

24 March 2020

Dear Student

Another day and another unprecedented announcement from the government. Such events are serving to bring home the importance of our response to the virus and the impact it is having on our lives. Our students have all worked so hard for their qualifications or to settle into the first year of their courses and it seems so unfair that their plans and progression have been disrupted in this way.

What I do know however is that whilst you will be eager to resume your progress as quickly as possible the important thing in the short term is that everyone does all they can to keep themselves and their families safe. In the meantime we will do everything we can to support you in getting through the disruption and getting back on track.

**Please don't come into College unless it is essential**

As far as the College is concerned we remain open to those students who are the dependents of **essential workers** or those students who are **vulnerable**.

In view of the aim of keeping everyone safe please can I ask that any students that **do not** fall into one of these categories stay away from the College until further notice. I have also reduced to a minimum the number of staff that I am asking to come into College to keep everything running and supervise those students who do need to attend.

Please can I also ask any student who needs to come into College to let me know so that I can ensure we have safe levels of staffing.

The government's definition of essential workers can be found here.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>



[Guidance for schools, childcare providers, colleges and local authorities in England on maintaining educational provision - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-childcare-providers-colleges-and-local-authorities-in-england-on-maintaining-educational-provision)

[www.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)

**How your grades will be decided**

The government has done much to clarify how the final grades of students will be decided, although understandably some details have yet to emerge. It is also important that students on the first year of a two year course have predicted grades so that they can apply for

university courses and apprenticeships. In essence the guidance I am giving having seen the current government advice can be summarized as follows below.

### **Students taking final year A level and GCSE examinations**

Students are required to be 'engaged with learning' until the end of their courses (May half-term). Teachers will be asked for information from a range of assessments over the duration of your course including mock examinations from which exam boards will determine final grades. In order to ensure this is as fair as possible we have asked teachers to set some assignments between now and the end of your course which can form part of the information used to determine your grade. **It is obviously really important that everyone works hard to complete these assignments to the best of their ability.**

### **Students taking final year Applied Level 3 and Level 2 (BTEC and similar)**

Students are required to be 'engaged with learning' until the end of their courses (May half-term). Teachers will be asked for information from a range of assessments over the duration of your course and it is likely (depending on logistics) that exam boards will want to use completed assignments and examinations as a key factor in determining final grades. It is also likely that they will ask for an indication of how students would have done on remaining assignments and units so we have asked teachers to set some assignments between now and the end of your course which can be used for this. **It is obviously really important that everyone works hard to complete these assignments to the best of their ability.**

The government's advice about how grades will be decided can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020>



[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): cancellation of GCSEs, AS and A levels in 2020 - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020)

[www.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)

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### **Students in the first year of a 2 year course (A level and Applied)**

Students are required to be engaged with learning until the end of the year (early July). Teachers have been asked to set assignments which will be marked and their will be an end of year examination (or similar) which will be used to determine predicted grades, as well as to inform our advice about progression on to the second year of your courses. **It is obviously really important that everyone works hard to complete these assignments and the end of year examination to the best of their ability. Your teachers will be in touch to let you know what will be in your end of year exam or assignment so that you can prepare properly.**

### **Some comments that apply to everyone**

Please don't attempt to influence teachers in respect to your grades in any way other than by producing your best work. I expect my colleagues to carry out their responsibilities accurately and professionally and I expect other Principals or Head Teachers to have the same expectation of their staff. If examination boards concluded that there was any foul play it is likely to have significant consequences.

Please have realistic expectations with regard to the challenges of teaching and learning on-line. This is as new to your teachers as it is to you, and it is unlikely to be as effective as classroom learning for a number of reasons. Your teachers have been asked to set work to cover the remainder of your courses in order to prepare you for next year and/or examinations in September should they be required. Make sure that you are completing the work that they set and letting them know if you get stuck with anything.

Please let the College know if you need any help with your studies or if you have other concerns about your well-being or that of your family. Tutors will be in touch each week with suggestions as to how you can promote your well-being and on-line careers advice and support is available. If you want to know more about this or have concerns about your well-being please contact Julie Ferman [j.ferman@wsfc.ac.uk](mailto:j.ferman@wsfc.ac.uk). Similarly if you have concerns that your teacher is not setting you enough work (or similar) please contact Ruth Scotson [ruth.scotson@wsfc.ac.uk](mailto:ruth.scotson@wsfc.ac.uk) and she will be pleased to follow it up for you.

Best wishes to you and your family,

Ed Senior