

22 May 2020

Dear Student,

I hope you and your family and friends are well.

As we prepare for the half term next week, I'm writing to give you an update on what is happening at College. You may have heard on the news about schools and colleges re-opening in June, and I want to share with you what our plans are. If you are a young person, I have written to your Parents/Carer/Guardian too.

I want to start by saying how proud we all are of all our students and your commitment to your course during these very difficult times. Most of you have been working very effectively remotely and we have seen great examples of the work that you have been completing from home, whilst many of you have been dealing with very challenging personal circumstances too. I hope you will join me in thanking all our staff for the great support they have been providing to all of you as they juggle difficult home lives too.

The Prime Minister has recently made a statement saying that schools and colleges should plan to open from 1 June in a phased way. A range of year groups, including those in Years 10 and 12, have been mentioned, with a focus on those taking exams in the following academic year.

We are currently working on plans for a gradual and phased return for our students and staff, with a focus on those of you who have found it difficult to complete work from home and who cannot achieve their qualifications or progress to the next level without some face to face support or assessment. We will only start this when we feel it is safe to do so.

There is a lot of preparation needed to make our buildings safe, so to prioritise which students need our support, **we will start inviting students into college buildings from 15 June at the earliest. Teachers will contact you individually to let you know if you need to return before September, how this will work and what special arrangements will be in place.** If you are not contacted, you should not travel to college for any purpose.

In the meantime, I hope that you are able to continue learning remotely and are in regular contact with your tutors about next steps, whether that is the continuation of your current course or progression to the next level, an Apprenticeship, Higher Education or employment.

Assessments

As you know, students pursuing GCSE, A Level, BTEC and other vocational courses will not be taking examinations this summer and will be awarded grades based on the work completed prior to lockdown and teachers' estimation of the grade you would have achieved should you have

continued with your planned learning.

We are working closely with all Awarding Organisations and awaiting final confirmation of decisions for each qualification by the regulator Ofqual and what the next steps are. Every qualification will fall into one of the following three categories and each individual student will be notified immediately by our examinations department which one applies to your studies:

- **Calculated Results** – Qualifications in this category will see calculated grades using a range of evidence collated by the tutors to fully inform their decision. Please note: calculated grade decisions from tutors are not final as these must then be checked by the awarding organisation who will then make the final and overall decision on the grades you receive for your qualification.
- **Adapted Assessment** – The assessments in the qualifications falling in this category will be adapted to help students achieve the outcomes of the qualifications. Tutors will already be engaging with you and will soon make you aware of all the adaptations for incomplete units/modules when we receive guidance from the respective awarding organisations.
- **Delayed Assessments** – The assessment for the qualifications in this category will be delayed until a return to the college has been decided and is deemed to be safe and manageable following Government advice.

The College will follow a fair and consistent approach and will at no point be disadvantaging anyone from achieving and progressing to their intended destination.

Finally, I want to acknowledge that we know the lockdown will have been tough on our students and we will do our very best to reduce the impact during this time and as you return to college at some point. Please continue to engage with your tutors, read the newsletter that we send to you regularly and tap into the exciting range of enrichment activities that we have planned throughout the week. The feedback we have had so far has been amazing!

Best wishes for a very relaxing half-term and remember to stay safe.



Carmen Gonzalez-Eslava
Vice Principal (Curriculum, Performance and Innovation)

