



Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Admissions / Applications

Q: How can I see if my area is in the catchment for the school?

A: This link shows the map for the catchment (first preference) area

<https://bcc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=e527f9bcc42f4c0b8675f39751fe6e7f>

Q: Does it matter where I put the school on my 3 school choices?

A: No in general. Allocations are made according to the admissions criteria for each school. However, if it happens that you would have been allocated a place at more than one of the schools you list then the order of preference will come into play (ie, you will be offered the highest ranked school at which you were awarded a place).

Q: Am I likely to get a place if I live outside of the catchment area?

A: We are unable to advise given the factors that affect allocations (number of students living in the preference area varies each year, movement into and out of the area, spaces reserved for those with legal preference etc). However, over the last few years a number of students **have** still been allocated a space at Met who live outside the area of preference.

Q: Do we get a place offered from all 3 schools we apply for or just one?

A: No, just the highest ranked school from the 3 you name where a space was allocated using the admissions criteria from those schools. However, naming fewer than 3 schools leaves you with the risk of being allocated a school completely outside of your choice.

Q: Does SAT exams affect our application?

A: No, SATs do not have an impact on places. Places at Bristol Met are not allocated or reserved based on any prior attainment or any other attribute except for those legally reserved (Looked After, Previously Looked After and those with an EHCP where Bristol Met is named on the provision).



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Transition

Q: Will we be able to come see the school in person this year?

A: At the current time you will not be able to visit in person. We have however put together a number of videos and resources to “show you around”. These can be found on our ‘Open Events Package’ at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLdzwTNtvLqhLZ-cKCXCiT94Gm-AhwxEc>

Q: What is the provision for transition? Especially for children whose background means that they are not used to mainstream education and might have additional learning and emotional needs?

A: We have a summer school for students to come into the building and meet some of their fellow students going in year 7 and also some of the staff. We also hope to be able to reinstate the more usual transition day in which they get to have sample lessons and meet some teachers.

Students who have identified additional needs also generally have an additional transition meeting to enable student and families to tour the building.



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Curriculum

Q: Do you operate 'Setting?' If so Which subjects, how many levels, how are they set and how often are they reviewed?

A: The majority of subjects use mixed attainment setting, especially at KS3. Science are currently the only subject that set in KS3.

There is some additional setting/streaming at GCSE due to some subjects having foundation and higher exam entries. There are no fixed reviews and subject leaders have ownership over set movements.

Q: What is a typical class size?

A: Between 25 and 30 students. Some classes are smaller particularly in GCSE Options.

Q: How many classes are there per year?

A: We are an 8-form entry with 4 classes on each side of the cohort

Q: When do students choose their GCSE options

A: They choose them in the Spring of Year 9 and then start them in Year 10

Q: Can students' study more than one language? Do they get to choose which language they study? Can the choice of which language be made beforehand?

A: Students study one language whilst at Bristol Met from the start of Y7 all the way through to GCSE at the end of Y11.

In year 7 they have a taster session for each language (French, Spanish and German) before choosing a preference which we try to accommodate where possible. We do ask for whether there is a language preference and accommodate where we can.

Q: My child has a special interest in Art. Is this something they are able to access in year 7 and how often?

A: Students do 1 lesson of Art a week from year 7. They can also access Art Club after school.

Q: Is photography on the curriculum or is it integrated into Art?

A: At GCSE Photography is a separate option to Art but at KS3 it is part of Art. We also offer GCSE Media at KS4 which involves photography and film aspects.



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Q: What is the drama department like in your school?

A: Our drama department are waiting to welcome everyone. We do whole school productions as well as single year group and KS productions. The drama space is also available at break and lunch.

Q: How are your acting classes?

A: We are blessed with a fantastic performing arts department. They are renowned across the city for their annual productions such as Lion King, Mary Poppins and Sister Act. You can watch a few snippets in our Open Events Package channel

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLdzwTNtvLqhLZ-cKCXCiT94Gm_-AhwxEc

Q: Do you teach Computer Science?

