



HIGH STANDARDS. HIGH ASPIRATIONS. HIGH EXPECTATIONS

3rd January 2021

This letter includes a link to a very important consent form for the testing and a link to request on site provision. Please read it carefully

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, Happy New Year to all of our families. I know it is likely to have been a very different and, potentially, difficult festive period for many of our families but I sincerely hope that you have stayed well and managed to make the most of the situation.

Following the Government announcements on 30th December about returning to school this term and the introduction of Covid-19 rapid-result testing for secondary school students, I am writing to confirm plans for the first three weeks in January, as far as we know at this time. As you are no doubt aware, the landscape continues to change and with considerable focus from the public and media it may be subject to further change with little notice. I apologise in advance for the uncertainty this causes our students and the community but hope that you understand it is outside of our control. We are all continuing to try and do what is deemed best for our young people whilst protecting the most vulnerable in our society and the capacity of the NHS to cope with those who are most at risk of complication from corona virus.

Student return dates:

Monday 4 January: this is a planned staff training day and has been planned since the calendar was set for this year.

Tuesday 5 January – Friday 8 January: all secondary schools remain closed* and remote learning will be provided. The Government expectation is it is compulsory to provide remote learning to Year 11 but we are expecting to provide quality learning to **all year groups**. Please therefore ensure your child(ren) check their emails and Show My Homework account.

**Except for students whose parents/carers are categorised as critical workers and have requested to attend school by completing the [form at this link](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ViObpySMIkm0IMbibQtAkVOtnPAzzxBvyZ6ppIFGMVUNUVMME1HWTk3U0hUMDQ3R0FGVjRWWTdTNCQIQCN0PWcu) (<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ViObpySMIkm0IMbibQtAkVOtnPAzzxBvyZ6ppIFGMVUNUVMME1HWTk3U0hUMDQ3R0FGVjRWWTdTNCQIQCN0PWcu>). Students who have to attend due to it not being possible for them to remain safely at home will be supervised in completing their remote learning as their usual classroom teachers will be facilitating live lessons and online learning. Any students who can remain safely at home, at least for next week, will be greatly appreciated whilst we have to channel much of our capacity into live learning and setting up the mass testing facilities.*

**And except for students who have an EHCP or who are classed as vulnerable – a member of Academy staff from the SEND, House or Safeguarding Teams will contact to invite your child to attend in person.*

During this week Staff will complete Covid testing and Year 11 will be invited in to be tested and return home. Further information will follow on this in the first few days of next week.

Monday 11 January – Friday 15 January: Year 11 students return to school to re-start their normal lessons and timetable.





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All other year groups will have remote learning provided. Students will be invited in at specific times to complete Covid-19 rapid-results tests.

Monday 18 January: all students return to school. There will be a staggered plan of return by year group to enable them to have their second covid test. Unless a student tests positive they will then remain on site and re-start their usual timetable and structure.

Remote learning:

As outlined above, remote learning will be provided to all year groups from Tuesday 5th January. As far as resources allow, this will be a mix of 'live lessons' (through MS Teams Classroom) and additional online learning resources. Please ensure students check their emails and SMHW for additional guidance from their teachers. If you have previously communicated a lack of suitable device to us then we will endeavour to support with temporary provision. If you have not heard from us by Wednesday 6th January and digital access is an issue please make contact with your child's House Team.

Rapid-result testing:

- All staff and students will be offered rapid-result tests for Covid-19. It is **not** mandatory to be tested before returning to Bristol Met but we, as per the Government's scientific advisors, hope that as many staff and students as possible will participate to break the chain of transmission, lower the number of cases, protect the capacity of the NHS and protect our most vulnerable community members. The quicker we can do that the quicker we can, I hope, return to some form of normality with a sense of safety.
- This consists of two tests, completed three to five days apart
- The tests are quick and easy using a swab of your nose and throat. They are self-administered but trained staff will be available to advise, guide and supervise safety.
- Results will be ready in 30 minutes and you will be contacted **only if your child tests positive**.
- Tests will only be administered if we have received consent
Please use the link below to provide consent for testing. It needs to be completed for **each** child you have at Bristol Met. If you **do not wish for your child to be tested** then please still complete the form but tick the "do not consent" box. This is so we do not chase you up for consent as we plan the huge logistical challenge administering this testing regime will provide.
<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ViObpySMlkm0IMbibQtAkai48FjyYGFJfWOM5wVi8NUQTY1R0xVUENZUVVPSks5WFNGWjM3SldSVC4u> ,
Please aim to complete consent by Wednesday 6th January to allow us to plan a testing timetable
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 tests will take place towards the end of this coming week and then again on Monday 11th January.
- Years 7-10 tests will take place during week beginning Monday 11 January and on Monday 18 January
- *A full testing timetable and further instructions will follow in the next few days once we have been able to process the consents received.*



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At all times the previous expectations remain – students **must not** attend site if they have any of the 3 recognised symptoms of corona virus (fever, new continuous cough, loss of sense of smell/taste called anosmia). The rapid tests are designed for asymptomatic testing. They do not replace formal laboratory test swabs for those with symptoms. The most important safety mechanism we still have at Bristol Met against coronavirus are our well practiced and implemented measures including one way, keep left, hand sanitising and face coverings along with year group segregation. We thank you in advance for continuing to support us with these measures.

Thank you for the continued support, understanding and patience as we continue to navigate this challenging and varying landscape. It is greatly appreciated by the staff at the Academy. Should you have any urgent questions or concerns please do contact your child's Tutor/House Team as a first point of contact.

Mr C Shaw
Principal

Link to Privacy Notice for LFD Testing: <https://bristolmetropolitanacademy.clf.uk/wp-content/uploads/2-Privacy-Notice-LFD-Testing-Students-1.pdf>

Link to Data Protection LFD Testing Parent FAQ: <https://bristolmetropolitanacademy.clf.uk/wp-content/uploads/3-Data-protection-Covid-testing-FAQs-for-parents.pdf>

Current Government definition of 'Critical Workers'

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined below.

Health and social care

Doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, other frontline health and social care staff, those working in health and social care supply chain

Education and childcare

Childcare, support and teaching staff, social workers, specialist education professionals

Key public services

Justice system, religious staff, charity workers, those responsible for managing deceased, public service broadcasters

Local and national government

Administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of Covid-19 response and delivery of EU transition, essential public services

Food and other necessary goods

Those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery, and provision of other key goods e.g. hygiene, medicine





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Public safety and national security

Police and police support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel, fire and rescue service employees, National Crime Agency staff, border security, prison and probation staff

Transport and border

Those who keep air, water, road, rail passenger and freight transport modes and supply chains operational

Utilities, communication and financial services

Essential financial service staff, oil, gas, electricity, water sectors, IT and data sector and primary industry supplies to Covid-19 response, civil nuclear, chemical, telecoms staff, postal services and delivery, payment providers, waste disposal sectors.

For further information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>



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