

Dear Student/ Parent/ Carer,

COVID-19 Update: 5th January 2021

I hope that you and your families had a peaceful and restful Christmas break and managed to remain healthy and well. I would like to update you on the College's response to the Prime Minister's announcement yesterday. As you will be aware, we will enter a third "lockdown" from midnight tonight which will have a significant impact on how the College will operate. In line with the government directive, from tomorrow (6th Jan) all teaching and learning will move to online platforms. This means that students should access all their lessons from home following their regular timetable. Teachers will be sending out links for each lesson, shortly. Students who are unable to access lessons because they do not have the necessary technology or have connectivity problems should inform Mr Hull, as a matter of urgency, via email: k.hull@sfx.ac.uk

The College will remain open for all vulnerable learners and those with SEND who will be able to access their lessons on-site with the support of a learning assistant, if required.

Attendance and engagement with lessons will be monitored closely, therefore, it is important that normal absence procedures are followed if you are ill or unable to attend any of your on-line lessons.

January BTEC exams

We have been advised that all BTEC and CTEC exams **will** go ahead as planned. Students should therefore come into college to sit these examinations. There is pressure being levied at the government to reverse this decision but at this stage it is unlikely to change. **However, please check the college website and your college emails regularly for any updates.**

GCSE and A level examinations 2021

You may be aware that the Prime Minister announced that GCSE and A level examinations have been cancelled this summer. I know that this might cause significant frustration and anxiety for students and parents, especially as we are yet to find out what alternative arrangements will be in place. We have, to date, received no explicit guidance or information on what the government strategy will be in replacing the examinations; I expect there to be a specific announcement in the near future and I shall update you as soon as I receive it. In the meantime, you must work as though you will be sitting the examinations, completing all work set and preparing for course assessments thoroughly, as I am sure that evidence of on-going assessment will be required which will ultimately contribute to your final grades.

UCAS – Yr13

If you are a final year student who is yet to submit your UCAS form then it is imperative that you contact the careers department, as a matter of urgency, as the deadline for submission (15 January 2021) is fast approaching. Careers can be contacted via the following address: careers@sfx.ac.uk

Pastoral Care

I know how difficult it can be working from home and the impact this can have on one's own mental health. It is worth noting that all our college services will be operating as close to normal as possible. This includes our pastoral and welfare services. If you require specific pastoral or welfare support,

then it is essential that you let your personal tutor or subject teacher know who can then refer you to the appropriate service.

This is a concerning time for all of us and we shall, of course, continue to do everything possible to keep students and staff safe. I can only encourage all of the SFX community to follow the government's advice and to stay at home as far as is practicably possible.

In order to keep up to date with college advice and guidance I require all students to: check college emails and the college website regularly; engage with all remote lessons and complete all work set, assignments and assessments to the best of your ability; be as proactive as possible and to take responsibility for your own learning.

Best wishes,



Graham Thompson

Principal