

### Year 8 Term 2 Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you and your family are safe and well. It has been a pleasure getting to know your child and their peers as the school year has developed.

#### **Attendance**

One of the key areas, we as a school want to focus on together, is attendance to school. We have an Academy aim of all students having 96% attendance or above. Yr 8 currently have an overall attendance of 93.5%. This has decreased from last term and is less than we would like as an Academy. Please ensure your child is in every day unless there are exceptional reasons. Consistency and continuity of lessons and education is vital for ensuring every student achieves their full potential. If your child is unable to attend school, please contact us first thing in the morning every day your child is absent to let us know the reason. You can call [0117 377 2071](tel:01173772071) and leave a message which will be picked up and shared with the attendance team. Alternatively, you can text 07860095892 with your child's name, year group and reason for absence. This prevents you getting calls or texts when your child isn't in school.

#### **KS3 Assessments**

Your child will have KS3 assessments that are taking place in Term 3 from the 4<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> January. These KS3 assessments will be taken across all subjects and will give you and your child an idea of how they are doing in each subject. These assessments may be completed in a variety of ways, if you would like more information, please contact your child's teacher.

I would like to take this opportunity to support you and your child on the build-up, and during the assessments. Please see below revision techniques you may support your child with, also best practice around assessments to ensure your child achieves good outcomes.

#### **Revision Techniques**

Whilst there are many revision techniques that will have benefits for different individuals, I have shared 4 different techniques with your child in a recent assembly that I believe will support them with their studies. The most important part for a parent/carer is to ensure your child is revising enough for each assessment. Below are the 4 strategies I have shared with your child:

- Note taking is a method where a student reads information and writes notes. These notes are then read over until the student can remember the notes without looking.
- Flash cards is where a student can write a question on one side of the card, with the answer on the other. Alternatively, they can use a card to write information on so it is in one place, for example definitions or key words.
- Sticky notes is a method where a student has information stuck up around the house and can read pieces of information whilst they are completing every day tasks. For example, a few sticky notes may be placed on mirrors when a student is styling their hair in the morning.
- Study groups is a collaborative method to get students revising with their peers. This allows students to share revision ideas and create revision materials together. Whilst this method is the most interesting, it would need to be monitored to ensure revision is of high quality.

#### **Well-being during Assessments**

Assessments can be a stressful time for anyone, however there are ways to manage anxiety and ensure children are confident when approaching and completing assessments. Below are some tips during assessment periods of how you can support your child:

- Revision should take place in a quiet place

## **HIGH STANDARDS, HIGH ASPIRATIONS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS**

- Avoid distractions, such as mobile phones
- Revise for 30 minutes, followed by a short break
- Revision should be avoided late at night
- Ensure children are having enough sleep, food and water
- Make sure of regular check-ins with your child to check on their revision and well-being

### **Cost of living**

If you are struggling with costs and think you may be able to apply for free school meals please do contact main reception who will be able to support you or follow this link <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/schools-learning-and-early-years/travel-and-free-school-meals/free-school-meals>. In school we also provide breakfast club from 08.10 which is free to all students where they can get a warm breakfast. Please do also speak with house teams or reception if you are struggling with other costs relating to school and we will do what we can where possible to help.

### **SEND & Inclusion – Message from Mrs Carden-Farley**

We have a SEND parents evening coming up this term on Thursday 15th December. This will be an opportunity to speak with me as the year 8 SEND lead, and with other members of the Inclusion Team who work with SEND students. Further details will be sent to all parents of students with SEND in the coming weeks.

Secondly, we are aware that some parents and carers are in the process of making their own referrals to the Autism Hub for their child. Please make sure to inform us if your child is on the autism pathway, if you haven't already done so. Please email me at [sarah.carden-farley@clf.uk](mailto:sarah.carden-farley@clf.uk), copying in bmasendco@clf.uk. This will allow us to have a wide picture of need and provide the necessary support for our students.

Finally, a reminder that we offer Homework Hub on a Mon-Thurs in the library from 3-4pm. This is an opportunity for students to work with LSA support on their homework, and carry out some interactive pre/re-teach revision activities. Students can attend every day, or can choose one or two days if they prefer. If you would like your child to attend Homework Hub please send me an email.

I will be in touch next term regarding support with the options process, and annual reviews for students with an EHCP.

Sarah Carden-Farley  
 Deputy SENDCo, Y8 SEND Link

[sarah.carden-farley@clf.uk](mailto:sarah.carden-farley@clf.uk)

### **Future dates for the diary**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
30 <sup>th</sup> November – 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Matilda Performances (Ticket sales information will follow)
9 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas jumper day
14 <sup>th</sup> and 15 <sup>th</sup> December	SEND Parents Evening
16 <sup>th</sup> December	Celebration assemblies
16 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of term

I would finally like to add that as a year group, Yr 8 have made an excellent start to their time at Bristol Met, Term 1 was really positive and I am proud of them and how they have stepped and continuing their journey at secondary school and their achievements to date. Thank you for your ongoing support for the Academy.

Kind regards

Jo Fisher

Associate Assistant Principal