



HIGH STANDARDS, HIGH ASPIRATIONS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS

28th August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, I hope that you and the wider family have managed to have a good summer break. I appreciate that for all of us it will have been potentially somewhat different to a “normal” summer but hope that many good memories were still made.

As you are likely aware, there has been much media focus and speculation on the reopening of schools, along with the Summer Exams outcomes. In this letter I wanted to outline, briefly, our reopening plans and also recognise the efforts and outcomes of our outgoing Year 11 cohort.

Summer 2020 Exams

I shall start with recognising our outgoing Year 11 cohort. As the first cohort since World War 2 to have had their external exams cancelled it is fair to say these young people have had a period of great uncertainty and speculation. As close as 48 hours before their GCSE results were due to be released we saw complete changes in the way they were to be calculated and recognised. It was with great privilege that we saw almost every single outgoing Year 11 student come and collect their results envelopes, in person, on Thursday last week, and saw them open their envelopes, generally with excitement and relief, to see that their years of hard work and commitment had been recognised in the way that was fairest in the circumstances. Since then we have heard of a ‘mutant algorithm’ that caused the last minute change in direction for awarding outcomes and it was with relief that we saw mainly happy faces on results day. Given the lack of external moderation/validation of our outcomes this summer it is harder to highlight specific headline figures in the same way as we would usually and, indeed, Summer 2020 school league tables will not be published for this reason. However, it is fair to say that our outcomes were broadly in line with Summer 2019 (slightly up) and in line with our predictions earlier in the year. We therefore feel extremely pleased and proud of our students, families who have supported them throughout and, of course, our staff who had an extremely difficult job of working to a completely new system to generate these life changing outcomes with our young people. Well done Class of 2020, thoroughly deserved and good luck with the next steps of your educational journey.

Reopening in September 2020

Normally I talk briefly about returning to school and any major changes that may have happened in the Summer. Of course, as I am sure you can imagine, it is somewhat different this year. Firstly as we have been apart as a community since March and secondly because we are being forced to make additional changes to our “normal” due to the continued coronavirus pandemic.

To prevent creating a very long letter/document I have narrated a presentation for students/families which can be watched on youtube at <https://youtu.be/zJELvmgQRtc> I am sorry that it is nearly 40 minutes and am sorry that it is also completely my voice! I do hope however that it provides and answers to many questions and helps settle some uncertainties and any anxieties that may still be present for some of our young people and families. I appreciate that the return to full time education will create a full range of emotions. I know from speaking to the Year 11 last week that many young people cannot wait to get back into education and back into a more usual routine. However, I also know that for some it will be source of concern. I want to reassure that although we want to see every young person back into the Academy from next week we are fully aware that it will be a different challenge for some students and that we will work with our young people and, where needed, our families to enable this transition to be as smooth and stress free as possible.





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With regards when to return to Bristol Met as I appreciate the first few days may seem confusing as we are having to ensure that each year group has an 'Induction' period with their tutor to cover any changes and extra procedures needed to enable us to get back up and running efficiently and safely. I have summarised this in the video but also include it below for reference. Please ensure you know which day (it is both days for Year 7) and time your child needs to be on site, particularly if you have different children in different years:

	Thursday 3rd September	Friday 4th September	Monday 7th September
Year 7	From 8:30am to 3pm	From 8:30am to 3pm	From 8:30am to 3pm as all students return full time from this day onwards
Year 8	NOT ON SITE	9:30am to 2:15pm	
Year 9	9:30am to 2:15pm	NOT ON SITE	
Year 10	NOT ON SITE	10am to 2:30pm	
Year 11	10am to 2:30pm	NOT ON SITE	

Hopefully the video covers any other questions. However, if after watching you still have questions that you feel have not been answered please do email us on info@bristolmet.net with the subject line "returning" and we will try to answer them before your child returns. Please make sure you include your child's name in any communications with us.

Lastly, and completely optional, I am including some links to current guidance documents that families may want to read, particularly if you still have any nervousness around wider return to schools. They provide some insight into where some of the procedures and policies we will be implementing are coming from:

Face coverings in education settings: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-in-education/face-coverings-in-education>

Return to School Guidance for Parents (routinely updated): <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

Statement from Chief Medical Officers on Schools Reopening: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/statement-from-the-uk-chief-medical-officers-on-schools-and-childcare-reopening>

Yours sincerely

Cameron Shaw
Principal

