

## **Bexhill College: Coronavirus update for Students and Parents/Carers**

### **Thursday 14th May 2020**

**This is our latest weekly 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.**

The College site is closed to students, 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.

There is currently a mix of lesson-based activity for students depending on the year they are in and the Government directive. 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. Information on this for all courses is given below in the information previously published section. This is happening in different ways for different courses so it is important you read the information for the different courses your son or daughter studies.

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.

### **Teaching for second year students – A level and Vocational Year 2 courses and Results Day**

As we approach half term, in a typical year, second year students would be completing courses and going on study leave. Of course, this is not a typical year however, any ongoing delivery for second year students where staff are ensuring students have covered all content for progression purposes, will soon be complete. We will continue to provide updates on exam issues and we wish all our students good luck with whatever they do next.

Results will be released on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August via the student portal and students have been issued with the ‘Results and After’ booklet through tutorial which outlines the support available on that day. The booklet is also on the student and parent portal.

In summary, there will be support in College or on line from 8.00am – 12.00pm for those students who are aiming for university but need advice following their results.

For second year students who wish to return to College for another year, there will be information on how to apply for that on the student portal on that morning as well. A form will be provided which has to be returned by 1.00pm on 13<sup>th</sup> August. Once a student has indicated a wish to return, they will be offered an interview, which is likely to be by phone, to discuss their options for 20/21.

## HE Options for leavers – HNDs at Bexhill College September 2020 – a message from the Director of Higher Education

Your son or daughter is coming to the end of their Level 3 studies at a difficult time. They maybe thinking about what to do next and perhaps haven't thought about a Level 5 at the College. Given the current uncertainty about jobs and travel, it might be worth them considering this type of study which could provide them with the next level of education and better job prospects when this all settles down. The College is here to help them.

The HNDs at College are part-time so your son or daughter can undertake a job alongside; the classes are usually on Mondays and Tuesdays. ( 1 afternoon and 2 evenings) The fee is covered by a student loan and we can help your son or daughter navigate getting one of those.

The HNDs are two-year courses and we offer them in:

- Business
- Health
- Early years
- Performing arts
- Creative media

Your son or daughter does not need to have studied a Level 3 in the subject area to be able to apply for a Level 5 course.

The courses are classified as a full-time university level, equivalent to the first 2 years at university. Following this study, you will have the option to progress to a 1-year top up course at a university to achieve a full BA Hons Degree.

For more information about these courses, please visit our website - [www.bexhillcollege.ac.uk/highereducation](http://www.bexhillcollege.ac.uk/highereducation).

To apply for one of these courses the returners form is attached for your son or daughter to complete by May 18<sup>th</sup> 2020

The courses are suitable for college leavers and mature students so if you are thinking of your own career progression or a change in career there is an application form link on the website link above

If you have any questions about the HNDs, you can email Louise Davison on [louisedavison@bexhillcollege.ac.uk](mailto:louisedavison@bexhillcollege.ac.uk)

*"I would recommend the HND in Early Years at Bexhill College to anyone that is looking to continue their studies, but isn't quite ready to make that big step of going to university. I personally felt that going straight from college to university was daunting. However, when I found out about this course which I could study at a university level at the college campus, I thought great. It meant I was able to study at college and work at the same time. The tutors always made me feel welcome and gave the support that you needed, when you needed it, with brilliant ways of teaching the many different units. The group of people that were attending the course was small, however, this was nice because we all got to know one and other, made friends and gave each other support and advice when needed. Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed the course and would recommend to anyone who is wanting to further their studies into education." Alex, Early Years HND 2017-2019*

## **Andrew Wright Seminars**

The College has been working with Andrew Wright this year to support student well-being. Andrew is offering free Well-Being Webinars for Key Workers as detailed below. These webinars are full of practical, actionable strategies to manage our day to day well-being during these challenging times. if you'd like to sign up [click here](#).

- Tue 12 May 4 - 4:30pm - Well-Being Is A Skill (Why Did No-One Tell Me This Before)
- Tue 19 May 4 –4:30pm - What Are We Like (Living Positively In A Negatively Biased Brain)
- Tue 26 May 4 –4:30pm - Feeling It, Emotional First Aid (Emotional Hygiene )
- Tue 2 June 4 - 4:30pm - Opening Your Parachute (Stress Awareness and What To Do)
- Tue 9 Jun 4– 4:30pm - The Daily Plan (Being Our Best Selves In Tough Times)

Poster about the [webinars is here](#), if you have any questions do email Andrew at [andrewwright@aypuk.com](mailto:andrewwright@aypuk.com)

## **Governor Vacancy**

The College will have a vacancy for a Governor from the parent body from September 2020 and are therefore seeing applications now. The successful candidate will need to be a parent or legal guardian of a current student when the term of office begins. Applications should be emailed to the Clerk by Friday June 5<sup>th</sup> 2020. Full details and an application form can be found on the College website at the following link:

<https://www.bexhillcollege.ac.uk/docs2/about/governors.shtml>.

