



New College Stamford

ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE, BE OUTSTANDING

LETTER TO STUDENTS AND PARENTS

30 March 2020

Dear Student and Parent

I thought it would be helpful to update you on a few things and answer some of the questions that have been coming in.

Remote Learning

We are now in week two of remote learning and arrangements are working well. If you still need to borrow computer equipment please contact your lecturer in the first instance. If you require technical support, please email ITservices@stamford.ac.uk and provide your contact telephone number. One of our IT technicians will call back and talk you through a solution.

Easter Arrangements

The college term ends this Friday, 3 April. There will be no online sessions during the Easter break (Monday 6 to Friday 17 April) as some staff will be taking annual leave. However Google Classroom resources will still be available and students are encouraged to use this time to complete any tasks and assignments they have been set that will contribute to their overall achievement and grade. Contact with tutors will resume again on Monday 20 April.

Examinations and Achievement Grades

I know this is an area of great concern for students and parents. Although there will be no exams taking place this summer, the exams regulator, Ofqual, will ensure that students and adult learners can move on as planned to the next stage of their lives - starting university, college or an apprenticeship, getting a job or progressing in work. This is what we know so far about the plans:

- For academic qualifications (**A Levels and GCSEs**) Ofqual will develop a process which provides a calculated grade to each student which reflects their performance as fairly as possible. The exam boards will be asking teachers who know their students well to submit a set of evidence which will include performance in mock results as well as their judgement about the grade they believe the student would have received if exams had gone ahead. Ofqual will publish detailed information about this approach before Easter.
- As soon as possible after Easter Ofqual will also clarify arrangements for additional exams in autumn.
- Announcements on **technical and vocational qualifications** will be made after Easter, however Ofqual has released some early indications of their plans:
 - Qualifications used mainly 'for progression' (eg grades for university entry or to progress within college courses) will involve a similar estimation process to academic qualifications
 - Other qualifications will be adapted. However, if there are safety-critical or 'licence to practise' aspects to the qualification or the role, achievement of the qualification may have to be delayed.

We understand that this is a stressful time for those who were expecting to sit exams over the next few months but rest assured as soon as New College Stamford receives accurate information from Ofqual and our examining boards we will inform all students about the next phase.

For students progressing within New College Stamford, you can be assured that we will support you fully so that the changes to your normal studies don't disadvantage you. For your part, you need to continue to engage with your learning and take advantage of the support your tutors are providing through our online learning suite, Google Classroom.

Next steps and Progression

This term you have been discussing your next steps and considering options after this year with your student advisor or course tutor. It's really important that you continue to think about your intended progression at the end of the academic year and complete the online internal application form which is available via the Launchpad.

If you have not yet completed the online form please do so by 19 April. Further support and guidance on the process is available from your student advisor or tutor. Click here to access the form: <https://onlineforms.stamford.ac.uk/>

After Easter course tutors will review all applications and make conditional offers in line with the process.

Career Coach

If you are unsure about what you would like to do after this year why not take some time to access the College's website and use Career Coach which offers a number of features to help you with planning your next steps. Click here: <https://www.stamford.ac.uk/college-life/careers-advice-service-ceiaq>

With Career Coach you can:

- Take a Career Assessment to learn about yourself; Career Coach will give you career suggestions based on your interests
- Browse or search for careers; Career Coach will give you relevant data on wages, employment, and the training you need
- Browse or search for the available courses that lead to the career you want.

The 5 Ways to Wellbeing

Over the next few weeks it will be more important than ever to look after your mental health and wellbeing, as well as your physical health. The 5 Ways to Wellbeing promote 5 simple actions you and your family can take daily that will build up your health and wellbeing over the coming weeks. Click here to find out more: <https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/>

Don't forget the Student Launchpad has further information on the 5 Ways to Wellbeing and also contact details of external services and support available to you: <https://sites.google.com/stamford.ac.uk/mental-health-and-wellbeing/5-ways-to-well-being>

Best wishes
Janet

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