

HIGH STANDARDS, HIGH ASPIRATIONS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 11 Students,

I hope that you and your family are keeping well, and are able to adapt to new ways of living and learning at home in these unprecedented and challenging times.

I write in order to reassure you that we will continue working diligently as an Academy and CLF Trust, alongside the government, regulators, and exam boards to make sure our students who were due to take GCSE examinations this summer are awarded the qualifications they have worked hard to achieve. Associations representing teachers, schools and colleges are also involved and are helping to create a process that is fair for everyone affected. As you'll appreciate, this is a complex piece of work that is not quick and easy to do.

Ofqual expects to publish detailed information about the process of awarding GCSE, AS and A-level qualifications next week. This will include the steps for teachers to follow and detailed guidance on how to consider the full range of evidence available when submitting grades. By Easter, Ofqual will also outline the process for making sure grades are fair across schools and colleges, as well as their proposal for appeals. If you have not already seen it, the Department for Education has published a useful set of 'questions and answers' about the special arrangements for this summer. Go to the address below for the most recent announcement:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced>

In the meantime, it's essential that you do what you can to support your child with independent study at home via our BMA 'Home Learning' SharePoint. Preparing your child for their next steps beyond Bristol Metropolitan Academy is essential. With this said, it is also extremely important that you support and encourage your child to complete any 'Non-Examination Assessed work (previously termed coursework), as far as possible, at home. GCSE subjects that have NEA/coursework elements are as follows:

- Art
- 3D Art
- Business Studies
- Dance
- Design Technology
- Drama
- Food Preparation & Nutrition
- ICT
- Textiles
- Media Studies
- Music
- PE
- Photography
- Sport Studies
- Textiles

It is likely that much of the practical elements for these courses have already been submitted and assessed, but some of these subjects also have written NEA/coursework elements that can still be completed and worked on. So being, it may be possible for your child to communicate with their teachers directly next week via email in order to submit written elements for feedback and final assessment (they should do so via their BMA student email address). For subjects with 100% examination to determine a final grade, prior attainment

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and ongoing teacher assessment, with evidence, is likely to be used as part of the awarding of qualifications process.

With regards to other 'Frequently Asked Questions' (FAQs) I've received from Year 11 students via email since school closure, I have the following updates:

Q1. Will I receive an 'End of Year 11 Report' with current, predicted and target grades next week when Yr11 Subject Evening was originally scheduled?

A. No. Until the government releases official information, details and protocol as to how GCSE, AS and A-level qualifications will be awarded this summer, the Academy will not issue any internal data or information prior.

Q2. Some of the subjects I take have NEA/coursework elements which I haven't completed yet. How will this affect my final grade?

A. It is likely that any practical elements of courses have already been assessed by teachers and moderated. Any written NEA/coursework elements may still be open for submission and feedback before final assessment. Therefore, submit any written course elements to your teachers via their school email address (first.name.surname@clf.uk). If you cannot email written work via email, please telephone the school on 0117 3772071 to register this, leaving the best contact telephone number for us to reach you on to offer further guidance.

Q3. Why should I continue completing Home Learning work for subjects I will not be studying Post 16 or beyond?

A. Motivational/intrinsic learning and achievement. Regardless of whether you will continue to study a subject at Post-16 or not, one of our fundamental principles at BMA is that we seek to instil a desire and love of learning in all of our students regardless of external reward or acknowledgment. You have studied 8+ subjects at KS4 for 11 years (in most cases) and it would be wonderful for you to secure the best grade you possibly can in each of them. Therefore, your teachers are setting work for completion that may act as more evidence in awarding a final qualification for you. Remember, you are competing with every Year 11 student across the country for Post 16 places, so it's best to put your strongest foot forward.

Q4. As a 'Rite of Passage', when will our Leavers/Certificate Assembly take place, followed by Year 11 Prom?

A. Seeing as your 'Rite of Passage' timeline is somewhat skewed, your Leavers/Certification Assembly and Prom have been postponed, until further notice. We will be in touch with further updates in this regard. Until then, we recognise that these are events all Year 11 students look forward to and we will do everything we can to ensure we acknowledge and celebrate your achievements when possible.

Q5. How and when can we purchase our 'Year 11 Leavers Jumper'?

A. We are currently working with our main uniform provider 'Initially Yours' to set up a payment (and safe collection system) by which you will be able to purchase 'Year 11 Leaver Jumpers' online. Further information as to when will follow.

These are trying time. If you have any further questions or enquiries, please lodge them at info@bristolmet.net

Yours sincerely and stay safe.

N. Williams
Assistant Principal
Head of Year 11 & Outcomes



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