## **Reopening of College for First Year Students**

Many parents and students will be keeping up to date with the Government briefings regarding the reopening of schools and colleges and the ambition that year 12 students will have some face to face 'teaching' with their teachers 'before the summer break'.

Understandably, there are lots of questions to answer about how this might work in practice and of course the safety issues associated with bringing larger numbers of staff and students back into a college environment. As you would expect, the safety of the whole college community and their families is paramount. In addition, we will want to ensure that the learning still continues in an effective way for students.

We are awaiting further guidance on this, which we understand will follow shortly. Once we have this, we will be considering what we can offer given the design of our buildings, the safety processes we can put in place and how we can ensure a high quality delivery for student. We will keep parents and students informed via this briefing.

## Information previously published

### Coursework deadline

As previously outlined, for any students completing coursework or other work for courses where grades are submitted this year, the deadline for this is **15<sup>th</sup> May 2020** to allow time for marking and to allow staff to meet the deadline for submission of centre assessed grades to the exam boards. Please make sure your son or daughter liaises with their teaching staff to ensure they meet this deadline.

### Centre Assessed Grades

We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and students about the process for the Centre Assessed Grades. These are the grades which the College will submit for each student for their courses. These will be provided for the majority of our courses and will need to be finalised by staff before half term to meet the expected window to upload the data.

Ofqual has yet to fully confirm the full details on Centre Assessed Grades, however, it is clear that the teachers and managers within Colleges are not allowed to reveal Centre Assessed Grades or the process behind the award of these grades to any student or parent/guardian. To do so places that teacher or manager at risk of accusations of malpractice and could negatively impact on the grades of all students and the ability of the College to award results/deliver examinations in the future.

We would appreciate your support by you not emailing or contacting staff requesting information about grades or the grading process. Teacher and managers will follow the guidelines, when they are finalised as set out by Ofqual and will ensure that the grades we submit do not disadvantage our students in anyway against students from other educational institutions. Staff have been asked not to respond to communication concerning these two issues.

## Exams

### Results Days

As previously reported, it has been confirmed that Results Days for 2020 will remain as originally published. These are

- A/AS Level & other level 3 results day – Thursday 13th August 2020
- GCSE results day - Thursday 20th August 2020

Please put these dates in your diary. The College will issue details on how results will be issued, support available on those days and re-interview for return to College in September where needed later this term. This will be via student emails, tutorial slides and the parent update.

## **Online Learning:**

Staff continue to work hard to develop and refine the content they are providing online. In line with the updates on teaching and learning below, subject staff will have been in regular communication with their students since the College closed for face to face lessons with regard to their remote learning.

All students should continue to ensure they check the following on a daily basis:

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

It is important students regularly check email and also look at the weekly tutorial slides as these will contain useful information including the following over the coming weeks:

- Results day processes for second year students including results day UCAS support
- Leavers form which will be needed as part of the deposit return process
- Returned information for first year students and single year students who are returning to college in September

Many of these processes will be different this year due to Covid-19. Many will be remote and it is important students follow the guidance issues to gain the support needed.

With the current remote working situation, if students require any technical support, they can email: [itsupport@bexhillcollege.ac.uk](mailto: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.

## **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.

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**

On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April. Ofqual released information on the grading of vocational courses. For year 2, level 2 and level 1 courses, this means that any teaching from this point forward will not impact grading. Students should therefore be completing any assignment work set to date and all work should be completed by 15<sup>th</sup> May for assessment purposes.

We do not have the specific detail of how grades will be awarded as yet but are aware that, as we have previously said, this will be a teacher assessed grade as with A/AS levels and GCSEs. However, the key difference is that these courses have a significant amount of coursework which will impact on the award of grades as students will have completed a proportion of this to date. Therefore, students should continue to 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 completed to date at the very least and therefore, all students should be completing coursework as set.

Remote teaching may 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. In addition, 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.

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

### **Competency based vocational courses**

Some of the vocational students are on competency based courses or courses which give them a license to practice when they achieve their qualifications. These are:

- Personal training
- Sports massage
- Catering
- Hairdressing and barbering
- Early years
- Arts award where work experience is mandatory

For these courses, there may be a requirement to complete all theory and practical elements which have not been completed to date. In some cases, online teaching will continue until June as would be the case if the College were open to enable students to achieve this. For others, students should complete all theory elements by 15<sup>th</sup> May. Please refer to your subject tutors for guidance on your particular course.

We are aware that the Awarding Bodies and Ofqual will issue further guidance on competency courses and we will confirm any further requirements students have to undertake as part of these courses when we are made aware.

### **Year 1 vocational courses**

Remote teaching continues for these courses with online lessons continuing at the usual scheduled timetabled times. Please ensure you follow the guidance of your teachers. Students need to complete all of their specifications to have the knowledge needed for study next year when assessment processes and exams will be back to normal. 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 next year.

### **Safeguarding:**

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

Thank you for your ongoing support during this unprecedented time .

Karen Hucker  
Principal