

HIGH STANDARDS. HIGH ASPIRATIONS. HIGH EXPECTATIONS14th July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

With just over a week to go until the end of this academic year I wanted to give an update following the most recent “Roadmap” announcements. I have deliberately waited a few days for the finer detail to emerge so that we had an understanding of how things may look in September. Unfortunately, though understandably, there is still some of it which is yet to be confirmed and realistically, will be determined by how case numbers and wider concerns play out across the next few weeks after we move to national “Stage 4” this coming Monday. Although some of these changes technically come in on Monday the advice from the DfE is that schools would be sensible to not make any changes until September due to the proximity to the end of the academic year.

With regards schools, the changes for us will be:

- Bubbles will end – we will be able to go back to allowing year groups to mix more widely. For us this predominantly affects social time and after school clubs (which we are very much looking forward to welcoming back more widely). We are looking at social time structure following some positive feedback from this year but certainly envisage being able to return to some mixing between year groups which we know is particularly welcome for students in younger year groups where they often still have friends in the year above/below.
- Contact tracing by schools will end – from Monday contact tracing in schools will become the responsibility of the wider ‘Track and Trace’ service.
- Self-Isolation - From 16th August those under 18 (and those over 18 who have had both vaccinations) will not have to self-isolate if identified as a close contact. Instead they will be recommended to take a PCR test themselves and will only have to isolate if they test positive themselves. This should mean far fewer students (and staff) having to isolate when we return in September.
- Face Coverings – wearing of face coverings by students has already ended and will end for staff when we move to Stage 4. We have no issue with anyone who wishes to voluntarily continue to wear a face covering in the Academy.
- Testing – the Government request that students continue to test twice a week during term time (they are welcome to test across Summer but are not being asked to). We are being warned that it is likely we will be asked to administer two on site LFD tests in September ahead of students returning to site (exactly like we did in March). We had an excellent uptake in March and we do understand that the Government feel uptake from on site testing is higher, and therefore preferable, to testing at home only. There are still many details to confirm so we thank you for your patience and will communicate further details as well as a full plan for the September term start towards the end of August when we receive final detail.

Please bear with us as, undoubtably, there will be further changes and adjustments as Public Health and the Government continue to monitor and react over the summer period.

On Wednesday 21st July we will be finishing at 12:45pm. Across Tuesday 20th July and Wednesday 21st July we are enabling a celebration activity for every year group which will involve access to inflatables (bouncy castle, assault courses etc). To make it easier we are allowing **all** students to wear PE kit on both days (Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st July). We are also asking that any students who have uniform that is still in wearable condition but they know will not fit them by September,

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and they have no one else to give it to, brings it in and donates it. We will have boxes in The Atrium on arrival. We have been building stocks and have been laundering donated items. These are then given to students in need and, long term, we aim to set up a swap shop and 2nd hand uniform supply to enable low price uniform access. There is also an active community group on Facebook for uniform swap/sell which is run by some of our community and supports with uniform access.

And to finish, a few updates from the last few weeks:

'Wear your hair with Pride' – we took part on Friday 25th June. Celebrating individuality and raising money for 'Off The Record' who do a lot for many of our young people and young people in our community. We're still counting the total raised but it will go towards supporting the great work of this group.

School Nurse Online Sessions for Parents/Carers – the School Nurse Team are providing some online sessions which families may find useful. Detail can be found in these links:

July - [Webinar-dates-July-Print-with-QR-final.pdf \(clf.uk\)](#)

August - [Webinar-dates-August-Print-with-QR.pdf \(clf.uk\)](#)

Digimakers Summer School – The University of Bristol are offering some free summer sessions for those students interested in digital creation. Sessions are based in Barton Hill and are free [Digimakers Summer School 2021 – Digimakers](#). Sign up ASAP as spaces are limited.

Y10 Employability Day – 15th July. Y10 students will be taking part in [Mock Interviews Employability Day - Bristol Metropolitan Academy \(clf.uk\)](#) Visitors from business and enterprise will be joining us (in person and remotely) to provide a number of opportunities across the day.

Jessie-May Trust – A few of our outgoing Y11 students organised a bake sale (much more complicated in current operating restrictions) and raised nearly £300 for the Jessie-May Trust. Jessie-May provide respite care to families with seriously ill children in the local community and they visited us last week to thank us for the donation and support.

Duke of Edinburgh – Over a few weekends 45 of our students completed the final stage of their Duke of Edinburgh award. Due to the ongoing restrictions they did not camp overnight in the usual fashion but did still have to carry all of their kit as if they were camping. I think that is even harder! Knowing you are carrying items you aren't going to use. Well done to all of those who completed the event and to the staff giving up their time voluntarily to enable it to happen.

Once again, on behalf of the entire Academy, I would like to thank our community for the overwhelming support, patience and understanding across this academic year. I know it has been another very disrupted year but our community have been amazing. We wish everyone a great Summer when it comes. If there is any further information before we finish at **12:45pm on Wednesday 21st July** then I will write again. If not, we will communicate anything important across the Summer and ensure that all necessary information is communicated by 31st August and will also publish it on our website.

Best wishes,



Mr C Shaw
Principal