Aria Khatib-Shahidi is a BISB virtual learner in Year 12 (2020-2021). He has been virtual since March 2020 and fortunately was willing to be interviewed, in regard to, online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

***Why did you become a virtual learner during the pandemic?***

I first became one in the middle of March in year 11 when the pandemic hit, and I became one because my mom has always worried a lot, and I live with my grandparents who are vulnerable.

***What difficulties did the pandemic present to school learning and work?***

At the beginning of this school year it was quite a challenge considering I really wanted to go to school and when at home I really didn’t pay attentions in my classes. After the 1st term I realized my situation and up’d my effort.

***How well do you think the school and individual teachers adapted to the virtual environment and is there any improvements you would suggest?***

During the start of the pandemic I think because the situation was so strange the online system wasn’t adapted so well (e.g the camera was blurry , I couldn’t see the board , I didn’t have access to some of the work), however I think after the 1st again the teachers learned to adapt really well.

***How has the virtual environment affected you personally in terms of social interaction?***

My social interactions have definitely become more limited, but on the bright side I have another close friend who is also online, and I live with a big family.

***When will you feel comfortable returning to school?***

I’d say I myself have been comfortable enough to return to school for a while, but I’ll be returning at the start of next year.

*Thank you for reading this article on BISB’s student learners by the BISB Bulldog Inquirer.  
We are hugely grateful to Aria, for his interview responses in this article and wish him the best for next year, hoping to see him in person alike many students starting the 2021-2022 school year.*