

15th December 2022

Dear Parent/Carers

As Term 2 draws to a close, I wanted to write to you to keep you updated about what is coming up next term for our Year 10 cohort. I am pleased that students have continued to show high levels of commitment to their studies and have seen increased confidence in their subjects when I have visited lessons. The reason this letter comes a little later this term is so that I can communicate primarily about the upcoming assessment window which we have been planning over the last few weeks.

Year 10 assessment window: Monday 23rd January – Friday 3rd February 2023

Term 3 sees the first formal assessment window for all subjects for Year 10. This is in addition to the ongoing assessment through regular teaching and learning, and will run over a period of two weeks, much like previous assessment periods in Years 7-9. It is designed to give teachers and students the opportunity to identify strengths and areas to work on, based on their courses so far, so that students can be supported appropriately to make further progress. The main change at Key Stage 4 is that mock exams start to form part of these assessment windows. As this is the first assessment window of the two years, there will only be mock exams in the core subjects, while other subjects will hold in-class assessments in a similar way to Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9). Please find more detail about both below:

In-class assessments

In-class assessments will be carried out through normal lessons in a classroom with their regular teachers. These will introduce students to the style of assessment they will eventually come across in their exams, such as exam-style questions and using the knowledge they have so far gained through their courses but will be smaller in scale than a full exam.

Mock examinations

Students will sit mock examinations in the three core subjects – English, Maths and Science. There will be six exams in total that fall within the assessment period. We are currently planning that they will be held over three days (one AM, one PM) from Wednesday 25th January – Friday 27th January. I will confirm the final timings and details of each paper at the beginning of next term, but subject teachers will already be underway in preparing students for these. Mock exams will be held in an exam hall with formal exam conditions. This allows students to not only be assessed in their subjects with further insight into the style of examination they are building towards, but also to learn and practice the skills and expectations required to successfully sit formal examinations – the more they practice this, the more accustomed they will become, helping them to grow in confidence and concentrate on the actual exam knowledge and completion.

HIGH STANDARDS, HIGH ASPIRATIONS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS

Revision tips

Through our most recent assembly, I have suggested some simple ways that students could use to revise ahead of their assessment window. Other revision activities may be guided and set as homework by teachers, however these strategies should help to support them in developing their independent skills in revising also. Independent study can be done alongside the homework schedule so these tips may help them to further prepare:

1. Look, cover, write, check – Spend time reading a chunk of key information, then attempt to write up without looking. Check back to see what has been recalled and what has not.
2. Post-it notes – Write short pieces of information on post-it notes and stick them around the house in places they are likely to read them as part of their normal routine e.g. on a mirror or the fridge.
3. Flash cards – Small cards that can either contain a summary of key information or a question on one side with the answer on the back. Creating them provides a good opportunity for revision and then they can be re-used for further revision.

Planners

Please encourage your child to use their planner to record homework and/or revision in their planners. They are A5 size so that there is enough space to do this, and they have been reminded in assembly about the importance of this. This should help them to organise their homework and independent study.

Punctuality and Attendance

Our year group attendance for this year is currently 90.2%, which has slightly dropped since Term 1. While I appreciate that there has generally more illness as we have approached the winter months, please can I ask that students do return to school as soon as they are well enough to do so and ask their teachers how they might catch up on missed work.

Further to previous communications, I'd like to remind you that all students are expected in the building by 8.35am at the latest, with the main academy doors closing at this time. There is a graduated response to late arrivals, and failure to attend late sanctions will result in a 30-minute after academy day detention.

I hope this provides some clarity on what to expect for your child over the next term and some ways that you are able to support them at home. Finally, I would just like to wish you all a restful Christmas break with your families and loved ones. I will be back in contact with you again next term, but you can always get in touch if needed by emailing the academy at info@bristolmet.net.

Kind regards

Emma Ball

Associate Assistant Principal