

**HIGH STANDARDS, HIGH ASPIRATIONS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS**16<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope everyone managed to have a good break over the recent half term and have arrived back to Term 6 refreshed and enjoying the nice weather. I held off writing to you at the start of Term as we knew we would be getting an update on the "Roadmap" progress. As all of you will likely have seen, the Prime Minister announced on Monday evening that the move to Stage 4 (the final stage of the easing of the protective measures to limit the spread of Covid) has been delayed for 4 weeks.

Within schools it doesn't have immediate implications as the system of controls we were operating under were likely to remain until the end of Summer term regardless. No new measures have been introduced. There is, however, a noticeable increase in communication again from Public Health, the Local Authority and the DfE around the system of controls already in place which highlights the fact that the concern over new variants and another rise in case numbers exists.

In this letter I therefore wanted to remind all of us of some of the current requirements and to appeal for your continued support in ensuring we can make it to the end of the Summer term with the minimum amount of further disruption as possible.

**Current system of controls** – since face coverings were removed the current system of controls in schools still has 3 main silos; hygiene (hands, tissues etc), bubbling (keeping year groups separated as much as possible) and space (social distancing between staff and students where possible). These controls are still requested and we will continue to try to implement them as much as we can. We thank you for your continued support.

**LFD testing continues** – hospitalisation remains lower but there is a rise in cases particularly among young people. I appreciate that for many people it feels less concerning given hospitalisation and critical care demand but what the Government are asking for is a continued participation in LFD and the system of controls for two reasons; firstly, to allow a bit more time to continue the vaccine programme and also to analyse the efficacy of the vaccine on transmission and severity and then secondly to continue to protect NHS capacity for a while longer. There is a massive backlog of more routine care for the NHS due to the pandemic and continuing to play our part enables resource to be utilised more efficiently. Please therefore continue to ask students to take 2 LFD tests per week and report the results to NHS and to us. Any positive LFD needs to be followed up with a formal PCR laboratory test and the results reported to us as a matter of urgency. Schools are still responsible currently for track and tracing of any positive cases in our students. With the rise of cases in Bristol it is highly likely that we will, once again, have cases in our student body and I apologise in advance for the inevitable disruption this will cause to students and families. A number of our local secondary and primary schools have already reported positive cases in the last week.

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**Sports Day** – We really want to go ahead with Sports Day. It is always a lovely day and with a great community feeling (and competitive streak). Therefore, although having to be modified for the current rules, we will be going ahead (currently) on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2021. On this day all students will be in PE Kit.

**Last day of term** – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021 is the last day of term. Leading up to that we have a largely normal end of year (covid aside) but we are also planning some reward and relaxation events to recognise all of the efforts of our students over the last 16 months. Further information will follow on this. However, I can confirm that on the Wednesday all students will finish at lunchtime (12:45pm) having had some time with their Tutor and being able to collect lunch, if they wish, before leaving for the Summer.

**Uniform** - As term draws to a close, we're already looking ahead to September. Our uniform provider Monkhouse is working hard to make sure that despite the challenges posed by international shipping, Covid and Brexit, our families will be able to find everything they need. This is a reminder that the best way to ensure your child has all the uniform they need in good time for the start of the school year is to shop early, if this is possible for you.

Please [book your appointment](#) with Monkhouse now, preferably choosing an appointment in July or Early August.

Thank you for understanding. We know not all parents are able to shop early, but the challenges posed when large numbers of families shop in the last two weeks of August is something we are all keen to avoid. After what has been an interesting school year, please help us to help you to ensure we all return in September raring to go!

**Harassment of young people** – many may have seen the Ofsted report on harassment of young people published last week. Whilst it is clearly alarming to hear of the outcomes I think many of us were, unfortunately, not surprised to hear that many young people still feel subjected to harassment on a regular basis. This is clearly not good enough and, as a society and a community, much needs to be done. The safeguarding, pastoral and senior leadership teams in the Academy continue to review our policies and procedures on how we identify and deal with incidents. As important, will be the work that will develop across next year, in further developing our community and ethos to be aligned to anti-harassment rather than just dealing with incidents when we are aware. Much more information will follow on this area over the next academic year.

**Instrument Lessons Questionnaire** – As we approach the end of a very strange school year, the music department want to ensure they are providing the best instrumental and vocal lessons they can. We would like to increase the range of instruments we offer but it is dependent on having enough numbers to employ a teacher for each instrument. Listing an instrument is not a commitment to then sign-up but we may contact you if an instrument you list becomes available.

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With this in mind we have created a short survey for you to complete that can be found here:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ViObpySMIkm0IMbibQtAkZ5BFzEhJ0BOgKHhcoR9V71UOEpVSzBLQ0RQSEIFTkNEVlpOVExZWkpFQS4u>

It is really helpful for us that it is completed by as many students as possible, whether or not they currently have lessons at MET. Any opinions/feedback that is shared with teachers will be anonymized.

If you have any other questions, please email [kama.miller@clf.uk](mailto:kama.miller@clf.uk)

**The Big Question** – This term we will be asking students to take part in The Big Question. We are gathering information from students in order to be better informed about our approach with our current cohort. The questionnaire, for all students, will help to find the best approach possible to enhance their whole experience at school. Tailoring our approach for the students in their school will help us to adapt to the needs of the students at Bristol Met. We pride ourselves on the experiences we deliver for students and would like to continue to do this well and with the students input, as and when allowed.

Students will be asked to answer the set of questions honestly and as best as they can. Some questions will have options from a drop-down menu and others need an answer typed or written. No answer provided will be wrong.

The impact will inform the following areas in school:

- Feedback for curriculum areas
- Relate to progress and behaviour
- Measure of students accessing opportunities
- Goal setting and ambitions
- How can we reach out and engage parents further
- Insights into motivation

The biggest question we are asking is "What more can we do as a school to better serve the pupils we teach?"

The link for the questionnaire has been sent to their school email.

***And, to finish off, some nice news stories from the recent weeks:***

**Y7 Photos yesterday** – at long last we managed to get our Y7 photos done. We will now have photos of our students, cards will be re-printed for next year with their photos and families will be able, if they wish, to purchase the Y7 photo. Students looked amazing in their uniform and we are really appreciative of their patience.

**Halo Code** – John Price, Associate Assistant Principal and one of our diversity leads, has been leading on the introduction of the 'Halo Code' at Bristol Met. The 'Halo Code' is centred around ending cultural hair discrimination. We have been involving staff and students in developing our approach and will shortly be launching our code. More information will follow in the coming weeks and we are proud to be one of the first schools in Bristol to be signing up to this code.

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**Cajigo** - This month we partnered with Cajigo, an Education provider, who have recently launched the UK's first mentoring app supporting girls into STEM and tech careers. STEM industries offer a wide variety of careers, where technology is now the foundation of most businesses. However, there is underrepresentation of women in these fields. We are proud to be leading the way for schools in Bristol and the UK to make tech careers more visible to girls, through Cajigo.

Cajigo presented Bristol Met Academy, with the 'Innovate Bristol Book', which details the tech ecosystem in Bristol, a resource that will be very useful to all of our students to build their knowledge of the technology companies in the region. The photo below features Rav Bumbra, founder of Cajigo, presenting some of our staff and students with our book.



Best wishes,



Mr C Shaw  
Principal