

Dear Parents/Carers,

You will have seen, I am sure, the message from the Prime Minister yesterday evening. He has announced a full nationwide lockdown, and as part of this **the College is now closed** with the exception of for the children of Key Workers, vulnerable students and students who do not have access to appropriate technology.

I am writing to you to confirm that remote learning will continue until February half-term. Teachers have already have been in touch with all students with regards to the plans for this week and teaching, learning and assessment will continue in this way throughout the period of College closure. Some of the classes (either full or more usually part) will be live lessons and these will take place in the scheduled slots on timetables to make sure that students are able to attend across all of their subjects. Students will be expected to fully engage with these lessons and with all other reading, discussions, preparatory work, assessments etc. that teachers set. Registers will be taken.

The College has received confirmation from the Department for Education that BTEC Applied Science, BTEC IT and Criminology exams will be going ahead this month. Preparation for these exams will be completed online and will follow students' usual timetables. These exams will take place in College and strict social distancing of 2 metres plus between all exam desks will be adhered to, to ensure these can be completed safely.

The Learning Resource Centre will be remaining open throughout this period of lockdown for children of key workers, vulnerable students and students who do not have access to appropriate technology at home. The opening hours are 8.45 - 4.00pm. Please note that that there will be no catering provision for students as the canteen is closed.

Remote support from Academic Coaches, additional Learning Support and Counselling will also be available for all students. Free School meals allowances will continue to be paid weekly into the student's personal bank accounts (subject to government changes) and bursary payments will be made as normal in Feb half term.

The government have said that exams in the summer will not go ahead as originally planned. They are working with the Department for Education and Ofqual to put in place alternative arrangements that will allow students to progress fairly. As soon as we receive further information about what will be replacing summer exams, we will communicate this to you. Obviously, January mock exams for Year 13 A level, AS and GCSE students are cancelled but will be replaced, when students return, by whatever we need to do to help prepare them for whatever is agreed nationally.

We absolutely understand that this is a very unsettling time for everyone and want to assure you that we are fully committed to providing all of our students with a high quality teaching and learning experience and pastoral support, and to preparing them for whatever alternative arrangements are put in place. We are confident that we can guide them through this time positively.

Please look after yourselves and stay safe. All best wishes,

Martin Sullivan