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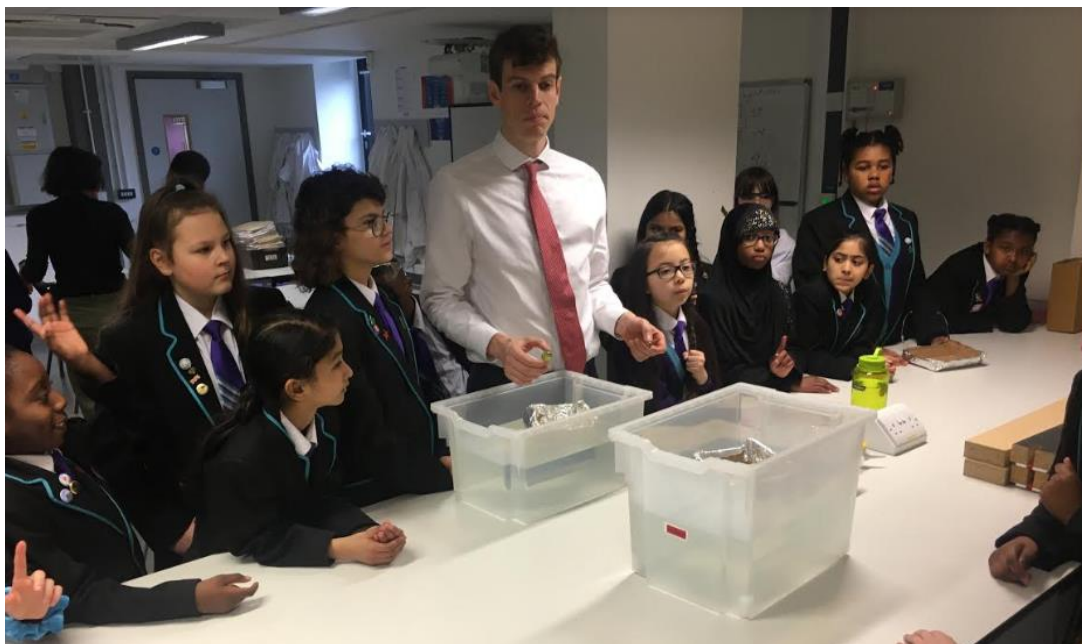
20 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Covid 19/Coronavirus Update - 20/03/2020

Thank you for all your messages of support. They have really kept us all going. There were tears in school today to be sure but a genuine sense that we will stay connected during the next few weeks and months.

Some highlights from the day:





Set out below are our plans going forward. Again it is worth emphasising that this is a fast moving situation and we will update you as soon as we have new information. If things settle down though, we will do a weekly update on a Friday. Please make sure we have your correct contact details by emailing info@school21.org.uk or calling the front office 0208 262 2121.

A reminder too that all our communications are on our website: <https://www.school21.org.uk/news-events> and we now have Urdu and Bengali translations.

We also appreciate that the period ahead may be challenging for some. Please get in touch with ideas about how we can support each other. I sent some links to local organisations yesterday but [here](#) are some additional thoughts about how to look after our well-being.

Next week

School for children of key workers

We have just this morning heard from the government who the term 'key worker' applies to. The full list is [here](#):

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

With further information for parents and carers here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

The key principles of the government's approach are:

1. **If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.**
2. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has both parents (or lone parent) who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.
3. Parents should not rely for childcare upon those who are advised to be in the social distancing category such as grandparents, friends, or family members with underlying conditions including women who are pregnant. Guidance [here](#)
4. Parents should also do everything they can to ensure children are not mixing socially in a way which can continue to spread the virus. They should observe the same social distancing principles as adults

The full list of key workers is attached at the end of this letter (Appendix A). If workers think they fall within one of the categories they should confirm with their employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.

Thank you to parents who have already contacted Ms Shaldas. Please also fill out the [Google Form](#) by **8:30am on Monday 23rd March** to allow us to plan.

