

No. 8 / Crisis Task Force: Services reduced to a minimum from Friday 8 pm onwards

Berlin, March 19, 2020

Dear Members of the School Community,

Yesterday, all Berlin's universities and academies and Undersecretary of State Steffen Krach agreed that at the end of the business day tomorrow, Friday, March 20, 2020, we will switch to emergency skeleton services.

This means that the School's buildings will be temporarily closed for you.

Mr. Völz and I will continue to run the crisis task force from the School's main building and will be supported by a minimum staff drawn from the academy's core positions in these efforts. This means that the important lifelines of our institution remain active until we are allowed to resume full services toward the beginning of the semester. I would like to thank our staff in core functions who will provide their services during the coming weeks for our community.

All other administration staff are working remotely and digitally. I also wish to thank them for their flexibility which was necessitated by this quick switch-over. Professor Tober, our vice rector, is responsible for the digital process within the School's leadership team and is working tirelessly on new options. These are challenging times which demand creativity, poise and focus.

We have tried to keep the School's buildings open for you as long as we could for individual work and practice. Unfortunately, this will no longer be possible after this Friday.

I will contact you again tomorrow: today will be filled with phone conferences with the Undersecretary of State, the four artistic academies, with the heads of department and a meeting of the crisis task force. We would like to return as soon as possible to our core mission: the responsibility to train the next generation of outstanding artists for our society.

Let's keep our spirits up.
That time will come again.

Warm regards,
Sarah Wedl-Wilson
Rector