



Beacon Business Innovation Hub

BBIH

Woodford Bridge Road,
Ilford, Essex, IG4 5LP
Tel: 020 8418 4760
Email: admin@bbih.org
www.bbih.org

Friday 3rd April 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

School Closure Update

We said a huge thank you to all critical workers last night, by clapping for all those providing education, childcare and social care. We are very proud of all the members of our community who are contributing to the continuing education of our students: staff preparing and teaching lessons online, our caretakers and site staff who open up and lock up every day, parents and carers supporting students at home and students themselves who have been engaging with their learning. We hope you have managed to keep yourselves safe and well and trust that you are all following the government guidelines by staying at home.

The school will close to all students over the Easter break so we can ensure our staff get a break and recharge for those children of key workers who will return after the Easter holidays. The London Borough of Redbridge is committed to ensuring that the children of key workers can continue to access childcare provision between 6 April and 17 April 2020. As soon as we have further information regarding this provision, we will be in touch with our key worker parents.

It is our intention that the school re-opens on Monday 20th April to continue to support our key workers and vulnerable students, however this may change over the next two weeks, we will keep you informed. In the meantime in order to ensure we can deploy and use staff effectively over the next two weeks, please can you email the school on admin@bbih.org if you want your child to come to school from Monday 20th April 2020. When contacting us please let us know the following:

- Your name, relationship to student
- Student name and form group
- Key worker job role (if applicable)
- Please use an email subject title of Key Worker/Vulnerable student.

Exams guidance for Year 11 and Year 13 students

As discussed in previous communication it was confirmed by the government that this summer's exams won't go ahead. We are still awaiting details of how the process will work and clarification on the process for vocational qualifications. Once we receive any information, we will communicate this to you via the website and post.

Please rest assured exam regulators will work with schools to make sure young people will still achieve the qualifications they need to progress to the next stage of their lives and that all the hard work students and teachers have already put in is properly rewarded.



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IG6 3TN

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✉ admin@theforestacademy.co.uk



North East London Teaching Alliance

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Ilford, Essex
IG4 5LP

☎ 020 8551 4954 ext: 429

✉ admin@nelta.co.uk



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Learning Continuity Plan

Thank you for supporting your child with their learning over the last two weeks. The emphasis over Easter is that you and your family have a break from learning. We will be sending out new revision packs for students to complete when we return after the Easter break.

We will looking to implement additional learning platforms to support home learning after Easter so will be investigating different options such as Show My Homework and Unifrog. We will update you when we return from the Easter holidays.

Wellbeing Support:

We realise the pressures on children and their families at this time are significant. There will be heightened awareness of family pressures through being contained in a small area, poverty and financial or health anxiety. The following should provide you with some advice and guidance from various agencies should you need it.

- **Mental Health** – The Government has published advice and guidance for parents and carers on supporting children and young people’s mental health and wellbeing during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, which can be found here:
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>
- A Redbridge advice line for families who might be having issues with relationships or wellbeing is available and can be accessed on the Family Information Service
- <https://find.redbridge.gov.uk/kb5/redbridge/fsd/site.page?id=0XTUXqqZ8B0>
- As well as this Redbridge has provided Telephone support for children and families during the Coronavirus (Covid-19) Pandemic.¹ Further Wellbeing advice for children and families is also added to this letter.²
- **Domestic Violence** - The Home Office has published advice and guidance for those who are experiencing or feel at risk of domestic abuse during the outbreak. Support for victims of domestic abuse can be found here:
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

¹ Appendix – Redbridge Telephone support for children and families

² Appendix – Wellbeing advice for children and families



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- **Parent Support Helpline from Education Psychology Service (EPS):** The Redbridge Education Psychology Service is available to support staff, children and families that have concerns about their wellbeing, details for which can be accessed here:
- <https://find.redbridge.gov.uk/kb5/redbridge/fsd/service.page?id=Fo8CR1SQQKw>

