

HIGH STANDARDS, HIGH ASPIRATIONS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS10th March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Wow, what an amazing morning. How lovely to see our students coming back into the building this morning. Early figures suggest just over 95% of our students were able and willing to return this morning (national average attendance to secondary school on any given day pre-pandemic would be just under that) so we are really pleased to see this figure. We know that there will still be some students apprehensive about returning and our pastoral teams will continue to support getting all students back on site.

I appreciate we have only been “back” for a few hours but I wanted to update on a couple of points:

Home Test Kits – Students who consent for their final on site test over the next two days will also be issued with their first supply of Home Testing Kit. This first kit (2 small boxes) will last 3 weeks (each week students should test twice, 3-5 days apart). We recommend testing Sunday evening or Monday morning before school and then again Wednesday evening or Thursday morning before school.

Instructions are [available here](#) with instructions in a number of languages. There is also a helpful video series by Dr Amir Khan [available here](#).

Results from each test need to be reported to the **NHS** using [this web link](#) (don't throw away the test strip until you have reported the result as you will need the QR code printed on each strip). We thank you in advance for your participation in this process and in helping ensure that schools are not in danger of “closing” again in the future.

If your child does not bring home a test kit and you would like them to have one please ask them to speak to their House Team or Student Reception where they can collect one. A reminder please that these kits are personal issue to each student and are not for use by other family members. Any families with children are now able to collect or order their own supply of home test kits for use by other family members [directly using this link](#). You can also report by phone, the number is in the kit box.

With case rates still moving in a good direction and the further rollout of the vaccine programme I am sure we are all hoping for few positive results. However, it is vital that any positive LFD results are reported immediately to the Academy by emailing us the details on info@bristolmet.net Anyone who tests positive on an LFD at home must then book a confirmatory PCR test at a covid test site [using this link](#) and anyone who lives in the household must immediately begin isolating. If the PCR result is negative the isolation ends. If the PCR result is positive the isolation continues until 10 full days after the LFD test was taken. We, as an Academy, will also have to identify any close contacts in line with public health latest guidance. As per previous occasions, no personal information relating to individuals will be revealed as part of this process.

Going Outside – although a bit wet this week we will hopefully start to see some more of that Spring and then Summer weather. With more wearing of face coverings we will obviously be encouraging more of our young people outside for break and lunch where they can remove their face covering and get some good fresh air. Please therefore ensure students have warm clothing (even on sunny days it's still pretty cold) with them so they can make the most of fresh air moments.

Lockdown still in place – This one is particularly hard for young people now they have returned to school. Although all students are back in school we are, as a country, still in a National Lockdown. That means we can only mix with other households either as part of education or in an approved workplace (and for a few other limited exceptions). That means that on the way to and from school, and particularly after school, students should leave the Academy site at the end of the

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day and make their way immediately home. They should not be hanging around outside the Academy or in the community. This will be particularly important as the days are getting longer and (I say as looking at the rain outside) nicer weather may be heading our way. We would appreciate your support in speaking to students about the importance of continuing to observe lockdown rules until such time as they are lifted or relaxed.

As the days get longer – speaking of longer days and nicer weather (whilst still acknowledging lockdown currently) a general reminder to all of our young people about community safety. Planning their routes to and from the Academy to ensure they have a safe route planned. This is particularly important if they are walking or cycling parts of it on their own (more likely currently). Sticking to more public areas and having a backup route should they encounter a problem with their usual plan. In general we know we have a good and safe community around us but it is always useful to take a moment to consider our own safety.

Spare Boots Campaign – You may have seen a local news article or some social media coverage of an initiative launched by a police officer, PC Ryan Day, who is based at City Academy, not far from our own Academy. Our own brand new schools officer, PC Myles Connor, who joins us properly this week is getting behind this campaign. PC Day put out a call to his community for any unused football boots that people may have hanging around that still have life in them and has been overwhelmed by the support. Donations are cleaned by volunteers and can then be claimed for free by young people who may otherwise not have access to boots. We have agreed to act as a donation point so if you have any boots you would like to donate then please do drop them into Reception and we will pass them on. We will publish details of how refurbished boots can be claimed in time. There is a flyer from PC Day on the next page.

Digitech Studio School – I have previously written with information about the offer from DSSB who take students at the start of Year 10 and Year 12. Particularly for our Year 11 who may be interested in Level 3 routes through creative arts you may wish to look at their recent tour video from the Principal, Lis Jolley <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oji3PiOpaQk>

I will write again as things develop. After this week we have 3 more weeks until the Easter break (it will seem very strange given we have, by and large, just returned to site but I think our young people will be ready for a break by then. Returning to site will be quite a change of routine for most). We are so excited to be back and fully open.

Until next time,

Best wishes,



Mr C Shaw
Principal



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Avon and Somerset Police
SERVE.PROTECT.RESPECT.

**HAVE YOU GOT A SPARE PAIR OF
BOOTS?**

**COULD YOU GIVE THEM AWAY TO
HELP SOMEBODY ELSE**

IF SO WE NEED YOU!

**WE ARE COLLECTING BOOTS FOR
YOUNG PEOPLE THAT DON'T HAVE
THEIR OWN**

ALL DONATIONS GREATLY RECEIVED

PLEASE EMAIL

RYAN.DAY@AVONANDSOMERSET.POLICE.UK

