

19 March 2020

Dear students and parents/guardians,

We appreciate that this is a very challenging time and that personal circumstances will change over the coming weeks. We want to reassure you that we are doing everything we can to ensure that teaching continues and that students are supported as much as possible.

We thought it would be helpful to set out what students can expect from their teachers and visa versa in these uncertain times.

Expectations of teaching staff:

Each department is putting in place two weeks of work for each student up until the Easter break. We are asking staff to ensure resources are available via either Google Classroom or the Study Directory. Resources could include presentations, interactive quizzes, topic booklets, audio and video clips amongst many others. Each department will have a different form of delivery and will explain where students can find the work that they have set. Every effort will be made to mark work that has been completed wherever possible. We will send out more information after the Easter break to update you if the College remains closed.

The staff will try their best to respond to emails from their students, but only during working hours (9:00am-4:10pm). Students may wish to make contact with their teacher via Google Classroom as an alternative to email. It is important that everyone understands that teachers, like students, will have demands placed on them by working from home. Everyone will be doing the best they can.

Expectations of students:

Each student should be aiming for 9 hours of work per subject per week (during term time). You can expect the equivalent of 4.5 hours lesson time which will typically be delivered as outlined above. In addition to this, there is expected to be 4.5 hours of consolidation and

revision work based on previous course content. The same expectations would apply to assignment work on vocational courses. Where possible, we would expect you to continue this revision and consolidation work during the Easter break. Please do not expect staff to respond to communications during the Easter break.

Try and keep to some form of timetable so that you keep the structure of learning in place as much as possible. It is difficult to be in a very structured environment one minute and then independent learning the next. However, you all know how to study independently and consolidate your learning.

Exams:

The Government announced yesterday that exams will not take place in May and June this year. At this stage, we do not know any more information about the plan for exams going forward. As soon as the Government updates us on the situation, we will update you.

UCAS:

Following the announcement of the closure of schools in England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, and the cancellation of examinations and assessments in England, UCAS is working with Ofqual, the Department for Education, the Scottish Government, the Office for Students, and examination awarding bodies. UCAS expects to be able to provide a further update on Friday 20 March 2020.

All of this applies if you and your family are well. If for any reason there are circumstances where this is not the case, please prioritise your health and wellbeing and that of your family.

Please continue to check the College website for any updates.

Best wishes,

Catherine Cole
Principal