

We are unable to communicate through all parent email until Wednesday next week. If you are aware of any parents that may not have this information, please share.

20th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Update Coronavirus (COVID-19) – School Closure

We remain closed until further notice in line with the closure of all schools across the country.

Be aware that we are still awaiting guidance on the assessment of qualifications this year, in view of the examinations being cancelled. We will update you on this as soon we can.

Students working from home

The government have **'asked parents to keep their children at home, wherever possible, and asked schools to remain open only for those children who absolutely need to attend.'**

The advice is that **'if children can stay safely at home, they should, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.'** It reinforces the priority for children to remain at home because **'the fewer children making the journey to school and the fewer children in educational setting, the lower the risk the virus can spread and infect vulnerable individuals in the wider society'**.

We would ask you to consider the fact that as a 14 -19 provider, our young people are older and more capable of working from home than the majority of children in the school system.

In supporting learning and well-being at home, we have implemented a comprehensive online curriculum and pastoral support programme for all students. Our already well-established online learning platforms will continue to develop and evolve through this challenging period. Students and staff have already been brilliant in finding the best ways to connect and engage with teaching and learning.

Outside of school, parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way that can continue to spread the virus.

Provision for students of critical workers

For critical workers, the government guidance states that if **'you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education provision'**. This would only be the case if **all those** with parental responsibility in the home are critical workers. Local Education Authorities are also looking to make schools available in place of others that may be closed. BRIT School students often make significant journeys across public transport to get in every day and this should be a consideration at this time of social distancing. Please do contact your Local Education Authority for guidance if appropriate.

The list of critical workers can be found in this guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

If you think that you work in one of the critical sectors (as advised by the government) **and** that you are seeking educational provision for your child at The BRIT School during school closure, please let us know by completing this google form as soon as possible:

<https://forms.gle/dvdt7yU3GKupiVzB6>

Until we have details of numbers involved we cannot give further information about educational provision available.

Provision for vulnerable students

We are in contact with our particularly vulnerable students and their families throughout this challenging time to ensure support is in place. For children identified in the government guidance as those **'who are supported by social care and those with safeguarding and welfare needs, including child in need plans, on child protection plans, 'looked after' children, young carers, disabled children and those with education health and care plans'**, we are contacting families as appropriate for each individual and their families.

If your child falls into any of the groups listed above and you would specifically like to discuss provision at The BRIT School, please contact covid19@brit.croydon.sch.uk by 5pm on Monday 23rd March.

Again, until we have details of numbers involved we cannot give further information about educational provision available.

We look forward to updating you next week on the above and wish you well as always.

The BRIT School