



Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Curriculum

Q: How does homework work in Year 7?

A: You can view our [Homework Policy here](#). Year 7 will have homework activities each day following a set calendar. This involves developing their independent revision skills with self-quizzing as one example of an activity they can complete. This is checked each day by their tutor. We also use a system called Show My Homework which students can access from home in which teachers can set homework and tasks.

Q: Is homework completed online or hand written?

A: Homework is completed in their homework books so they will not need IT to complete it.

Q: Is Drama and Music part of the curriculum or extra clubs/classes?

A: Both Drama and Music are part of the curriculum and all students will have Drama and Music lesson from Year 7 to Year 9. In Year 9 they will become an option choice for students to pick Music or Drama to do as a GCSE option. There are also optional extra Music and Drama activities that happen throughout the school year.

Q: Does the school teach the curriculum of the future and not the past? How are the school preparing students for the jobs of the future?

A: We constantly review our curriculum plans across all subjects. In particular we are always evolving to try and ensure that our curriculum provides the best coverage of subject matter, looking backwards as well as forwards. By offering a broad and balanced curriculum pre-16 we ensure that our students leave with the broad academic knowledge needed to ensure success in any career including those that don't yet exist!

Q: Do you have any lessons that teach children how to film and edit YouTube videos?

A: This type of skill is usually developed in Media lessons at KS4. The outline of the KS3 IT curriculum can be found on the academy website.

Q: MFL question, will students learn two languages or will they have a language allocated to them? If one language, when will we learn which one?

A: Students will have a few lessons of each language in the first few weeks in September before indicating a preference for their most preferred.

Q: I just noticed that German isn't on the PowerPoint, but is still on the website. Can you clarify, please?

A: German is offered as a subject from KS3 up to GCSE level within the MFL department.



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Q: Which subject is Artificial Intelligence taught in?

A: AI would potentially feature in Computing as well as being a potential topic of discussion in wider subjects

Pastoral Support

Q: Do you have a school counsellor and what is the process for getting mental health support in place?

A: We do have a school counsellor, as well as a student support team who run small group interventions. House/Pastoral Teams will refer students who they think will benefit from this support.

Q: Are the head of house their tutor?

A: We have 4 houses that students are allocated to and each year group have 2 tutor groups per house. The head of house overseas any concerns or queries the students have during the day for all year groups.

Q: My child has been allocated to a different house to their friend, can they be in the same house?

A: Students are allocated to Houses to balance a number of factors. This doesn't guarantee all students from the same primary get to be in the same house. Don't worry there will be plenty of opportunities to spend break and lunch with old and new friends.

Q: If your friend is in a different house to you is it possible to still be in the same tutor group and/or classes?

A: If you are in different houses you will have different tutors. Don't worry though, this is a great opportunity to make new friends as doesn't mean they won't see each other in social time. They may find they will have some lessons together though, as houses are mixed for lessons.

Q: When will we know our child's tutor?

A: We are aiming to get this information to you as soon as possible.

Q: How are the houses allocated? Is it random?

A: On the whole, allocation to houses is random. However, using information from primary schools, Head of Houses do discuss where staff skills can be best utilised to support individual students.



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Q: Can house points be lost once awarded?

A: No, we operate a positive system where we aim to award MET points as often as possible so they can't be lost once awarded.

Q: How many children are typically in the ISR at any one time?

A: We aim to have as few as possible to ensure learning time is maximised. We ensure that discussions take place immediately with an adult to discuss why they have been sent along with a conversation at the end of the day with the member of staff who sent them to repair and rebuild in preparation for their next lesson. As long as students follow the rules of Learning Ready, attend on time each day in correct uniform it would be unlikely they are sent to the ISR. It is a minority of students who do get sent there.

Q: How long are breaks?

A: Break time is 20 minutes long and lunch time is 35 minutes currently

SEND and Interventions

Q: Is there additional equipment available for students with Dyslexia?