We want to be as supportive as possible but equally we need to know numbers in advance so we have safe staffing ratios. Please do not send students to school before we have confirmed this with you in writing.

For those children who do come into school and need to take medication please make sure parents bring it in and the form is completed and signed for in the usual way with the onsite first aider or Headteacher.

This school will start on Tuesday 24th March (not Wednesday as advertised) at **8:30am** and end each day at 3:00pm for Primary children (up to Year 6) and 3:30pm for Secondary children. Lunch will be provided. For the first week Stephanie Shaldas, Head of Pupil Support, will be the Headteacher - sshaldas@school21.org.uk.

To support staff we will be rotating the person in charge on site and will advise each week. The extra day (Monday) will allow us to prepare properly for the school to reopen.

School for children with Special Needs and other groups

Starting on Monday 30th March we will be opening the school to children with an EHCP (Education and Health Care Plan) and those who receive special needs funding from Newham. Charlie Dilger, our Head of Inclusion (cdilger@school21.org.uk) will be in touch with the programme for this. We need to delay a week to make sure we have the right provision for these children. For other children and families who are being supported by the local authority already we will be in touch on next steps.

Home learning programme

It is still not clear what the situation for Year 11s and Year 13 will be in terms of their exams. However, starting from **Wednesday 25th March** we are putting in place the following online learning programme:

For students in Years 10 - 13 we will be providing lessons via their one-to-one devices. This is so we can support learning in these crucial years. In practice this means teachers will be on 'google hangouts' at the normal lesson times ready to teach. You can find student timetables in their calendars on their devices. The 'virtual timetable' will include just one coaching time session on a **Thursday at 10:10am** and exclude projects (for Year 10 that is 12:05pm onwards on a Tuesday and for Year 12 and 13 that is 12:05pm onwards on a Tuesday and 1:50pm onwards on a Thursday).

We have piloted this approach within school and it works well. We will try and register pupils in the normal way and let you know if they have not logged on as they should. Teachers will not be online for the whole period of lessons but will provide some input and support. Resources for lessons will be posted on

google classrooms as normal. Some guidance for students and parents is attached below (Appendix B and C) as well as a video tutorial here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cMHP0jUQAvI>

Please note that given the fluctuations of staffing we can't guarantee that all these learning episodes will happen but we will do the best we can, reviewing as we go.

Expectations for students when working in this environment include:

- Ask your teacher questions about the work in the comments section on the google classroom
- Mute your microphone as a default.
- Be on audio rather than video unless advised otherwise
- If possible have your device set up in a quiet space
- Behaviour for learning should follow our same school rules: be in the zone, give 100%, take responsibility
- You must only contact your teachers during school hours
- You must still submit work set by the deadline on the google classroom.
- Everybody will have to adapt to new ways of communicating, this may take time but we are determined to make it work.

Before Wednesday students will still be able to access work through google classrooms.

Key contacts:

Head of Secondary: Ms Futo rfuto@school21.org.uk

Head of Six21: Ms Spencer kspencer@school21.org.uk

For students in Year 9 teachers will be posting work via 'google classrooms' each week. There may also be times where teachers may do some online learning with students as above. There will be tasks set for completion with deadlines. If you want to be added to these classrooms, please contact your child's coach or the Head of School in Secondary. If you have issues connecting to the internet, please let us know and we will post work to you. **There will be one online coaching time session per week on a Thursday at 10:10am.**

Middle School (Years 5 - 8)

Similarly to Year 9, teachers for Years 5 - 8 will be posting work and offering online check ins via the Google Classrooms. To be added to these so you can see the different tasks being set, [click this link to add your details if your child is in the Middle School \(Years 5 - 8\)](#).

A detailed Middle School guide to online learning will be sent home early next week which will cover students in Years 5 - 8. This will outline exactly when and how different work for students will be assigned, how to access the different virtual check ins with teachers and who to contact if you have any issues.

