



**Myerscough
College**
Opportunities for all to succeed



Our Ref AR/JB/Letters2020/COVID19Letter to 14-16 Students 18.03.2020final

18 March 2020

Dear Parents / Guardians of 14-16 Students

The Colleges' Senior Leadership Team has been meeting daily to discuss corona virus planning and we are increasingly concerned about our ability to continue normal face to face delivery of our lessons whilst protecting our staff and students'. Since the Prime Minister's announcement about the need for extra groups of people to self-isolate our student and staff attendance at College has significantly dropped. There are also a number of our Myerscough team who despite having their own health conditions are selflessly continuing to come into work in order to try to continue the highest level of teaching support. This greatly concerns me. It has been critical to us to complete this week's classes as a number of our students have had external exams and assessments to complete.

I know the current situation has also been putting a great deal of strain on our students with many worrying about the next steps. Due to staffing difficulties and the need to ensure everyone's health and safety we have taken the decision to move to online and remote learning for our 14-16 students for this last week of term between Monday 23rd March to Friday 27th March. Students will then be on their Easter break from Monday 30th March until normal face to face classes are due to begin on Monday 20th April.

During the next week we will work with our 14-16 students largely through online learning systems such as utilising our VLE, Canvas, through utilising Office 365 and / or via Skype by the end of this teaching week. All of these remote learning systems are available to students through their usual student account. In some instances, it may be more appropriate for our staff to provide workbooks or direct students to textbooks or other materials. Each of our tutors will advise the students they teach on the preferred method of working together for the coming week.

The Library will remain open for students and buses will continue to operate as normal next week for our daytime students. Given safeguarding concerns for our 14-16 students we will be liaising with our partner high schools to ensure their safe return to school. Students should only come onto campus if requested to do so by their teachers and are supervised by them. Given our reduced staffing on site some of our key services will move to telephone and online support.

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Unfortunately, we have still received no information or advice at this stage about student exams from the Department for Education, exam awarding bodies or Ofqual (the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation).

The most important thing we can do is ensure that we continue to teach to the best of our ability and ensure that there are plenty of materials on our college virtual learning environment to prepare students for the forthcoming final assessments.

I appreciate that this continues to be a very stressful and challenging time for everyone. I would like to thank you all again for your continued support and patience to date. We know that there will continue to be disruption over the next few weeks. I hope that the additional measures we are putting in place help to ease some of your anxieties about your son / daughter's / ward's education, health and wellbeing.

We hope that after the next week our 14-16 students enjoy a well-earned rest over Easter and we look forward to resuming full face to face teaching from week commencing Monday 20th April. If there are any changes in the meantime we will continue to communicate with you by email, social media and on the College website.

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact your course team or our Manager with responsibility for 14-16 students, Laura Wallace on lwallace@myerscough.ac.uk

In the meantime, please take care of yourselves and each other.

Yours sincerely

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