A: Any questions on additional support please speak to our SENDCo team on BMASENDCo@clf.uk

Q: What support is offered for students falling behind in subjects? What support is there to keep advanced students engaged in class?

A: All teaching staff employ quality first teaching strategies to meet the needs of all learners and promote engagement. If applicable students may have access to Maths/Literacy HUB sessions. Further questions around support can be emailed to the SENDCo team as above.

Q: Is there a SENDCO for each house?

A: The SEND team are centralised across the school. They are large enough to cater for all houses and work really closely with the heads of house.

Extra-curricular

Q: Will you be offering after school clubs again and music lessons in September?

A: Yes, we will be offering music lessons. All details will be available in September on what is being offered. As long as the Covid situation continues to improve all clubs will be up and running again.



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Q: Do you have football tournaments?

A: We are proud to offer a number of sporting activities at Bristol Met, including but not limited to Basketball, Football, Athletics, Cheerleading and Fencing to name a few.

Q: Are after school clubs free?

A: Yes, our after-school enrichment activities are generally free, however in a minority of cases a small nominal charge is applied. For example, Fencing has a small cost of £1 per week.

Q: Is Football available for both boys and girls?

A: All extra-curricular activities are available for all students.

Q: What after school clubs do you offer?

A: We offer a range of different clubs including drama, eco science, art, homework and a range of sports.

Q: Is there a year 7 camp?

A: We had one planned in 2020 for the first time and then covid came along. Our aim was to then have it moved to Summer 2021 but that still hasn't been possible. Our aim is to have one set up in the future though we cannot yet commit to dates and whether incoming Y7 will have that opportunity.

Q: Are there any abroad School Trips?

A: Currently not, but previous international trips have taken place to New York, Washington, Barcelona, Paris and San Francisco to name a few. We also offer a significant number of other trips, local and with smaller costs to ensure all learners have an opportunity to learn in a broader context. Currently no trips are taking place due to COVID restrictions.

Q: How do you ensure that all of the school trips are accessible to students from all backgrounds?

A: We offer, in usual circumstances, a wide variety of trips, some that involve a cost to parent's other that are completely free. Trips are rarely a compulsory part of the curriculum but are offered to enrich the educational experience. Students are encouraged to engage in fundraising activities for significantly costly trips (usually international trips) to lower the cost for all, and we have previously made applications to charities to support funding for eligible students.

Q: Is there a cycling proficiency test?

A: We do run Level 3 Bikeability Courses for Y7 provided by Bristol City Council



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Q: Do you have a cricket team?

A: Historically we have though like many teams it has not been able to run across the last two summers.

Uniform

Q: Are boys allowed to wear 'girls clothes' such as skirts?

A: Our uniform policy is gender neutral. Students can choose to wear the relevant article of clothing they feel most comfortable in within the uniform guidelines. The full uniform policy can be [found here](#).

Q: Will children be going into school in PE Kit for PE lesson days or will they be changing at school?

A: In September the PE changing rooms will be open so students will arrive in their school uniform and then get changed into their PE kit in the day.

Q: Is the PE Kit from Monkhouse mandatory?

A: Please see our uniform policy for details, but kit can be bought from any store of your choosing as long as it is in line with our policy. The only piece of branded PE kit is the T-shirt.

Q: Do you have a way of selling/buying pre-used blazers?

A: Not currently, but this is something we are looking at for September.

Q: Can coats be worn over blazers?

A: Coats can be worn when coming to school and outside at break and lunchtime but can't be worn inside the building.

Q: Are you allowed to take your blazer off?

A: Yes if the weather is hot there will be an announcement letting student know they do not need to wear their blazers. They are also able to take them off when playing outside at break and lunch. When sat in the lesson they are able to take it off but must put it back on when moving around the academy.

Q: Are religious symbols allowed to be worn such as a kara for Sikhs?

