our families. So as to not flood your inboxes with communications I will try and limit updates to a maximum of one per week. Of course if there are significant or urgent updates I may have to send additional communications.

For this week, I wanted to highlight:

Live Lessons – Last week we had to prioritise Year 11 Live Lessons (though most staff offered live lessons to all year groups). From this week live lessons will be a feature for all year groups complementing additional work set in SMHW or Teams Classroom. Thank you for the efforts you have already shown in supporting students in accessing their remote/live learning. Thank you also for the feedback from many families on the quality of some of the sessions you have seen in passing whilst supporting or working around your children, it really is appreciated for the staff who are completely changing their usual way of working and means a lot to them.

Devices for Online Learning – Across last week we loaned over 120 devices to enable students to get online where they didn't otherwise have access. Thank you for your patience as we readied and deployed these machines. We still have a small number of devices we can make available and are lobbying the Government to do more. If you still need a loan device to enable students to access the online learning please contact their house team.

Other ways to access Online – we have been made aware that it is possible to access Microsoft Office suite (including MS Teams that we are using for live lessons) on both Xbox and PlayStation devices. We know that some young people have these devices and not a laptop or tablet device. At the end of this letter I have included the instructions to how to get online with these devices and am hoping it is of use to some students and families.

Testing Permissions – as per previous communications we, along with all secondary schools, were tasked with setting up facilities to administer rapid testing for active corona virus infections. We completed this over the Christmas break and last week tested staff and have today started testing those students who are attending on site. Although not confirmed I am expecting the Government to ask schools to facilitate mass testing before schools re-open. As part of the planning for this it would be hugely beneficial and appreciated if all students had completed the consent document *either giving or denying consent*. At the minute 40% of our students have no return which makes planning of the potential logistics very difficult and will potentially place a large administrative burden on the Academy staff who will then have to make contact with families to check consent on an individual basis. Please therefore consider completing the form (if you have not already) here

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ViObpySMIkm0IMbibQtAkai48FjyYGJFifWOM5wVI8NUQTY1R0xVUENZUVVPsks5WFNGWjM3SldSVC4u>

It will be used as consent for subsequent testing but can be withdrawn/given at any time by contacting us in writing on info@bristolmet.net

Year 11 Exams (for those with Y11 students) – As outlined in my letter last week, the Year 11 exam season in its usual format has been cancelled for Summer 2021. We have been told it will be replaced with teacher assessment and potentially some other forms of assessment. The good news this year is they have confirmed already that no algorithm will

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be attempted (the source of much angst last summer) and will trust education professionals to have greater input. There are still many questions which do not yet have answers. We have been promised much more clarity by the end of February. Whilst this of course continues to be an unsettling period for Year 11 students and their families I think there are core principles which are not going to change which we can use to steer the next 6 months:

a) Grades at the end of Year 11 are issued for students completing courses and demonstrating the skills, knowledge and experience of those courses. Students have not finished any of these courses yet and therefore it is absolutely imperative that they continue to 'attend', engage with lessons, submit work and demonstrate the acquisition of the skills and knowledge.

b) Their class teachers will play a big part in assessing the final awarding of grades. It is therefore vital they complete the work set and return anything requested back to their teachers. Without returning work or engaging in learning it is impossible for teachers to assess.

Thank you for your support in ensuring Year 11 students are engaging during this difficult time for them.

Online Safety for parents/carers - Avon and Somerset Constabulary are running a series of free online web events for parents/carers aimed at online safety for children. These are useful at any time but particularly during another lockdown period. If you would like to access the web event then you can sign up using this link

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/online-safety-for-parents-it-is-never-going-to-happen-to-my-child-tickets-133344289359>

There are repeat events on different dates if this on on the 14th January does not suit or is full.

Finally, I just wanted to reiterate some messages from the previous lockdown (I never expected to be saying that the first time, nevermind a second time). We are all in this together. We (staff, students and families) will all be doing our best. Bristol Met are trying to provide the best education we can in these circumstances. We appreciate that students will be doing their best in these circumstances and that families will be doing their best to support this happening working around devices, broadband, working from home and all of the other pressures that rise from being confined to homes for much more than we would like. There are no hard and fast rules for success in these circumstances so please reassure your child(ren) that all we ask of them is for the to engage in their learning and do the best they can and also for them to be as patient with us as we will be with them.

Until next time please stay safe and look after each other.

Best wishes,



Mr C Shaw
Principal



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Using Xbox or PlayStation to access Office 365

Accessing your remote learning. An alternative method of accessing remote learning during times of lockdown.

Xbox

1. Plug a keyboard in to the Xbox USB slot (less than £10 from Amazon)
2. Go in to my games and apps
3. Find Microsoft Edge and select
4. Type in Office 365 and log in as you would in school
5. You can then access your work and use key packages including:
 - Word
 - Excel
 - PowerPoint
 - Teams
 - Your emails
6. To move around you use the Xbox controller or plug in a mouse

PlayStation

1. Identify the PlayStation internet browser icon (it is WWW with dots around it)
2. Press the PlayStation logo on the controller
3. Go to the library and find options for games and applications
4. Go in to applications and you will find the internet browser
5. Type in Office 365 and log in as you would in school
6. You can then access your work and use key packages including:
 - Word
 - Excel
 - PowerPoint
 - Teams
 - Your emails