Primary School (Reception - 4)

For children in Reception - Year 4 we will be setting work via [this website](#).

More generally we know there are lots of great online learning resources, some are linked in below. I know parents are already sharing links but please do send to us so we can add to our communications.

Khan Academy

<https://www.khanacademy.org>

Especially good for maths and computing for all ages but other subjects at Secondary level. Note this uses the U.S. grade system but it's mostly common material.

BBC Learning

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learning/coursesearch/>

This site is old and no longer updated and yet there's so much still available, from language learning to BBC Bitesize for revision. No TV licence required except for content on BBC iPlayer.

BBC Bitesize

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

Great new resources for all ages

Futurelearn

<https://www.futurelearn.com>

Free to access 100s of courses, only pay to upgrade if you need a certificate in your name (own account from age 14+ but younger learners can use a parent account).

Seneca

<https://www.senecalearning.com>

For those revising at GCSE or A level. Tons of free revision content. Paid access to higher level material.

Century tech

<https://www.century.tech/coronavirus-support/>

Online learning tools for all ages

Openlearn

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/>

Free taster courses aimed at those considering Open University but everyone can access it. Adult level, but some e.g. nature and environment courses could well be of interest to young people.

Blockly

<https://blockly.games>

Learn computer programming skills - fun and free.

Scratch

<https://scratch.mit.edu/explore/projects/games/>

Creative computer programming

Ted Ed

<https://ed.ted.com>

All sorts of engaging educational videos

National Geographic Kids

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/>

Activities and quizzes for younger kids.

Duolingo

<https://www.duolingo.com>

Learn languages for free. Web or app.

Mystery Science

<https://mysteryscience.com>

Free science lessons

The Kids Should See This

<https://thekidshouldseethis.com>

Wide range of educational videos

Crash Course

<https://thecrashcourse.com>

You Tube videos on many subjects

Crash Course Kids

<https://m.youtube.com/user/crashcoursekids>

As above for a younger audience

Crest Awards

<https://www.crestawards.org>

Science awards you can complete from home.

iDEA Awards

<https://idea.org.uk>

Digital enterprise award scheme you can complete online.

Paw Print Badges

<https://www.pawprintbadges.co.uk>

Free challenge packs and other downloads. Many activities can be completed indoors. Badges cost but are optional.

Tinkercad

<https://www.tinkercad.com>

All kinds of making.

Prodigy Maths

<https://www.prodigygame.com>

Is in U.S. grades, but good for UK Primary age.

Cbeebies Radio

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/radio>

Listening activities for the younger ones.

Nature Detectives

<https://naturedetectives.woodlandtrust.org.uk/naturedetectives/>

A lot of these can be done in a garden, or if you can get to a remote forest location!

British Council

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/school-resources/find>

Resources for English language learning

Oxford Owl for Home

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/>

Lots of free resources for Primary age

Big History Project

<https://www.bighistoryproject.com/home>

Aimed at Secondary age. Multi disciplinary activities.

Geography Games

<https://world-geography-games.com/world.html>

Geography gaming!

Blue Peter Badges

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/joinin/about-blue-peter-badges>

If you have a stamp and a nearby post box.

The Artful Parent

<https://www.facebook.com/artfulparent/>

Good, free art activities

Red Ted Art

<https://www.redtedart.com>

Easy arts and crafts for little ones

The Imagination Tree

<https://theimaginationtree.com>

Toy Theater

<https://toytheater.com/>

Educational online games

DK Find Out

<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/?fbclid=IwAR2wJdpSjSeITf4do6aPhff8A3tAktmnpaxqZbkgudD49I7Iep8-sjXmrac>

Activities and quizzes

Twinkl

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk>

This is more for printouts, and usually at a fee, but they are offering a month of free access to parents in the event of school closures.