A: Yes. Articles protected by religious order are allowed. We have also recently adopted the Halo Code to protect cultural hairstyle and headdress and continue to seek to improve our community for all of our students.



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Q: Does everyone have the same colour tie?

A: Yes all ties are the same colour. The only difference if students are part of the basketball or cheerleading teams they can get a tie with the basketball/cheerleading logo on.

Leadership and Policies

Q: Are students allowed to have their phones in School?

A: We are a phone free academy which means that students are not allowed to have their phones out and being used on site. The students can however have them in their bags securely. If it is seen by a member of staff it will be confiscated and locked in the school safe.

School Day and Social Times

Q: How do the students know where their classes are once they leave tutor?

A: They will have a Y7 tutor that they will meet on their first day in September, there are two Y7 tutor groups in each house. They will also be given a timetable which will have the rooms on for each lesson and a tour of the school to help them find their way around.

Q: At lunch do children have to pay for their lunches?

A: A meal deal is £2.40 per day and pays for a hot meal with drink and pudding. There are other combination deals available as well. Student accounts are topped up with credit to pay using ParentPay and you will receive personalised details of how to do this. Those entitled to Free School Meals do not pay but this must be applied for. Details around this can be found on the website or by contacting info@bristolmet.net

Q: Do people enter the building via the reception?

A: To ensure the safety of students there is only one entrance/exit for the students at the start and end of the day through the atrium which is staffed. Entrance for visitors is also through the reception area. The entrance and exit can still be accessed from both Snowdon Road and Grove Road entrances.

Q: How much is breakfast club?

A: This is free to all students. It's important to us, as an Academy, that students have a good breakfast before starting the school day.



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Q: Will the students get their timetables on their first day?

A: All students will receive their timetables on the first day and their tutor will go through it with them

Q: Do you have any single sex toilets or are they all mixed gender?

A: Our toilets are single cubicles so all students can utilise them in each cluster. Cubicles are fully enclosed with sinks available outside of the toilet cubicle themselves.

Q: Do you need a hall pass to go to the toilet during lesson?

A: If there is a medical need we issue a discrete pass for staff so they know to allow frequent visits. If there is no underlying need then we encourage use between lessons and at social times (maximum length of a lesson is 50 minutes then there would be the chance of a visit) but staff can also issue a corridor pass if a student is in need.

Q: Will it be only Year 7 students on the first day?

A: Most likely it will be Y7 and Y11 on the first day but due to awaiting some further detail from the Government we still cannot confirm 100% yet.

Q: How do we apply for free school meals?

A: You need to apply via the council's website, <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/schools-learning-early-years/free-school-meals>

Q: Can children have a mixed meal pattern? School meals and packed lunches.

A: Yes, you can set up a Parent Pay account to allow you to add money to their meal account for them to buy meals when needed. The information about this will be in the welcome pack.

Q: Can we put daily limits on what they can spend?

A: Yes - ParentPay allows a lot of parental control such as limits.

Q: Can the students bring in hot food?

A: Students are welcome to bring their own food (cold or hot) however, there are no facilities for them to heat up their own food. Hot food can be purchased from the canteen

Q: When lunch is finished do we go back to our next class?

A: Yes, at the end of lunch there will be a bell and also staff telling you that lunch has finished and to go to your next class.



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Q: When do we get the ID cards so we can make sure we have money on them for meals?

A: They will receive the ID cards within the first few days. You can set up the parent pay log in now to load money onto the account for September. We will ensure every student can be fed even if cards are not ready on day 1

Other

Q: Will there be any extra moving up days taking place?

A: We encourage everyone to sign up for summer school if you haven't been able to have a transition tour. There will be much more on offer when we can operate within our own year 7 bubble in August.

Q: How do you deal with forms of bullying both in school and online?

A: We have a policy available here on our website for your reference. We have house teams with a Head of House and an Assistant who are the first port of call for any concerns along with their tutor. Our safeguarding team are also very proactive in supporting with training for staff and helping to support individuals when needed.

