

13th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this finds you and your family well.

### **Remote Learning**

Thank you for all of your support and positive comments (including some to Ofsted!) about our remote learning offer. When I think back to our efforts in the first lockdown, we have certainly come a long way with the vast majority of lessons being live. Please read our Remote Learning Policy, which has been updated and can be found on our website for further details. The only lessons that might be disrupted, will be those for which a teacher is absent or has joined the academy in January. We are following government guidelines for our remote learning provision and expect all students to attend online lessons at the set time on their timetable, unless you have discussed an individual situation with your son/daughter's Support and Guidance Manager. This is to ensure students at The Brittons Academy are not disadvantaged compared to others nationally. If there are issues preventing your son/daughter joining their full timetable of online lessons, please contact their Support and Guidance Manager for advice;

Year 7 – Tina Whiberley ([twhiberley@elatschools.co.uk](mailto:twhiberley@elatschools.co.uk));

Year 8 – Sue Ware ([sware@elatschools.co.uk](mailto:sware@elatschools.co.uk));

Year 9 – Gemma Slade ([gslade@elatschools.co.uk](mailto:gslade@elatschools.co.uk));

Year 10 – Gill Gilbert ([ggilbert@elatschools.co.uk](mailto:ggilbert@elatschools.co.uk));

Year 11 – Maria Martin ([mmartin@elatschools.co.uk](mailto:mmartin@elatschools.co.uk)).

Students non-attendance and lack of engagement to online lessons will be communicated through go4schools. Parents/carers will receive one email daily, this will highlight the number of praise and consequence points that have been logged for your son/daughter for that day. Please, log on to go4schools regularly and monitor your child's progress.

During the previous school closures, national statistics indicated that 81% of students in England suffered a drop in motivation, whilst 40% indicated that self-motivation was their primary challenge. In an effort to support you as parents/carers, please see below a link to a virtual seminar entitled '*Managing Motivation: How to boost and sustain your child's motivation during lockdown*'. This is being run by Elevate Education and will take place on Tuesday 19th January from 6.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.; this will be free of charge. If you are interested in attending, please access the link below:

<https://get.elevatecoaching.info/uk/register>

### **Mental Health and Managing Anxiety**

We realise that the current situation will be felt differently by everyone and we are all coping with our own worries and needs. We hope that the information contained below will go some way in helping you to support your children and to feel supported yourself.

Given the fact that this is our second period of time in lockdown with schools closed, we anticipate that some children may be feeling increasingly anxious and stressed about the situation we are currently in. The most important thing that you can do to support them is to continue to talk to them, stressing that these measures are for everyone's safety and that they have been designed to reduce the impact of the Coronavirus by slowing its' spread. If you are struggling to explain things clearly or are unsure what to say, there are some tips here: <https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/talking-to-your-child-about-coronavirus/> Students who wish to, may choose to talk to our online counselling service, Kooth (<https://www.kooth.com/>) where they can receive free, anonymous support online from trained and safety checked counsellors. There are also many resources about supporting your wellbeing that may be useful such as: <https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/#collapse842d2> and <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/51656718>. The Childline "Calm Zone" toolbox has lots of resources such as breathing exercises, drawing and writing activities that can help children to express and reduce their worries. It is available here: <https://www.childline.org.uk/toolbox/calm-zone/>

If you have any concerns about your wellbeing or that of your children, please contact your child's Support and Guidance Manager who will be able to provide further help.

### **National Voucher Scheme for Free School Meals**

The government have announced that they will be resuming the national voucher scheme for children eligible for free school meals. Currently they have not decided when this will start but we hope it will be soon. At the moment, all students eligible for free school meals have been offered a food parcel which can be collected from the school weekly, but as soon as the voucher scheme is announced we will be in contact with you to ask if you would like to participate. We are checking the government website daily for updates.

Take care.

Best wishes,



**MR. W. THOMPSON**  
Principal