



## HIGH STANDARDS, HIGH ASPIRATIONS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS

13<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following Steve Taylor's letter at the end of last week, and as we enter this strange last week of the Academic Year, I wanted to give some insight into our current thoughts for September along with a number of other bits of information. This is a very long letter so I have also recorded it which you can listen to here: <https://youtu.be/AXZdRO8Y1cE>

Firstly I wanted to say 'Sorry' and also 'Thank You'. Sorry that our current year together as a community ended up the way it did. Sorry that your children did not get to spend the full year with us and sorry that you had to juggle home school/distance learning with a multitude of other tasks. Sorry that at times you were probably wanting information that we couldn't provide and sorry that your children at times may have felt overwhelmed with trying to complete their education remotely. Thank You for all of the kind words you have sent to us. Thank you for supporting us, for supporting your children with completing whatever work they have been able to. Thank you for providing other enriching opportunities to your children when the work was too hard, too easy or just didn't engage them and they didn't have the daily contact with their teachers. Ultimately, thank you as a community for supporting each other and us and for ensuring that we are in a position to, hopefully, come back to a more normal way of working in September.

**Summer Work** – your children, you and we as staff have been working tirelessly over the last 17 weeks trying to navigate a completely unprecedented landscape. Everyone deserves a well needed break, able to recharge to hit the ground running in September. We are therefore not setting any compulsory work during the summer break. Some teams have provided some activities which they think may interest students (they are on ShowMyHomework) but are in no way compulsory. For any students who do want to keep engaged in any learning the work set will remain available on SMHW. Additionally, supplementary material can be found on the Oak National Academy Website. The absolute most important part of the summer is quality family time coupled with preparation for September.

**Summer Provision** – the academy will close to all students on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July at 3pm. Although phone lines and emails will be periodically monitored any enquiries may not be dealt with until we reopen in September. Any essential updates from us will be sent out electronically and also posted on our website.

**Reporting to Parents** – As per some previous letters, we fully appreciate that many parents would have liked a report on their child's progress, either for the period immediately before lockdown or to do with engagement in distance learning. We appreciate that some schools have done this, and it is something we within our senior team looked at. Ultimately, we felt that the information we would have been able to provide would have not been a full and true reflection on our students, your children, and that without the opportunity to then properly discuss with teachers or other staff could have led to more questions than answers. We have therefore decided that we will provide no reports at the current time. We are reviewing our reporting to parent system for next academic year and will ensure that we do everything we can to provide reports to you as early as is sensible in the new academic year. Although we know some parents may be disappointed or concerned to not have this feedback, we hope you will trust and understand our reasons for making this decision.

**Reopening in September** – as per Steve Taylor, CEO's letter last week, we will be reopening to all students, full time, in September. In the first week we are having to operate a staggered induction as there will be, as I am sure you will appreciate, the need to make some changes to how we operate. Current plans are that Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> and





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Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September are INSET Days for staff (Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August is a Bank Holiday) only to allow us time to react to any further changes in guidance that develop over the summer break and to ensure we have had sufficient time together to adapt to new working methods. From Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September we will begin to welcome students back to site with an initial day of Induction for each year group (2 days for new Year 7). The plan is:

Date	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Thursday September 3 <sup>rd</sup>	All students on site from	<i>Not to attend at all on Thursday</i>	To attend 9:30am to 2pm	<i>Not to attend at all on Thursday</i>	To attend 10am to 2:30pm
Friday September 4 <sup>th</sup>	8:30am to 3pm for both days	To attend 9am to 2:30pm	<i>Not to attend at all on Friday</i>	To attend 9:30am to 2:45pm	<i>Not to attend at all on Friday</i>
Monday September 7 <sup>th</sup>	All students on site all day from 8:30am to 3pm. Normal school resumes.				

We know that a staggered return is not ideal for embedding a routine but we hope you will appreciate that we will need dedicated time with each year group as a 'bubble' to induct to the changes that will be needed to ensure maximum safety for everyone whilst maximising the feeling of normality we are so used to in our Academy. Please pay particular attention to which day and specific times your children are needed to be on site in the first week, particularly where you have children in different year groups.

