

16 March 2020

Dear parent

I am writing to let you know that Southbank has made the incredibly difficult decision to close its campuses and commence our remote and online learning programme, with today, Monday 16th March being the last day of school. The closure will come into effect from Tuesday 17 March and remain in place until further notice, but at the very least up until the 20th April at which point we will review the situation.

Please note the following practical points:

- ECAs (clubs) and buses will run as normal after school today
- Where possible, primary students will take home a device and their musical instrument today
- We will physically close all sites from Tuesday to Friday this week in order to act as a 'deep clean' to protect our staff
- We will communicate with you at a later stage the times we will open next week so you can pick up a device/instrument if your child/ren are not at school today

It has become obvious that we face particular challenges as an international school. Many of you are in a very worrying situation with extended family and businesses overseas and I know you are desperate to reconcile increasingly restrictive travel options with being near loved ones. We have quite a few families who have already left the country and others who have been asked by their workplace not to send children to school in order to try to contain the virus. Each of the international schools in London has had to consider the needs of their unique communities and it is clear that even since Friday there have been significant developments locally and globally that have affected our families and the wider community.

You have already received information from each campus about our remote and online learning plans. Please note that there is quite a big variation in what teachers are able to assign based on age. We also know we are in somewhat uncharted territory for our school and expect to have to adapt the programme as we go; we request patience while our teachers familiarise themselves with the routines. Should our own staff become unwell, there may be a pause or change to what we are able to do while we rearrange the teaching and learning. Our teachers are excited by the opportunities offered by technology and hope to maintain close connections with your children. You may receive further information at a campus level about next steps.

I would like to thank you for the immense support I have received from so many of you. Some of you have been in quite worrying situations yourselves and yet you have reached out to show care and appreciation for our leadership teams and our staff. Southbank is such a strong, caring community and we are famously resilient! Please look after yourselves over the next few weeks and try not to let your kids drive you mad. Finally, do get in touch with the relevant



member of the campus leadership teams if we can help support you in any way.

Yours sincerely

Siobhan McGrath

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