

Message from the Director (8 June 2020)

#CultureConnectsUs

Dear all

Further to my message of 25 May, I would like to update you all on our response to the current situation in Myanmar.

In line with recent guidance issued by the government of Myanmar about re-opening businesses, we started trialling face to face services for our libraries in Yangon and Mandalay and some services for UK Qualifications. To ensure the safety of our customers and our colleagues we implemented various measures as outlined in previous messages.

In response to customer feedback and updated advice from the government of Myanmar we are now planning a phased resumption of more face to face services. This includes providing more access to our libraries in Yangon and Mandalay, more sessions for paper based IELTS tests in Yangon and Mandalay, in addition to Computer Delivered IELTS which we re-started in May, and re-starting face to face English language Classes in Yangon.

As with previous service resumption, to ensure the safety of our customers and our staff we will be implementing several measures at Junction City and for IELTS tests to reduce the risk of coronavirus infection.

These include:

- Managed arrival / departure procedures including temperature checking and contact tracing on arrival
- Staggering start, finish, and break times
- Additional staff to manage student journey in the building
- Reduced student and candidate numbers
- Social distancing in classrooms and exam rooms e.g. furniture separation and partitions
- Regular and extensive cleaning schedules between classes and exams
- For English classes, a change classroom management approaches to ensure social distancing and limiting the use of classrooms to a single teacher
- Staff room and any waiting rooms set up for social distance

Our English classes will initially start in Junction City on 20 June for adult learners and then in Kanna Road in July for younger learners. We are planning to resume other UK qualifications and examination services for English language and professional exams later this year between July and September.

On behalf of the British Council, I would like to re-assure you of our ongoing commitment and support to Myanmar. We feel very proud of our long-standing friendship here and, despite the many challenges presented by the current health pandemic, we look forward to continuing to connect people and institutions in Myanmar and the UK.

#CultureConnectsUs

Dr Richard Sunderland
Director, Myanmar
British Council