

Bexhill College: Coronavirus update for Students and Parents/Carers

Tuesday 31st March 2020

This is our latest update for students and parents/carers. It contains some information we have provided previously – where this has not changed along with new information where we have this.

Updates

Throughout this difficult period, we remain committed to providing a high-quality education service for our students. These are unprecedented times with exceptional challenges, which are impacting on our ability to provide our normal services. As such, we have put arrangements in place for remote working for students until the College is able to reopen again for face to face lessons.

We are now updating the website on **Tuesdays and Thursdays** during term time or there is a significant announcement which necessitates an additional update. This will be updated by 6.30pm on those days. Please be aware that we may not be able to fully respond to that day's Government announcements but we will do so, as soon as we reasonably can.

Information from the Local Authority for Post 16 students

The Local Authority has provided the following information and links for post 16 students which you are your son or daughter may find useful.

<https://youthworksupport.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Covid-19-Young-people-final1.pdf>

County have also provided a link to ideas on home learning which may also be of interest.

<https://czone.eastsussex.gov.uk/media/6124/careers-home-learning-escs-march-27th.pdf>

Information from the DfE

The DfE provide daily updates to schools and Colleges and recommended yesterday's bulletin be brought to parents attention in terms of keeping students safe whilst on line.

The DfE have highlighted that it will be especially important for parents and carers to be aware of what their son or daughter is being asked to do online. Throughout this period, your son or daughter will be interacting with their teachers and personal tutor online. They may also be supported by a TA. If you are at all concerned, you should contact the College via email.

The DfE have also highlighted that some parents and carers may choose to supplement the school or college online offer with support from online companies and in some cases individual tutors. The DfE have asked that should parent choose to do this, they need to ensure they are completing safeguarding checks. Please ensure that any support you may

choose to engage for your son or daughter is via a reputable organisation/individual who can provide evidence that they are safe and can be trusted to have access to children.

The DfE has highlighted the following support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online:

- Internet matters - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- London Grid for Learning - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- Net-aware - for support for parents and careers from the NSPCC
- Parent info - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- Thinkuknow - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online
- UK Safer Internet Centre - advice for parents and carer

Exams and Grades

We are expecting guidance from Ofqual on how exam grades will be awarded this week. We appreciate students and parents will be anxious about how this will work. We do know it will include teacher assessment and therefore it is important that all students continue to engage in this.

For courses which are coursework based, such as the Extended Diplomas, Subsidiary Diplomas and the Certificates, we are anticipating that grading will be based on coursework grades so all students should be completing coursework as set.

Services on site

The College site is now closed to students. Reception continues to be manned every day so if anyone needs to contact a staff member and cannot do so by email, Reception are available to pick up calls.

The online learning process will continue to operate as outlined below however, lessons will not take place during the planned Easter holidays break ie from Monday 6th April to Friday 17th April inclusive. Online learning will restart on Monday 20th April 2020.

As per the Government requirements, we will continue to support our students on EHCPs, looked After Children and those classed as vulnerable through daily emails as we have done since remote learning started. Students may be supported by different staff over the holiday period to allow all staff to have a holiday. Specific details will be circulated to those individual students.

Online Learning:

Staff continue to work hard to develop and refine the content they are providing online. Over the past week, subject staff will have been in regular communication with their students with regard to their remote learning.

We continue to ask all our students to ensure they check the following on a daily basis until the Easter break and then restart this on Monday 20th April:

- Student Email
- College Website
- MOODLE
- Any other communication media which their courses use

With the current remote working situation, if students require any technical support, they can email: itsupport@bexhillcollege.ac.uk and the staff working remotely will endeavour to resolve any IT queries students may have in relation to their college account or accessing any of the services the college offers.

Online TA support has been allocated to those students who receive additional support already for their studies, to help facilitate their online learning.

Unless ill or unable to be available for other reasons, staff are following the usual timetabled periods and will be available online at usual lesson and tutorial times to respond to student queries. If staff are unable to respond during these times, students will be informed about alternative arrangements.

Online Student Services support remains available for students who need information on financial or student welfare matters.

UCAS Update for 2020 Applicants:

In case you did not see this in the Friday update, we have received this information from UCAS:

May's UCAS undergraduate decision and reply deadlines have been changed to give students and their chosen universities and colleges the extra time they need to fully consider any decisions and offer, and ensures fairness in admissions is maintained:

Original date	UCAS Undergraduate deadline	New date
5 May 2020	The deadline for applicants to reply to any offers received by 31 March 2020.	19 May 2020
6 May 2020	The deadline for universities and colleges to make decisions and reply to applications received by 15 January 2020.	20 May 2020

Cleo Morgan, our Higher Education Administrator is available for advice and guidance. She can be contacted at: cleomorgan@bexhillcollege.ac.uk

Guidance for Parents and Carers on Supporting Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-on-supporting-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health-and-wellbeing-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

Safeguarding:

If you have a safeguarding concern, you should report it to the Safeguarding Team using this email address: safeguardingteam@bexhillcollege.ac.uk. This email is monitored everyday between 8.30 and 4.30 Monday to Friday.

Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding.

Karen Hucker
Principal