

COVID-19

Communications Update
Week Commencing 23 March 2020

fareham.ac.uk

01329 815 200

CEMAST CETC BUSINESS PLUS

OUTSTANDING





PROTECT THE NHS

save lives



The action the College is taking adheres to the guidance 'Stay home, Protect the NHS, Save lives.'

This factsheet is a reminder of the information sent to students and parents/guardians/carers from the College in the last week.

CAMPUS CLOSURES

In line with government guidance, it is with deep regret that we have decided to close our CEMAST and CETC campuses in Lee-on-the-Solent until further notice. Our Bishopsfield Road campus will remain open between 08.30 and 17.00. For those of you who use the nursery, this will remain open for children of keyworkers and vulnerable children.

STAY SAFE

Following government guidance and to ensure that we continue to keep our students and staff safe, we have implemented the following measures:

- / From Monday 23rd March ALL lessons across ALL provisions, Full Time, Higher Education, Part Time and Apprenticeships including English and Maths will be delivered online until further notice.
- / All learning materials have been updated onto our Virtual Learning Environment (oracle) site. Students are to follow their usual timetable. Tutors have contacted students to inform distance learning arrangements.
- / We will do everything we can to support our students to achieve their qualifications via online learning. Mock exams are cancelled and we have already been told that summer series exams will not run in their current form, but we do not yet know how the assessment of all qualifications will be mitigated. We will inform you when we know more. The majority of our students are assessed by assignment and we can continue to support their learning.
- / All work experience has ceased.
- / All trips and visits have been cancelled.
- / The onsite gym, restaurant and salon are closed.
- / All meetings involving external visitors have been cancelled.

The announcement of closure exempts provision of services for the children of key workers and those with EHCP's, Looked After Children and those in receipt of Free School Meals. Following the Government's announcement that the country is in lock down, and whilst schools were asked to provide on-site education for children of key workers and vulnerable children, we have found that, being a post-16 setting, no students have attended. We will not actively encourage attendance on the basis the guidance states "If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be." Therefore, the College's expectation is that all students will remain at home, following their usual timetable and will access their learning remotely. Our vulnerable children and their parents have already been contacted and consulted regarding appropriate arrangements for their learning.

For students entitled to free college meals and vulnerable bursaries; students and parents have been contacted to confirm bank details and payments should be made into student accounts on Friday. The College has made payments for this week and the next seven consecutive weeks. If you have any queries regarding student finance payments, please email, Debbie.Goodall@fareham.ac.uk or call Student Services on 01329 815 139.

All students are reminded to access their college email account for further information and updates. If unable to do so, please email info@fareham.ac.uk for assistance.

ABSENCE REPORTING

Your child does not need to tell us if they are accessing their learning remotely and not coming into college. Their attendance at their usual timetabled lessons will be monitored and recorded through Microsoft Teams by their tutor. If however, your child is sick during this period please, phone into the attendance line on 01329 815 200 or email attendance@fareham.ac.uk and ask them to keep communicating with their teacher/coach where possible regarding their health. Please inform us if you consider the sickness absence to be related to Coronavirus there will be solutions to all problems. Please ask your child to contact their teachers/tutors/coaches for specific support with Microsoft Teams as well as other applications that they may be using.

BE REMOTE READY

We have emailed the remote ready guidance to students so that they are able to access their learning remotely from Monday 23 March. If your child is struggling to gain access to their learning remotely, there is further guidance and help available on our website at www.fareham.ac.uk/IT-support.

EXAMS

The Government has published information on the cancellation of GCSEs and A-levels saying, "exam boards will be asking teachers to submit judgments about the grades they think their students would have received if exams had gone ahead. Teachers will have to take into account a range of evidence and data, such as mock exam results and other schoolwork. This will be combined with information from other relevant data, such as pupils' previous attainment, to calculate their grades." We await further information from the awarding bodies but will continue to support our students in attaining the qualifications they need. We will update you when we know more details.

STUDENT AND PARENT WELLBEING

Due to further Government advice to stay home and stay safe, it is important to look after yours and your family's wellbeing. We will be posting useful hints and tips on both our website and social media accounts over the next few weeks. Also, students can access resources on our Oracle site and should you require any wellbeing advice or support please email: safe@fareham.ac.uk.

This is a rapidly changing situation and we respect the decisions that parents may be making for themselves and their families, particularly if there are other vulnerabilities in the family home and beyond.

At this point, the Government advice is to stay at home and only leave for one of four very limited purposes.

If you, your child or another family member has a new continuous cough and/or high temperature (37.8 degrees or higher), please contact the College attendance line on 01329 8152 00 or email: attendance@fareham.ac.uk.

We are in a challenging national public health emergency; I strongly encourage you to discuss with your child the need to follow government advice in order to suppress the spread of Coronavirus.

Many thanks,
Andrew Kaye, Principal and Chief Executive

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