

Meeting of the South Bank Engineering UTC School Advisory Board

4.00 pm on Wednesday, 25 March 2020
in South Bank Engineering UTC, 56 Brixton Hill SW2 1QS

Agenda

<i>No.</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Pages</i>	<i>Presenter</i>
5.	Principal's report	35 - 36	AS

Date of next meeting
4.00 pm on Wednesday, 13 May 2020

Members: Lesley Morrison (Chair), Ed Arthur, Ian Brixey, Beau Fadahunsi, Tony Roberts and Austin Sheppard

Apologies: Joanne Young

In attendance: Michael Broadway and Dan Cundy

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Agenda Item 5

South Bank UTC: Covid-19 Update

Date: 20.3.20

South Bank UTC will be closing from Monday 23rd in line with the advice of Her Majesty's Government as for the foreseeable future.

We are adhering to the guidance issued 19.3.20:

'If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.'

Closing of building

The building will remain open with a skeleton staff in place (1 x Reception, 1 x Site, 1x SLT, 1 x teaching) each day to supervise the students of Key workers and those that are vulnerable. We have asked for parents to report to us on whether they are a keyworker and if so do they wish for us to supervise their child. At this stage, we anticipate this will be very low numbers (up to 10).

We are working with Lambeth and the Trust regarding plans for the use of Hub schools, including during Easter.

Remote Learning

Students will be learning remotely using Microsoft Teams, a system that our students and staff are very familiar with. We expect students to be working between the hours of 8:30am and 3pm on weekdays during term time. Teachers and other staff will be working to provide feedback and set work.

Safeguarding

We will be contacting parents if there is no evidence of a student logging onto Teams after a period of 3 days. Students will be added to the vulnerable list if this raises concerns with an individual.

The safeguarding team have pre identified a list of 21 students that might be vulnerable, the families will be contacted a minimum of twice weekly to check that all is well.

Wellbeing

We have communicated a range of strategies of advice and support for students to use. This has included the following recommendations:

- Take regular breaks from their device screens
- Practice good hygiene like washing your hands
- Stay busy, take up a new hobby or learn a skill
- Keep a journal
- Get fresh air at least once per day
- Act in a positive way on social media
- Do something nice for people in need
- Contact us if there is difficulty with access at home

Communications

We have sent daily letters and texts to parents keeping them updated with the latest developments. The UTC website has been updated to include a statement on the homepage and has a dedicated page to the closure and latest advice on Covid-19. Staff have had daily briefings since Monday 16th March in addition to normal briefings. The principal has been in regular contact for the Executive Principal and has called the Chair of the SAB to keep her informed of the latest developments and action of the UTC.

It has been agreed that this report will be discussed via the remote meeting of the SAB on 25th March 20.

Tracking and Absence

We have been tracking the absence of students centrally and keeping details of those who are self-isolating. We have been doing similar for staff and making sure that we have supported colleagues that have needed to work from home for a range of reasons.

During this period of closure, we will be using the Y code for exceptional circumstances for our official data.

Exams

Public examinations have been cancelled for summer 2020. We are awaiting official confirmation of how grades will be awarded. However, Students have been directed to continue with their academic studies and think carefully about their preparations for the next stage of education. We anticipate that BTEC will be least impacted and that portfolios of work will be needed as expected. We will provide clear guidance on how grades will be awarded once this is made officially available, though we believe it will be evidence based and so are motivating students, particularly in year 11 and 13 with this. We are awaiting further notifications on results days, UCAS entry and Apprenticeships.

Free School Meals

We are working to provide the best possible free school meal solution possible and have a preference for food parcels for each student that provide a 2 week supply of food. These will be collected from the UTC at a pre-designated time and will stop the need for students to travel to the UTC for food regularly.