Free School Meal Vouchers

We have set up a voucher system for those parents with children who are eligible to free school meals and these will be going out today to those parents who have already emailed the school. Parents will receive these on a weekly basis and they are redeemable in many supermarkets. If your child is eligible and you would like to receive one please ensure you email the following details to admin@bbih.org

- Your child's name
- Parent name
- Parent email address

General advice on Covid-19

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Stay at home guidance for households with possible Covid-19 infection

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Guidance on social distancing for everyone in the UK

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

Updates to this advice

If the situation changes in a way which will impact on our approach, we will inform parents/carers as soon as possible through the school website. In the meantime please do have a look at this week's Sway, which includes lots of fun Easter competitions your child can participate in. There will be prizes so please encourage your child to send through their entries.

<https://sway.office.com/WyWhODLZCckJdcES?ref=Link>



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Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) Policy Consultation

Thank you for sharing your views on our RSE Policy. They will be given weight and we may make changes to our RSE Policy in light of your views, as appropriate.

The following questions are asked to collect your views about our RSE Policy and our approach to RSE. They are not asked to collect your views about whether or not the DfE is right to require us to teach specific topics as part of RSE. Concerns about the DfE's requirements should be made to the DfE. We do not have power over those requirements and, as our RSE Policy explains, we are legally required to comply with them.

Please access the **questions** by clicking on the following:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1i6d1z3DTaXJNrMA1cuN9ZGycA_0H232f3_IFXue0Wnl/edit

Our **Draft Policy** and link to the above survey can be found on our website and by clicking on the following:

<http://bbih.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/PSHE-RSE-Curriculum-Map-BBIH.pdf>

Background

1. This consultation seeks your views on our RSE Policy, which will apply across all BMAT Schools from September 2020, in line with requirements from the Department for Education (DfE).
2. In June 2019, the DfE published "Relationships education, relationships and sex education (RSE) and health education" (June 2019). This guidance:
 - a. Makes it compulsory for all schools to have an RSE Policy and to consult parents and carers in the development of that policy;
 - b. Sets out the topics that need to be taught to students by the end of secondary schools; and
 - c. Makes changes to the right of parents or carers to withdraw their child from the elements of sex education that are not taught as part of the compulsory national science curriculum.
3. These and other topics are covered in our RSE Policy and RSE Curriculum. The new requirements formalise expectations but don't make significant changes to what we teach our students. Many of the topics required by the DfE were already taught as part of our Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum, and in other subjects.



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4. In addition to consulting parents and carers on our RSE Policy, we have met good practice recommendations from the DfE by consulting parents and carers in the development of our RSE Curriculum, via a parent focus group March 2020. All parents and carers were invited to apply to take part and we selected a diverse range of parents and carers, to represent the diversity of BMAT and its schools. Our staff and students have also been engaged in the development of our RSE Policy and Curriculum, as appropriate and in line with good practice recommendations.
5. We've worked hard to make sure that our new curriculum reflects:
 - a. Our values of equality, inclusion and respect for all students and communities;
 - b. Our students' age and maturity levels, as well as their cultural and religious backgrounds;
 - c. Every students' learning needs; and
 - d. What students need to know to be healthy and safe in school, in their personal relationships and in the wider world
6. This consultation has been published on the BMAT website and the websites of its constituent schools. Parents and carers have been invited to submit responses to the consultation questions to RSE@beaconacademytrust.co.uk or to their child's school office, for the attention of their School Principal.
7. The deadline for responses is **24th April 2020**.
8. We will consider responses to the consultation by 24th June 2020 so that our RSE Policy can be published before the start of the 2020/21 Academic Year, in September 2020.

Look after yourselves and your families.

