

Corporate Services
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Date: 3rd April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

COVID-19 Update – Easter 2020

We would like to send our sincere thanks for your continued patience, cooperation and goodwill during these difficult times. The messages of support we continue to receive from you all are truly heartening and have certainly reinforced what's most important at such times of uncertainty and anguish – community spirit!

Over the past fortnight, all our lives have changed in some respect, and we at James Brindley have had to address things dynamically and as best as we can to meet the needs of all our stakeholders, and will continue to do as long as necessary.

Our priority is as always to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of our entire school community, and accordingly, we will continue to follow advice from the government and Public Health England on how best to safeguard our community against the threat of COVID-19. The current directive is that all schools will remain closed until further notice, only opening to provide care for children of critical workers who are unable to secure alternative childcare arrangements.

If your circumstances have since changed, and you are now a critical worker requiring childcare, please contact the Centre Leader of the Centre your child attends to see how we can support you with this.

Supporting your child

Our aim is, and will remain throughout this crisis, to deliver the curriculum to your child as effectively as we possibly can. We will continue to communicate with you regularly about any updates to our e-learning platform, and we will also ask that you continue to email staff if you have any queries about content, or if your child needs any additional support. Please see the sheet attached, detailing additional curriculum resources.

We will also continue with our welfare calls and visits as appropriate after the Easter break. Again, please communicate with your child's Centre Leader if you feel they would benefit from additional calls or other interventions to support their social and emotional wellbeing. We are also currently exploring ways to allow pupils to interact in group settings with their peers and staff. We are aware we are all missing the social interaction that school provides. As with any activity involving children, especially one that involves remote learning, there are safeguarding issues that need to be considered and addressed. We will publish guidance on this as soon as we've established our protocols on this.

Examinations and Results

Since the Secretary of State for Education announced that the 2020 exam series in England would be cancelled to help fight the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19), Ofqual have released the process which fairly recognises pupils' work and makes sure they get their grades in time to progress. [You will find on this page details about how GCSEs, AS and A levels will be awarded this summer. This letter provides general guidance to pupils and their families. If you have any questions regarding qualifications, please email \[exams@jamesbrindley.org.uk\]\(mailto:exams@jamesbrindley.org.uk\).](#)

Supporting you

Fostering an effective partnership between parents, carers and our staff has never been more important as it is now. We want you all to feel that our staff are available to support both you and your child as often as you need it and in whatever way possible. We are all in this together – no one should feel in any way isolated.

We continue to welcome any photos, experiences or comments you want to share with our school community via our social media platforms. They are a great way of keeping community spirit alive! The links to our social media feeds are:

www.facebook.com/jamesbrindleyacademy

www.twitter.com/jba_live

www.instagram.com/jba_live

Please continue to keep yourselves and your families safe and healthy, and we will continue to update you with news and developments as we get them.

Yours faithfully



Tosin Gabriel

Vice Principal – Head of Parkway, Northfield and Dovedale Centres

Reminder for online learning and activities

As we move into the unknown teachers are continuing to develop activities at home for you to access after the holidays. If you would like to give feedback on how the last two weeks have gone and material on the e-learning platform, please complete [this feedback form](#). [By replying to this](#) form, we will be able to develop our online learning further to suit your needs.

[Click here for Primary learning material - What's new - keep active with Joe Wicks each day at 9am! Working online more, visit Think U Know for support and guidance on your child being online and staying safe!](#)

[Click here for Secondary learning material - What's new - Virtual learning for kids includes STEAM challenges for all ages from BOM! Thrive has loads of family friendly activities to support your social and emotional development. ePlatform by Wheelers has books you can download and read](#)

Easter Upload Challenge

Upload an image or evidence of something you have done over the 'holiday' and the most creative entry can win an Amazon gift voucher. You could create your own poem, paint a picture, design something or solve a problem. Get creative and upload [here](#)

Stuck for activities over 'the holidays'?

[Art and Culture – take a 360° tour of some amazing places](#)

[Trip to the Zoo – check out these amazing animal cameras](#)

[Theme Park – Design your own theme park ride on this Khan Academy course](#)

[Tiny Concert – see some amazing musicians play just to you](#)

Holiday Competition: Micro-Tyco-Innovate Challenge

Find out more about the competition by [clicking here](#)

Micro-Tyco Innovate is part of the WildHearts School Programme and is an international school's competition which inspires young people that together, they have the power to make a positive impact, both locally and globally. Micro-Tyco Innovate challenges young people to create innovative ideas to address one or more of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) - a 'to do' list for making the world a better place. Watch this video

Be a digital citizen

With the increase in children using computers, whilst working from home why not develop you [Digital Citizenship skills](#). [Help make your family safe online!](#)