

Bexhill College: Coronavirus update for Students and Parents/Carers: Exam Grade Update

Friday 3rd April 2020

This is our latest update for students and parents/carers. As we have said, we are issuing an interim update as the information regarding grading A, AS and GCSE exams has been received.

Exams Updates

A/AS Level Exams and GCSE Exams

Following yesterday's update, we have now received the information on the awarding of exam grades for A level, AS level and GCSE qualifications. The staff will be working through the processes required after the Easter break.

Ofqual have released a letter for parents/carers which sets out the process and the detail we are able to provide parents/carers through this process. This link to this is below.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/877830/Letter_to_students_-_Summer_2020_grading.pdf

Remote teaching for A level and GCSE Courses from 20th April 2020

A levels and GCSE courses – Remote teaching will continue where the content of the courses has not been completed. This is intended to ensure students have covered everything needed to support them with progression and to provide an opportunity for students to keep occupied during lockdown. Any teaching from this point forward will not impact grading so students can choose if they wish to participate. Information for each subject will be on the subject MOODLE page after the Easter break.

Some subjects who have completed their content want to continue offering contact with students for the students' well-being and wish to offer an opportunity to participate in activity during the week. Again, participation is entirely up to the student and details will be on the subject MOODLE page after the Easter break.

Similar provision will also be made for our vulnerable students via the Study Centre.

Remote teaching for AS courses

Remote teaching will continue as students need to complete all of their specifications to have the knowledge needed for A level study next year when exams will be back to normal. In normal circumstances, AS teaching would move to second year teaching after exams, so continuing teaching will take this into account. Students will need to engage in online learning to be able to progress to year 2 successfully and to give them the best change of performing well in next year's A level exams.

Vocational Courses

There has not been any confirmation yet regarding the grading of vocational courses and therefore, for the time being, students should continue to engage in online learning activities and completing assignments as required by staff. These courses, such as the First Diplomas, Extended Diplomas, Subsidiary Diplomas and the Certificates are heavily coursework based. We are therefore anticipating that grading will be based on coursework grades so all students should be completing coursework as set.

Once we have an update on this, we will confirm how we will be dealing with those courses for grading and going forward.

The College closes today for students for the Easter break and reopens on Monday 20th April when we will resume remote lessons all vocational students on level 1, 2 and 3 courses. As we have always highlighted, it is important students engage in these until their courses are officially 'finished' and the process of grades being awarded concluded.

Previous information which you may have missed

Services on site

The College site is now closed to students. The site is closed completely until Tuesday 14th April however, 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:

- 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, out 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