Audible

<https://stories.audible.com/discovery>

These stories cost but there is a great selection

We will be reviewing this situation day by day so please let us know any questions or concerns, particularly if there are issues about getting online. As well contacting your child's head of school in the normal way, we also have a dedicated email address to deal with online issues: virtualclassroom@school21.org.uk

This is new for all of us so we may need to adapt as we go. We will endeavour to keep to the plan above until the Easter holidays but update you if we can't.

Safeguarding online

All our staff have been advised of key safeguarding approaches to take whilst educating online, they include:

- Online lessons are delivered in groups, never one-to-one
- Heads of Year, Heads of Department, Heads of School or the Designated Safeguarding Lead is copied into all email correspondence with students
- Coaching sessions/ lessons are always delivered from a living room/ kitchen
- Any concerns raised are immediately communicated to the Designated Safeguarding Lead:

Stephanie Shaldas - Whole School DSL

Lisa Placks - Primary

Andi Silvain - Middle

Havva Tayfur/ Stephanie Shaldas- Secondary

Alex Henderson - Sixth Form

Contact details are as follows:

School Safeguarding phone: **07591 189 315**

Email: **safeguarding@school21.org.uk**

Newham Triage : **0203 373 4600 (Ext 3)**

Police: **999**

Opportunity to Purchase Additional Online Instrumental Lessons During the Easter Period

We are setting up the option for parents/carers/staff/students to buy a short series of weekly 1 to 1 instrumental lessons, delivered live online by members of our professional instrumental teaching team.

These are taking place between 30th March - Friday 24th April, and are separate to the usual term time lessons that students may receive. This is an offer open to any member of our school community (adults included).

If you would like to sign yourself or your child up for additional, live, online 1 to 1 instrumental lessons with any of our brilliant instrumental teachers over the next four weeks, please complete the form linked below. They will cost £15 per 30-minute lesson and resources/guidance to support daily practice beyond each lesson will be provided. Payment will go directly to our instrumental teachers so you will be able to arrange a bank transfer with them once the lessons are approved.

<https://forms.gle/NPtAqIPGgPUep7C27>

For any parents who paid for their child to have instrumental lessons from last term that were not delivered due to closure or absence, these will roll into summer term's lessons and be delivered via a live online link during that term. We will do our best to ensure that no one misses out on lessons they are owed from last term, and more information about the running of lessons for next term, including the funded band project lessons, will follow soon. We hope to be able to continue running our band project remotely as best as we can next term!

The deadline to apply for these additional lessons is Thursday 26th March. They are completely optional.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Ms Crowhurst via email - ecrowhurst@school21.org.uk

Children eligible for free school meals (a reminder from yesterday)

From Monday we will be providing weekly Tesco vouchers of £10 per pupil in order to support increased food costs. This is for families where children are eligible for free school meals.

Vouchers will be sent out via email at the beginning of each week while we are closed, excluding weeks that would otherwise have been school holidays. Vouchers can be used online, or scanned at the till directly from your smartphone or other mobile device. No printing is required.

If you do not have access to a mobile device which can be used to display vouchers, please get in touch with us by calling the school reception on 0208 262 212 or come in to the school reception office and we will arrange for a physical gift card to be posted to you. Whilst we will work to get these to you as fast as we can, there may be a slight delay in receiving these due to the postal system.

If you have any questions regarding this, please do not hesitate to get in touch with Jenny Ansell jansell@school21.org.uk

From everyone here we wish you well and please stay in touch. I am certain the next months will strengthen our bonds of togetherness and make us stronger for the future.

Yours faithfully,



O de Botton
Headteacher

Appendix A: Full list of key workers

Health and Social Care

This includes but is not limited to doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

Education and Childcare

This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach.

Key Public Services

This includes those essential to the running of the justice system, religious staff, charities and workers delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, and journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting.

Local and National Government

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the COVID-19 response or delivering essential public services such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arms length bodies.

Food and other necessary goods

This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines).

Public Safety and National Security

This includes police and support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the COVID-19 pandemic), fire and rescue service employees (including support staff), National Crime Agency staff, those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas.