Specific further information regarding some of the changes we will need to implement in September will be communicated in the week before we return so please do ensure you check any emails/texts from us and also check our website. We can already confirm that our catering provider, Aspens, have confirmed they will be able to provide food service on site in a safe manner and have made several changes to their usual ways of working to comply with current guidance. Our building services company Skanska and our cleaning contractor Ridgecrest have also made many changes to their working practices to ensure our building complies with current guidance and we are receiving frequent and enhanced cleaning services to maximise safety for all of our community. We thank you in advance for your support and assistance in communicating these changes to your children and also for your understanding as we adapt to the new "normal" for September.

**Attendance in September** – Although we understand that coronavirus is still with us and therefore we must continue to be cautious and follow government and scientific advice the current guidance is that it is safe for **all** students to return to full time education in September as long as they, families and schools follow the current guidance. Therefore attendance to the Academy will become a legal obligation again from Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020 in accordance with the phased induction plan and then from Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020 for all students. We understand that some students and families may still be nervous or anxious in regards to safety so we will share further information on the steps we are taking to make the Academy as safe but also welcoming as possible on our return. We have produced a booklet of information for our families that tries to balance the Government's guidance, legislation and our own steps to provide support and reassurance to our community. It can be found on our website here <http://bristolmet.bristol.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/CLF-Attendance-Booklet-for-Families-Sept-2020.pdf>

As a Trust we have produced some specific guidance for our Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic students and families owing to the ongoing concern of the possible impact of coronavirus on particular backgrounds. It can be found here: <http://bristolmet.bristol.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/CLF-Attendance-Information-for-BAME-families.pdf> Should you still have specific concerns in your individual circumstances please do speak to your child's Tutor or House Team for support.

**Uniform** – From the return in September the full Bristol Met uniform will become compulsory again for all students as the current guidance is that clothing does not pose any additional risk from coronavirus and the





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Government guidance is that uniforms should return to schools. The uniform specifics can be found on our website <http://bristolmet.bristol.sch.uk/our-academy/uniform/>. Our uniform partner Initially Yours are back open with online and in-store purchasing available but as with many retailers they are having to operate differently so please do make contact with them as soon as possible to arrange any purchases [http://www.initiallyyours.co.uk/schools/bristol\\_metropolitan\\_academy/uniform\\_and\\_sports\\_kit.htm](http://www.initiallyyours.co.uk/schools/bristol_metropolitan_academy/uniform_and_sports_kit.htm). As always you are welcome to purchase any items of our uniform that are not branded from the retailer of your choice but please do pay particular attention to the specifications of trousers, skirts, shoes and PE kit.

**Visiting the Academy Site** – we would kindly request that, particularly in the first weeks of September, as much communication comes via telephone and email ([info@bristolmet.net](mailto:info@bristolmet.net)) as we adjust to new ways of running. We know at times our phone system can be frustrating (we have worked repeatedly with the system provider to establish any faults without success) so if you do leave a message and don't get a response within 3 working days please do feel free to chase us. Once we have settled back in and, dependent on current guidance, we hope to welcome visiting back on site again.

**Writing Competition** - many parents and students will remember we ran a 'Lockdown Writing Competition' titled "Suddenly Everything Changed". Our panel of judges have been busy and spent a lot of time judging the over 50 entries. Coming up with 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places in both KS3 and KS4 categories was very difficult indeed. The summary of the competition including reading of the winning entries, some by the students themselves, can be found on this link <https://youtu.be/gtqEM1evGpc>

**City of Hope** - as I sign off for the Summer break I was pointed to this poem by one of our parents. It is a poem by our city Poet, Vanessa Kisuule, titled "City of Hope". It is clearly very apt for the current times and points to the future; for us September. There are also some nice shots of our lovely City. You can watch it on this link: <https://youtu.be/9uMXGDbXQSc>

Please also remind your children that on Wednesday at 9am the final 'Celebration Assembly' of the year premieres. They have been sent a link as always for the weekly assembly to their email. You may want to watch it with them if possible to enjoy some of Mr Price's best jokes (and some great Student Performances as well).

I will of course update you over the break should there be any notable developments. Until then I wish you, your children and the wider community a very restful summer break and hope that in September we can start to rebuild our great community of Bristol Metropolitan Academy.

Yours sincerely

Cameron Shaw  
Principal