

Isle of Wight College Update to all students and parents* (where applicable)

8th January 2020

Dear Students and Parents*

I hope you are keeping safe and well and I also hope you were able to enjoy your Christmas break in these difficult times. As you will be aware, the whole of England is once again in lockdown. As a result, remote learning will now be in place until at least after February half term, which would mean students potentially returning to campus from Monday 22nd February onwards.

As per my email from last week the main college campus will remain open on a limited basis for:

- students whose parents are critical workers
- students who have a social worker, or an EHCP, or other students who may be vulnerable
- students who are due to take exams.

For the remainder of students, your tutors will be in the process of contacting you and they will be starting to deliver remote classes. This will include delivering teaching and setting tasks for you to complete via MS Teams. They may also contact you via email or telephone.

It is really important that all students continue to engage in their studies and are available to engage with their tutors at the normal times of the week when they would have been attending College. Your continued engagement in college work is key to enabling you to complete your course and where relevant gain your qualification. This will also help to ensure you have the best opportunity for a positive future.

If any student has difficulty working remotely they should discuss this with their tutor in the first instance (e.g. access to a laptop or internet connection) and the college may be able to provide support. In some cases students will be supported to work remotely using their smart phone and/or through paper based tasks which will be posted to students.

The government has also announced this week that alternative arrangements will be put in place for GCSE exams this summer and we are awaiting further detailed guidance.

A limited number of examinations are currently planned to proceed and we will be reviewing any further guidance from awarding bodies and the government for each qualification as we move forward. **The college will contact students on a case by case basis where they are due to sit examinations this month.**

The college is also implementing voluntary COVID testing of staff and students who are required to be on campus. Pilot testing is currently underway and this will be rolled out to any staff and students who are on site over the course of the next week. The tests are designed to detect individuals who have COVID-19 but do not have any symptoms. The results are processed within 30 minutes and can help to reduce the risk of the virus being spread unknowingly. Information will be sent to all relevant students and parents/guardians on the voluntary testing programme before students are offered the opportunity to participate.

I appreciate these are difficult times for everyone and I would like to thank everyone for their patience and continuing your studies. If you have any queries or require support, please contact your tutor or email: info@iwcollege.ac.uk.

Debbie Lavin
Principal

*** Note on the use of language:** the college recognises that many people provide care and support in their home for students, this may include but is not limited to, parents, other family members, foster carers and other professionals. The college uses the term 'parent' to include all those people who provide care and support for people who study at the college. Similarly, the term 'child/son/daughter' is used to include all those young people that parents and carers provide a home and care and support for.