Transport

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

Utilities, Communication and Financial Services

This includes staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure), the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage), information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the COVID-19 response, as well as key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services), postal services and delivery, payments providers and waste disposal sectors.

If workers think they fall within the critical categories above they should confirm with their employer that, based on their business continuity arrangements, their specific role is necessary for the continuation of this essential public service.

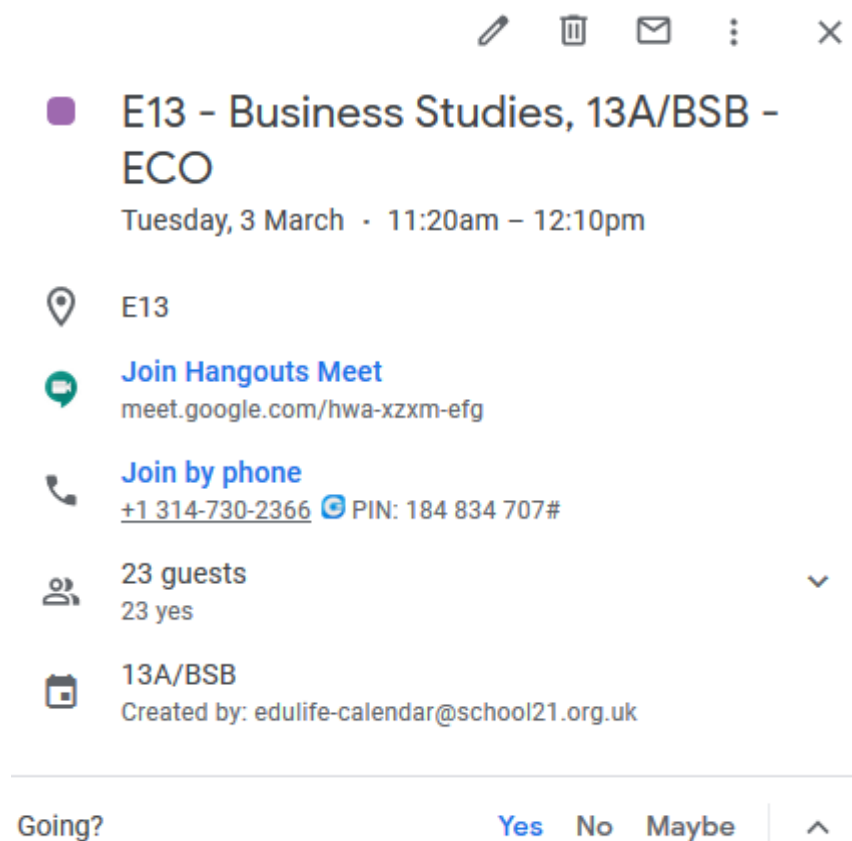
If your school is closed then please [contact your local authority](#), who will seek to redirect you to a local school in your area that your child, or children, can attend.

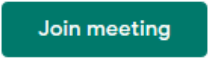



We are grateful for the work of teachers and workers in educational settings for continuing to provide for the children of the other critical workers of our country. It is an essential part of our national effort to combat this disease.

Appendix B: Virtual Lessons with Google hangouts

Students -

1. Go to <https://google.calendar.com> and find the lesson your teacher has specified the hangout will happen for.
2. Click on 'Join Hangouts Meet' and wait for the page to launch the hangouts application.



3. Allow the hangouts application to Allow access to your microphone and webcam.
 4. Press the  button to join the hangout session.
 5. You can change your video call options during the video call. To see your options, click the screen.
- **Turn off camera or mute microphone:** Click the icons to turn off your camera or mute your microphone.
 - **Settings:** At the top, click Settings . You can change settings like your camera, microphone and speaker devices.
 - **Share screen:** To share your screen with other people in the video call, click More  > **Share screen**.
 - **Fullscreen:** To make the video call take up your entire screen, click More  > **Fullscreen**.