A: Yes, at KS3 (compulsory) and KS4 (Option)

Q: What sports do you offer? Does my child get to choose what sport they participate in?

A: We have a great PE department so your child will have lots of opportunity to do a variety of sports during lessons. We offer Athletics, Football, Rugby, Basketball, Cheerleading, Fencing, Cricket to name just a few. There are a huge number of extra-curriculars on offer and they are, of course, optional.

We also do a Sports Day every year. All sports teams are available for all genders.

Q: Does the school run food tech?

A: Yes, food tech is run alongside textiles and DT at KS3 and as a specific option at KS4.

Q: Do students need to bring their own ingredients for food tech classes?

A: Ingredients are provided. Ideally students need to bring a container to take their food home in.

Q: How many 'enrichment' activities can students choose?

A: As a timetabled Year 7 lesson student choose a new Enrichment every term, so 6 a year. If you mean extra-curricular activities then the sky is the limit (literally if you join the Airbus Programme)



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Q: Could you please tell us about the Library?

A: The library is run by Mrs Harman. She offers lots of opportunities to read and engage in other literacy activities. Her Harry Potter day is always very popular. There are also additional clubs like chess and draughts. Finally, Mrs Harman provides supervised Homework sessions each afternoon to support students who need a bit of time and space to work after the school day.

Q: How does homework work?

A: In KS3 students self-quiz using their subject knowledge organiser. This operates on a 2-week timetable and is checked daily by their tutor. In KS4 students are set exam-based questions by their subject teachers.

Q: Can students do a Music GCSE? Are lessons available?

A: Yes, we offer GCSE Music. We also offer additional music lessons at a cost with a specialist tutor.

Q: How does teaching 'on the street' work?

A: Currently due to recent changes cover lessons are happening back in classrooms. However, when this method of cover is in place which happens rarely and it is supervised independent learning in the street. Students use their knowledge organisers to work from.



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Pastoral Support

Q: What type of pastoral care do you provide?

A: We have a large and well-structured pastoral system through our house structure. Your child will be in one of four houses and they include a team of two dedicated pastoral staff per house. We also have a large student support team. Each child has a Tutor that they see every morning for 20 minutes.

Q: Do tutor groups stay with the same tutor throughout their time at Met? Are they mixed years?

A: We aim where possible to keep students with the same tutor throughout their time in the school. No, the tutor groups are not mixed years, we operate what is called a 'Horizontal' Tutor system.

Q: Is there opportunity for children to be grouped with children they already know?

A: The pastoral staff will try to balance existing friendship groups that they are made aware of with the healthy need to make new friends.

Q: Will you keep twins together?

A: Not always. We talk to parents about what they may like but even if they aren't in lessons together they will still see each other throughout the day.



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SEND and Interventions

Q: What provision and support do you offer students with dyslexia?

A: Our SEND team offer small group or 1:1 support through HUB sessions depending on the needs of individual students. All teaching staff also utilise quality first teaching strategies to support students.

Q: What is the SEN like in your school?

A: There is a separate presentation from Miss Phelps, SENDCo, on the Open Events Package linked from the website <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLdzwTntvLqhLZ-cKCXCiT94Gm-AhwxEc>

Q: Can separate meetings be set up with the schools SENCO to go through questions we have re support for children with EHCP

A: Yes. Our SENCO would be in contact to arrange a meeting and transition plan. Alternatively, if you want to discuss before application then email us on info@bristolmet.net with subject "FAO SENDCo Admissions"

Q: What strategies are in place to ensure children learn and achieve?

A: High quality teaching, learning, assessment and feedback are in place. We have additional academic support via the hub and wider emotional and behavioural support via the student support base.

Q: What intervention strategies are in place?

