

Dear Students, Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all keeping safe and well at this unusual and incredibly difficult time?

### **Teaching online and student learning**

The staff at the BRIT School are working hard to ensure that all students have lessons online, so that they can continue to learn. We have asked teachers to set the work that students would normally be doing at this time, wherever possible in line with their existing timetable, particularly in years 10 and 11.

This work is being set either on Google Classroom and students are being notified when it has been set, or in a known shared area on Google Drive. If you are experiencing technical challenges please DM us on our BRIT It Instagram or email us at [BRIT.IT@brit.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:BRIT.IT@brit.croydon.sch.uk) and we will do our best to help.

We would therefore ask that every student at the BRIT School, unless unwell, or looking after family members, continue their school work at the time allocated on their usual timetable if they can. Some work will be for you to carry out at home, others will be asked to be submitted so that your teachers can mark it. This will vary depending on the subject. If you do not have the means to complete your work, please speak with your teachers either via email or on google hangouts.

Please also be aware that our staff may well too be having to care for their families or might be unwell so please allow there to be a degree of flexibility if you do not hear from a member of staff.

If students have coursework to complete and have access to do this, they should continue with this where possible, as this could be used as evidence in formulating the final grade as usual. We believe all the work will be of use to you in building a wide range of skills, expertise and knowledge. We can not see into the future of how this work will be examined, but want you all to know that we are setting work that we believe has value and merit in helping you progress and develop.

There have been some outstanding lessons set and we know we are working through how to make this consistent, regular and helpful to all. Both teaching staff and tutors will be connecting with their students on a regular basis. If you, as students and parents, have any enquiries please send them directly to the relevant staff member. Staff emails can be found on our website or via you son/daughter's google classroom. If you have a more generic query, please direct them to [covid19@brit.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:covid19@brit.croydon.sch.uk).

### **Exams and exam results this summer**

We understand that all students, particularly Year 11, 12 and 13 at the moment, are concerned about what is happening with exams and their results in the summer. All up to date information from the government is available at

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

As the situation we are currently in has not happened before, we are all awaiting further government guidance to outline what will happen in the summer. There will be a formula that includes internal school data and evidence, but a final decision has not yet been made. In the meantime, could we ask that you do not contact individual teachers asking for their opinion about what is happening, as they cannot advise on this. As soon as we have more information, we will update you.

Please try not to worry about this as all students are in the same position nationally and like us, the exam boards want students to get the best results possible. What is important is to complete work set, send this work in to your teachers and ask questions for further help if needed.

If you are in Year 11 and have been offered a place at the BRIT School then that place is yours. If you are applying to other colleges then contact them directly or ask our very helpful careers department for advice.

### **Year 11 students doing Level 2 BTEC**

Pearsons, the examining body for BTEC, have made an encouraging statement in an update to schools on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020, which stated *'we are confident we can award grades to learners finishing this academic year - supporting learners to progress, recognising their learning and hard work - that is our priority and commitment to learners and teacher's'*. You may find this link to the OFQUAL document helpful.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/statement-on-vocational-and-technical-qualifications-in-2020>

### **Year 13 students applying through UCAS**

UCAS are writing directly to all students to say:

- The decision deadline has been extended by 2 weeks - don't make any rush decisions about where you want to go
- UCAS and all providers are waiting for more information on the results algorithm before making any further decisions
- There will be a clearing service for all students.

If you have any queries regarding progression into FE, HE or other vocational progression, please contact [careers@brit.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:careers@brit.croydon.sch.uk)

Tutors are contacting their tutees on a weekly basis, but not all students have responded. Please could students respond if they have not already done so, stay in contact with your teachers, complete the work, ask for help if needed and stay motivated – *we can do this!* You all have the ability to do well this year and we are all here to help you.

On BRIT related Instagrams, twitter feeds and facebook you can find numerous tips for creativity, activities and exercises to add to your school work if you wish to.

The BRIT School is working tirelessly to try and get this new way of working right whilst also balancing how we can support a range of young adults. If you have any feedback on what has been working or how they could improve, we would love to hear from you. Again, please direct this to [covid19@brit.croydon.sch.uk](mailto:covid19@brit.croydon.sch.uk).

Remember that it is vital though to keep following guidelines about your safety, your health and the health of others. And you must put your health and the health of your loved ones first.

Always BRIT