

Bexhill College: Coronavirus update for Students and Parents/Carers

Thursday 21st May 2020

This is our weekly update for students and parents/carers. It contains some information we have provided previously for your convenience where this has not changed and some new information where we have updates. Please note, there will not be an update next week as it is half term. The next update will be 4th June 2020.

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 staff are available to pick up calls.

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.

Reopening of College for First Year Students

Many parents and students will be keeping up to date with the Government briefings regarding the phased reopening of schools and colleges. The ambition is that year 12 students will have some face-to-face 'teaching' with their teachers 'before the summer break'. However, there is flexibility in terms of exactly what this looks like for each college and there is an understanding that different colleges will have different solutions to this, depending on their individual circumstances. Some of the guidance, such as students staying in one room with one teacher, is less appropriate at post 16 particularly where students take 3 different A levels or are studying a complex vocational course with specialist units and specialist teachers. There has been much discussion about what will work and be valuable for the post 16 age group, particularly where Colleges are delivering on line teaching which is working well.

As a result of the complexities of the College environment, there are lots of questions to answer about how a phased reopening might work in practice and of course the safety issues associated with bringing larger numbers of students and staff 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.

Therefore, we will not be reopening on 1st June for normal classes and teaching for first year students will remain online. Therefore students should continue to access their lessons as they have done so up to this point.

However, we will be continuing to support the vulnerable and high needs students in College where that support is needed along with a small number of students who need teaching assistant support to complete their work.

We will also be asking students on certain competency based courses who may need to complete any outstanding practical assessments or professional exams where needed to complete those so they are able to gain their qualifications this year. This expectation has been previously outlined in these updates.

Students should only attend college if they have been individually contacted about coming in. At this point, they will be told clearly where and when they should attend. They will be expected to follow the social distancing requirements the college has in place at all times to protect the safety of the other students and staff. If students are unable to do this, they will be asked to leave the premises.

Over the coming weeks, 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 students. We will keep parents and students informed via this briefing.

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 13th 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 13th 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

Last week we highlighted the opportunities we have in College for students to study an HND with us after finishing their level 3 studies.

The HNDs at College are part-time so students can undertake a job alongside; the classes are usually on Mondays and/or Tuesdays. The fee is covered by a student loan and we can help students access this

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

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

Students do not need to have studied a Level 3 in the subject area to be able to apply for one of these courses but they do need an interest in the subject area.

The courses are classified as a full-time university level, equivalent to the first 2 years at university. Following this study, students 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.

If you have any questions about the HNDs, you can email Louise Davison on louisedavison@bexhillcollege.ac.uk

Free Seminars for parents

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 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

Elevate Education Free Parent Seminar

The College has also worked with Elevate Education this year and they are also offering a free seminar for parents.

Event Title: How to help your child manage their time effectively and overcome distractions at home

Date: [Tuesday 26th May 2020](#)

Time: [6:00 – 7:00 pm](#)

Cost: Free

Sign-up Link: <https://www.elevatecoaching.info/webinar-uk-2/>

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 5th 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>.

Information previously published

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 these are being finalised in line with Ofqual requirements.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents/guardians and students 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 continued support by you not emailing or contacting staff requesting information about grades or the grading process. All grades will go through a rigorous internal moderation and external standardisation process. 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 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 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.

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.

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. 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.

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 during this unprecedented time .

Karen Hucker
Principal