A: We complete assessments throughout every academic year and results are reviewed by the Academy and with students and parents. We have a strong focus on literacy with 'Reading Ready' sessions taking place daily. We provide short term literacy and numeracy interventions, delivered by specialist teachers and LSAs. In KS4 students are invited to and actively encouraged to attend revision sessions across the curriculum.



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Extra-curricular

Q: Do you have a school football team across all years?

A: Yes, it is one of a number of sports we have extra curricular teams in. We often play fixtures against other schools

Q: Will there be any trips taking place when lockdown is over? What kind of trips do you normally do?

A: At the moment we cannot offer any trips due to the current situation but we have previously offered a range of trips including Germany, USA, Airbus trips, Future Quests, Basketball Trips, Locals trips to name just a few

Q: How does the academy support someone who is talented in sports?

A: We have had a number of students in a variety of sports represent their region and even Nationally. Their needs differ and have been discussed on a case by case basis.

Q: What extra-curricular activities are there?

A: There are too many to list but they range from Drama to numerous sports to Art

Q: Do different years do different clubs?

A: Most activities are offered across all year groups though some are restricted to specific years of key stages but in general if they are we offer both a KS3 and a KS4 version just on different days.



Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Uniform

Q: What cost are we facing for the whole uniform?

A: The only items of daily uniform that we mandate is a Blazer and Tie which together come to Between £34 - £47 depending on sizes. All other items can be purchased from other retailers. With regards to PE Kit we only ask for a branded PE top which costs between £14.85 - £17.95 depending on size. We try to support families in need where we can.

Q: I see lots of students wearing PE kits to school is this normal?

A: At the minute PE Kit is worn on the day's students have PE due to Covid restrictions that mean they are not allowed to change on site. Normally students travel to and from the Academy in full uniform.

Q: Are girls and boys allowed to choose whether they wear trousers/skirts?

A: Yes, our uniform is non-gender specific

Q: Do students have to wear their blazer at all times?

A: It can be taken off in lessons or outside. When moving around the academy it must be worn.



Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Leadership and Policies

Q: How long has the leadership team been at the school?

A: As a large secondary school the leadership team is a number of people made up of different layers (Principal, Vice Principal, Assistant Principals and Associate Assistant Principals). Some have been at Bristol Met for the entire life of the Academy others are more recent members of the team. Mr Shaw, Principal, has been at Bristol Met since 2017.

Q: When you say high standards what does this mean for children who struggle in certain areas? Do you focus on pupils' strengths?

A: High standards in the sense that students try their best and staff will provide high quality support. Developing young person's strengths as well as supporting them to gain the skills they require to achieve their aspirations is key for us at Bristol Met.

Q: How much interaction do you have with other CLF secondary schools? If yes on what type of things?

A: Yes, we work closely together on things such as curriculum, raising achievement, teaching, sports, subjects, music performances and support each other to improve

Q: How do you deal with poor behaviour?

A: We use Learning Ready. You can see full details of our behaviour policy here <https://bma3.clf-vps-001.clf.uk/wp-content/uploads/Behaviour-Policy.pdf>

Q: What is the school's policy on mobile phone use in school?

A: There is a total site ban. Students can bring their phone to the academy for safety of the journey to and from school. They must then be turned off and away out of site all day until leaving school. Our full policy can be read here <https://bma3.clf-vps-001.clf.uk/wp-content/uploads/Mobile-policy.pdf>

Q: What opportunities are there for parents to get involved in school life?

A: The opportunities are much more limited than at Primary school. Things like the PTFA being very uncommon in Secondary schools. However, we are currently working on creating a 'Community Development Group'



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School Day and Social Times

Q: What are the lunch options at school?

A: Your child is either able to bring a packed lunch or buy a lunch from our canteen. The canteen offers a range of food from sandwiches to hot meals and caters for all dietary requirements.

Q: How long are break and lunches?

A: Break time is 20 minutes and lunch time is 35 minutes. These have recently changed to help us adhere to the Covid restrictions.