Trevor Button

Principal, Beacon Business Innovation Hub



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Appendix

Please find below a list of support agencies available during the Coronavirus (Covid-19) Pandemic as recommended by Redbridge Local Authority:

Telephone support for CYP during the Coronavirus (Covid-19) Pandemic

The Department of Education - have setup a dedicated helpline to answer questions about Coronavirus (COVID-19) related to education. Staff, parents and young people can contact the helpline as follows: Phone: **0800 046 8687**

Shout - is an affiliate of Crisis Text Line in the UK that provides free, confidential support, 24/7 via text. It's the first free 24/7 texting service in the UK for anyone in crisis anytime, anywhere. **Text SHOUT to 85258 in the UK to text with a trained Crisis Volunteer.**

Childline - You can contact Childline about anything. Whatever your worry, it's better out than in. If you're under 19 you can confidentially call, email or chat online about any problem big or small. We're here to support you and help you find ways to cope. Call free on **0800 1111**. (Updated website regarding Coronavirus with lots of information and some resources for CYP at this time)

<https://www.childline.org.uk/get-support/contacting-childline/message-from-childline/>

Sign up for a childline account on the website to be able to message a counsellor anytime without using your email address. Chat 1:1 with an online advisor.

The Mix - The Mix is the UK's leading support service for young people. If you're under 25 you can talk to The Mix for free. We are here to help you take on any challenge you're facing - from mental health to money, from homelessness to finding a job, from break-ups to drugs. Talk to us via online, social or our free, confidential helpline. (Updated website including information on Coronavirus) Freephone: **0808 808 4994** (1pm - 11pm daily) <http://www.themix.org.uk/>

Young Minds – Supporting young people and also parents/carers. Provides free, 24/7 crisis support across the UK if you are experiencing a mental health crisis - just text YM to 85258. All texts are answered by trained volunteers, with support from experienced clinical supervisors. Texts are free from EE, O2, Vodafone, 3, Virgin Mobile, BT Mobile, GiffGaff, Tesco Mobile and Telecom Plus. Some information on website regarding Coronavirus). <https://youngminds.org.uk/>

Muslim Youth Helpline - Provides pioneering faith and culturally sensitive services to Muslim youth. Support by phone, live chat or email Phone: **0808 808 2008** Email: info@myh.org.uk. <http://www.myh.org.uk/>



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Papyrus – Provides support for CYP who are suicidal

Contact HOPELINEUK

Kooth (online support for young people)

Free, safe and anonymous online support for young people.



Kooth is an award winning online counselling service helping those aged between 10-18 years old with any troubles they may have.

They provide an anonymous and confidential service using a mix of counselling, support and advice on a drop in, out of hours and structured sessions.

The website itself contains the following:

- Message forums – get support from other young people
- Self help tools
- Messaging – online instant messaging service with a Kooth worker
- Online magazine – read articles written by others and contribute yourself!
- Games, blogs and more...

Aimed at helping with a range of topic including:

- Relationships
- Bullying
- Eating disorders
- Self-harm
- General health

All counsellors are trained, qualified and used to working with the age group using the service.

Who to contact

Website <https://kooth.com>

When is it on?

Time/date Monday to Friday - 12.00pm to 10.00pm, Saturday to Sunday - 6.00pm to 10.00pm

Winstons Wish – Provides support for CYP dealing with bereavement

<https://www.winstonswish.org/coronavirus/>



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How to get support:

National Freephone Helpline*: 08088 020 021 (open 9am – 5pm, Monday – Friday)

ASK email support: ask@winstonswish.org

Crisis Messenger: Text WW to 85258 (available 24/7)

Online chat: [click here](#) (available 12-4pm, Wednesdays and Fridays)

*In order to protect our staff, our Helpline is currently operating a remote service. Please leave a message on our voicemail with your first name and a contact number (with area code) and a Helpline Practitioner will call you back from a withheld number as soon as possible.



Our Freephone National Helpline, along with our ASK email, Crisis Messenger and online chat services remain available to support bereaved families and professionals caring for them. Those families who were already being supported by our area-based practitioners will continue to receive support via telephone sessions or video.

Child Bereavement UK – Supports CYP dealing with bereavement

East London



Address: Child Bereavement UK, Stratford Advice Arcade, 107-109 The Grove, London E15 1HP
Tel: **020 8519 7025**
Email: newhamsupport@childbereavementuk.org



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