

CORONAVIRUS – COVID-19 LETTER TO STUDENTS AND PARENTS

20 March 2020

Dear Student and Parent

As previously communicated we have worked tirelessly to ensure remote working and learning can take place. Clearly, this is easier for some courses than others. We will continue to do our utmost to ensure that learners make progress, and we ask for your patience over the coming weeks, as we embed recently developed systems and processes to enable this to happen on this scale.

This letter will focus on arrangements for week commencing 23 March 2020. We have been scenario planning for a number of weeks and have always planned to offer a small scale onsite operation to provide vital services for our vulnerable students who need us to provide food and essential support, where it is safe and possible to do so.

The Department for Education guidance, released 19 March 2020 can be accessed here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

College Nursery

I had hoped to be able to operate the nursery for key worker children but unfortunately a number of nursery staff are having to self-isolate due to their own health needs and therefore we do not have the staffing capacity to open next week. Therefore, the nursery will close Friday 20 March. We have been working with parents over the last few days as well as contacting other nursery providers who may be able to provide a service. Separate and more detailed communications have been issued to parents of our nursery children.

University Centre Peterborough

As per the Department for Education guidance there will be no access to campus for University Centre Peterborough students. It is far safer for all students and staff to stay at home. All students are able to learn and work remotely and there is specific information and contact points for our Higher Education students available at www.ucp.ac.uk

Peterborough Regional College

It is absolutely clear that every child or young person who can be safely cared for at home should be. Self-isolation and social distancing is the safest option for students and staff. However, from 23 March there will be a small team of staff on site between 10am – 3pm for:

1. Students of critical workers who are unable to be safely cared for at home
2. Vulnerable students who are unable to be safely cared for
3. Students who require food or other essential services

We are contacting you directly if you fall into this category so that we can talk to you about your needs. If you feel you require this support and have yet to be contacted please contact 0345 8728722 between 10am – 3pm on Monday. We will also be able to discuss your travel arrangements to enable you to access this provision.

We will review our onsite operation and requirements on a daily basis.

Exams

I know some of you will be worried about your exams after Wednesday's announcement from the government. This is clearly an unprecedented situation and we are not fully aware of the approach government and specifically Ofqual for our further education provision and our validating partner universities for our higher education provision will take. However, I can assure you that Peterborough Regional College and University Centre Peterborough will be able to respond and will do so swiftly. We will ensure our students are supported and that we take all available steps to ensure students are able to progress to their next step.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank all my staff at Peterborough Regional College Group who have worked tirelessly this week with energy and positivity, demonstrating immense resilience and innovation. To those staff who have volunteered to provide an onsite service to students next week, I sincerely thank you for your commitment and dedication.

Best Wishes
Rachel

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