



Delivering The Scholars Programme in 2020/21: Covid-19 Update

At The Brilliant Club, we know that the 2020/21 academic year will be challenging for everyone in schools. That makes us even more committed to running a high-quality Scholars Programme in 2020/21. With educational inequality expected to increase during lockdown, giving pupils access to stretching, enriching academic experiences is more important than ever – especially for pupils from less advantaged backgrounds.

Because no one knows for certain yet how the Covid-19 crisis will affect the education system in 2020/21, we have developed a series of contingency plans to enable us to deliver The Scholars Programme, even if restrictions continue for many months. These plans will ensure that – whatever restrictions are in place – pupils will still have a sustained university-style learning experience through tutoring with a PhD researcher along with high-quality information, advice and guidance to help them progress to a highly-selective university.

How we enact these contingency plans will depend on what Government guidance is in place at any given point of the year, and how schools and universities adapt their own policies. For example, adjustments to the way we deliver the programme could include:

- Instructions for tutors on how to deliver in-school tutorials safely while maintaining social distancing.
- Modifying the format of university launch and/or graduation trips to enable social distancing.
- Conducting launch and/or graduation events in school if external trips are not possible (with a package of support to ensure a high-quality pupil experience).
- Delivering tutorials in school with the PhD tutor calling in remotely via a secure video conferencing platform.
- Delivering tutorials remotely to pupils in their homes via our Scholars VLE with embedded secure video conferencing, plus additional online resources to enhance their learning (hard copy course handbooks would still be sent to every pupil).

We look forward to working closely with schools to ensure that no pupil misses out on The Scholars Programme – and the unique opportunity for university-style learning it provides - because of the Covid-19 crisis. We will be monitoring and reporting programme impact to schools in exactly the same way as normal.