Q: Are students allowed to leave the school site at break and lunch?

A: No students do not leave site during the day. Almost no schools allow students to leave site during the day now due to safeguarding obligations on schools.

Q: What equipment is there for students to play with at lunchtime?

A: We can currently accommodate Basketball and Football as well as other sports students wish to play. We have a sports court that is open during social times and have recently installed external gym equipment for students to use. We provide a large amount of external furniture for students to socialise. There are also indoor spaces for students to socialise in.

Q: How much are the breaktime snacks?

A: They range from 50p to £1

Q: How much is a school lunch?

A: A meal deal is £2.40 which gives a hot meal, pudding and a drink. There are also sandwich meal deals which are £2.40 or less. You can also buy individual items (main meal only is £1.80 for example) or you can buy just a drink or just a snack for example. We subsidise every meal deal to keep the costs down. Students who qualify for free school meals automatically get the £2.40 meal deal token added to their account every day and they buy their meal in the same way as all students using their contactless card.



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Other

Q: Could you please tell us a bit about the school facilities – particularly sports/music/drama?

A: Sports - We have two sports halls (large with full size basketball, 5 a side court etc) and a smaller one use for gym etc. We have a MUGA (multi use games area) which has 4 tennis courts on it but is also used for football, basketball, netball etc. We have a very large field which fits 3 rugby/football pitches and running track etc in summer. It has a long/triple jump pit. It also has practice cricket nets. Finally, we have a 3G Astro Pitch with state of the art LED Floods. We have access to almost any sports equipment you can think of (and some you probably won't including air tracks and tumble mats)

Drama – We have two drama studios which have a dividing wall that can be opened to create a large performance space. We also have our main hall where our large productions happen which has electric bleacher tiered seating. We recently had all the lights upgraded to LED and moving head DMX controlled systems. We have good sound and production facilities for our performances.

Music – We have two large music classrooms, one of which has a full Mac suite for music production. We have steel pans, keyboards, drums, guitars and a grand piano in one of the rooms. We have access to most instruments (classic and more modern). We have music practice rooms as well as a production studio. The rooms are interlinked to allow professional standard music production.

Q: How do students pay for lunch and trips?

A: To pay for lunches students are given a card that will be linked to a ParentPay account which you as the parent/carer set up and top up with money. You will be provided login details when your child joins our school. Currently for trips and other expenditure this can be paid either via cash or cheque to the school



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Covid-19 Situation

Q: Are there any changes you have put in place due to Covid that you are planning to keep?

A: At the moment it is still too early to decide. We will certainly retain our readiness to move to online/distance learning and maintain the ability for students to access lesson materials online if they have been absent.

Other modifications (segregated social spaces, staggered breaks etc) will be reviewed in time.

Q: What methods did the school use to deliver home learning to children during the Covid-19 schools' lockdown? Was there any live online teaching? What were the expectations of the children? What learning has the school taken from this experience, and are there things you would plan to repeat or change in the event of similar lockdowns in the future?

A: We moved rapidly to provide distance learning opportunities as well as providing printed materials for those who were unable to access online easily. We introduced an online learning platform (Satchel One) and, together with other CLF Schools, designed and launched websites and blogs for each subject area. We tried to balance the provision of work and expectation of completion along with a wider nurturing approach given the completely unprecedented situation.

It took us some time to get to "live lessons" (teachers presenting live to students) due to complexities around Safeguarding legislations and the need to overcome these barriers. We did deliver live lessons to older students in the Summer term and then a few to younger students. We are now in a position where staff are trained and equipped and policies are written, coupled with suitable infrastructure, to move immediately to online live events should the need arise in the future again and our current "Remote Learning Plan" is published on our website.

We have also used our own resources, coupled with the Government scheme, to work to provide suitable devices and internet access to ensure that, in the future, all students will be able to access the online learning provisions should the need arise.