Q: Do students have lockers?

A: We do have lockers for students to use. However due to current Covid restrictions they are not in use. Students will be able to use them again when it becomes possible.

Q: Can students decorate the inside of the lockers?

A: Yes, as long as it can all be removed at the end of the year.

Q: Do the students need to provide their own pencil case?

A: This is an expectation and a great way for students to begin building their independence and organisational skills.

Q: How many kids will be in one tutor group?

A: A maximum of 30, usually slightly lower than this depending on how many students we have in that year group.

Q: Where would the children's bike's go when they arrive at school?

A: We have 3 large bike sheds that are locked between 9am and 3pm but secure locks must also be used.

Q: Please can you email the Metropolitan Way handbook through or is it on the website?

A: It's on the website and you should have received a copy via post.



Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Q: Parent carer packs have not yet been received by post and some of the information on the website is out of date - e.g. uniform supplier in the uniform policy

A: The website has the most up to date information on it and if you have not received a welcome pack in the post please contact us ASAP on info@bristolmet.net

Q: Will there be online lessons?

A: There should be no reason for online lessons as long as the school is able to operate as usual. If bubbles have to isolate then those affected will switch to online learning and all details of how to access will be explained if that should happen.

Q: Will the presentation be made available as a pdf to view later?

A: We will upload a recording of tonight's event and then publish a link to families

Q: Where can I find all the information for summer school?

A: Summer School is available to all new Year 7 students and will be held 16th-20th August 21. Please note that the place has to be booked. Find all info at:

Q: What are the house colours?

A: Communication is red, Enterprise is blue, Discovery is green and Performance is purple.

Q: What happens if the students lose their ID card?

A: Check lost property first of all! If it is really lost then new ones can be purchased from student reception for £2.

Q: If a student comes to the school not knowing anyone, how will you support them?

A: On the first day in school students will spend time in their tutor rooms where they will get to know other students in their learning family getting to know each other. We also run student support groups to help students get to know each other.

Q: When is the first day of term?

A: The first day of term is the 6th September. Full details will be sent home in later August.

Q: Do students sit where they want to in lessons?

A: No, teachers will put the students into a seating plan.



Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Covid-19 Situation

Q: How did the MET deal with lockdown for the new Year 7 students in this academic year? What were the challenges for new students?

A: We have become quite well versed in adapting to the ongoing situation. All students were signed up to our online learning platforms (Teams and Show My Homework/Satchel) to access their lessons. Despite the latest of the government announcement for the last lockdown we were able to switch to online learning within 12 hours and continue to deliver lessons to all students. Y7, along with all year groups, have shown tremendous resilience and have developed fantastic skills using IT in a very short space of time.

Q: How will you be setting work for children if there are further school/bubble closures or if individuals are required to isolate?

A: Work is set online through Show my Homework which will align with the curriculum followed within the academy. If a bubble closes then we have an online live lessons model which can be followed.

Q: Will the students need to do lateral flow tests each week?

A: This will depend on government advice/directive for September

Q: How is the MET preparing students for a very uncertain future due to climate crisis?

A: Our curriculum is always being reviewed, geography and science in particular take a keen interest in this area. We will keep you posted as our work in this area develops. However, please do contact us if this is an area you would like to be involved in as we always welcome parent input and support. We have a member of staff (science teacher, Mrs Lloyd) who is our "Eco Champion" and leading our work on this important area.

Q: Do you need to be 2 meters away from the other year groups?

A: Currently year groups are in bubbles and separate from each other. Changes around this will depend on government updates.

Q: Will children be expected to wear masks and are there any rules about what masks need to look like, colour etc.

A: Current guidance is that students do not need to wear masks anywhere in the academy. This follows government guidance. Students currently wear appropriate masks IF they feel this is necessary for their individual situation