

21 April 2020

Dear second year students,

I appreciate that everyone's circumstances are different, but I hope you were able to enjoy the Easter holiday.

I wanted to get in touch with you now that the lockdown has been extended by the Government to clarify some questions you may have.

Firstly, I wanted to remind you that, despite the challenging times we all face, the usual College support services are here and available to you. We are continuing to provide pastoral support including mental health advice and counselling services. We have also added helpful suggestions for structuring time when studying at home and taking care of wellbeing to the Study Directory.

You will have been keeping up-to-date with the news regarding grading and assessment of qualifications this summer. There are still some specific details to be confirmed and I will be sending a further communication about grading for students studying vocational courses later this week.

Whilst I appreciate that it is challenging to stay motivated and continue with your studies, it remains really important that you continue to work hard to complete your courses. We know now that grades for all courses expected to be completed in summer 2020 will be awarded 'calculated grades'. We also know that it may be possible for some students to sit an exam later in the autumn, so ongoing studies will be critical for those students.

It is also important that you keep communicating with us. We appreciate that some of you are finding studying remotely more challenging than others and some are also dealing with very difficult personal circumstances. Personal Tutors are available by email, as are the teaching staff, so we are asking students to please let us know if they have any questions or need to discuss work or other issues.

We are now moving towards a point in the year when courses will finish being formally taught. Some of your subjects may have already completed their teaching. In normal circumstances, the final few weeks might have been spent revising in class and preparing exam skills. Instead you might like to use this time to consolidate your work or research your next steps.

There are a number of online courses which you could access to extend your learning and understanding in your chosen or related subjects.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to send you and all of your loved ones best wishes from everyone at the College.

Catherine Cole

Principal