

HIGH STANDARDS, HIGH ASPIRATIONS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS

23rd September 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you and your family are well, and that your child has been enjoying their first term back this academic year, settling into their GCSEs at Bristol Met. I am writing to you to introduce myself as the Raising Attainment Lead for Year 10 this year and to explain this part of my role and my involvement in your child's education. My focus is on your child's achievement across all subjects and particularly in Maths and English, working with other staff and communicating with students and parents/carers to ensure that Year 10 students are getting the very most out of their GCSE courses in order to secure successful outcomes. I will communicate with you on a termly basis to keep you updated about important events and information that will help you to support your child.

Important Dates – Terms 1 and 2

Monday 26th September - Open Evening (Thank you to those students helping)

Wednesday 28th September – Final deadline for option requests

Thursday 6th October – Tutor Evening

Friday 7th October – Thorpe Park Reward Trip

Wednesday 20th October – Achievement Assembly and Last Day of Term

Thursday 20th and Friday 21st October – INSET Days

Monday 31st October – Start of Term 2

Wednesday 30th October – Friday 2nd December – Matilda Production Evening Shows

Tuesday 13th December – Safety Day

Friday 16th December – Achievement Assembly and Last Day of Term

Planners

All students should now have received a planner which they are responsible for and are designed to develop independence within their learning. They should be carried with them to all lessons and used as a tool to organise their homework and revision throughout the year.

Homework

Homework is set differently at Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11), as it will be set by subject teachers and could include a range of activities. This might include exam answer practice, revision activities, research, coursework completion or other appropriate tasks to complement classroom learning. The homework set should be written into student planners with a clear deadline to help students to prioritise and manage their learning. This work is likely to be used within lessons and/or be collected for marking by the teacher so it is important for students to complete it on time. Where it is not, we continue to have a graduated response system to address and improve homework completion.

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Options Information

From conversations that I have had with individual students and options teachers, I know many have been engaging well with their option subjects. There have naturally been some requests to move options already, as students start their courses and decide whether a subject is really for them. While I want students to be placed in the best subjects to achieve great results, I also do not want them to be disadvantaged by missing too much course content by switching late. Therefore, please ensure if your child would like to request a change in option subject, they should speak with or contact me by **Wednesday 28th September 2022** at the latest. Students should not expect to be switched after this date to avoid falling any further behind. Please be aware that some subjects/classes are already full.

Attendance and Punctuality

A huge well done to the many students that have attended and been on time to all lessons so far, this academic year. To date, our year group attendance for Term 1 is 92.47%. For every 5% lost in attendance for a student, this means missing the equivalent of three and a half weeks of their GCSE courses over the two years which can have a significant impact on their learning. Please continue to encourage your child to attend school as much as possible, unless they have good reason to be absent, and to get themselves to all lessons before the late bell so they can start the lesson positively and not miss learning time. Where absence is unavoidable please encourage them to catch up on any learning missed in their subjects when well enough and able to do so. I really appreciate your support at home in promoting good attendance and punctuality to maximise learning.

Tutor Evening

Our annual Tutor Evening is quickly approaching and will be held on **Thursday 6th October 2022 from 4pm until 7pm**. Further information is being sent out this week about how the evening will run and booking an appointment. It is an opportunity to speak with your child's tutor and particularly discuss how your child is settling in to Year 10, as well as their attendance, punctuality and behaviour. Please do make an appointment if possible, as we welcome the opportunity to speak with and work alongside you in supporting your child. Their tutor is also a good first point of contact for if you ever have a query or concern.

Finally, I would just like to say that I feel very privileged to lead Year 10 this year, and it is a lovely opportunity for me to continue working with them having taken them through their options process. I am looking forward to getting to know them better individually and together, building on the work over the last six months in preparation for their GCSEs. Please don't ever hesitate to contact us using the academy email address info@bristolmet.net. Tutors may be able to answer your question in the first instance or direct any queries if needed to either the house teams for pastoral matters or myself for academic achievement. I am immensely proud of the start that the year group have collectively made and grateful to you for your support up to now and ahead of the next two years.

Kind regards

Emma Ball
Associate Assistant Principal