

18th March 2020

Dear Students

Coronavirus update

Currently, and in line with Government advice, the College remains open. We continue to work with our students in encouraging prevention of the spread of the virus through good handwashing hygiene, the catch it, bin it kill it approach and the use of sanitisers.

The Senior Leadership Team has developed a comprehensive plan with a series of measures to mitigate against any potential loss of learning that might occur as a result of the Coronavirus, including if the Government makes the decision to close all schools and colleges. This plan includes our approaches to remote learning. The Senior Leadership Team is working through this plan with the wider College Management Team and the staff body as a whole.

To support our teaching staff and tutors in the preparation of online materials and remote learning, should this be needed, we will be closing the College to students this Friday, 20th March for one day only. **We plan to then resume with normal timetables on Monday 23rd March.** We trust you will understand this action in ensuring that we are best prepared should it be necessary for us to close a campus or the College.

If you are presenting symptoms of a high temperature and a persistent cough then please follow the Public Health England Stay at Home guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>. This states that “if you live with others and you or one of them have symptoms of Coronavirus, then all household members must stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill”.

Please make sure that you notify the relevant campus by contacting the absence line (Alton campus: 01420 592200, Havant & South Downs campuses: 023 9387 9999) of any absences so that we are aware. Please use this line rather than contacting teachers or tutors directly.

If you have a chronic underlying health issue we understand that this may be a particularly anxious time and fully support your decision if you wish to self-isolate. The list of conditions includes conditions such as diabetes, lung disease, heart disease, high blood pressure and cancer. For further advice on this please visit the NHS 111 website.

As you will know there are questions to which we do not yet have immediate answers. These include future exam and assessment arrangements and university entrance requirements but we are in communication with the relevant external organisations and with our local Colleges to work together through these questions.

If your course involves a work placement, please take advice from your contact at your placement.

This continues to be an unprecedented situation and we continue to meet on a daily basis to review and respond. Updates to our plans will be posted by 6pm each day on the Coronavirus update page of our website <https://www.hsdac.ac.uk/coronavirus-update/>

We thank you for your continued understanding.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Myers', written in a cursive style.

Jon Myers
Vice Principal – Student Services

