

COVID-19

Curriculum Statement

03.04.2020

College closure

The College will remain closed in line with the government requirement until further notice. The College is not yet in a position to indicate when it will open again.

Students should now be very familiar with how to access and engage with online learning. Where students have not been engaging with their online learning sessions the College will have been endeavouring to make contact with them to help them get back on track. The College is very conscious that learners need to complete all the pre-requisite learning and associated internal assessments to ensure that they remain on track to succeed and achieve. Whilst normal timetabled classes or day release sessions will not take place during the Easter break staff will set work for learners to complete. Assessors will continue to work with apprentices during the Easter break to ensure that they stay on track against their learning plan. Welfare and student support services will still be accessible to students during the Easter period.

Ofqual Announcement – GCSE and A Levels

Ofqual have provided more detailed guidance today to schools and Colleges regarding how grades will be awarded for GCSE and A Levels. The College is required to submit two key items of information to the exam boards for students due to sit A level and GCSE exams this summer which are:

- The grade we believe each learner would have achieved if they had sat the examinations in the Summer
- Within each subject, the order of students by performance for each grade

The deadline for the return of this information is the end of May. A copy of the letter outlining more detailed information for learners and parents can be found at the end of this statement.

Teaching and Learning Expectation

The College would like to be clear on the expectation for different groups of learners in the summer term.

A Level Year 13

Students in year 13 who would have normally been sitting their final exams this summer are required to continue with their learning after Easter. It is the expectation of the College that students will finish all aspects of the syllabus as well as any support sessions that are designed to help learners with their progression to higher level learning or employment. Further guidance will be provided by the 6th Form and respective subject teachers through your MS Teams learning sites.

A Level Year 12

Students in year 12 who are not sitting their final A level exams until next summer are required to continue with their normal lessons online up to the end of the academic year. Year 12 exams will be held in June albeit online and we expect students to be working hard towards this key assessment point.

GCSE Maths and English

GCSE learners are expected to continue to engage with their learning online up to May half term. It is crucial that students continue to develop, practice and apply their skills in support of their next progression.

Functional Skills

Functional skills exams will proceed as normal and the College is currently working with awarding bodies to enable online assessments to potentially be completed at home. Learners and apprentices must continue to engage with learning and assessment being set by tutors online. We recognise that progression and apprenticeship completion is dependent on learners completing their functional skills external assessments successfully. We will be regularly updating learners and apprentices on exam flexibilities and adjustments by the awarding bodies that we use.

Technical and Vocational Qualifications

We know that external assessments and exams for many technical and vocational qualifications will be replaced by other internal assessments or a predicted grade that will be based on a learner's performance across all other assessed units (assuming these units have been completed). It is essential that learners continue to engage with their normal learning sessions throughout the summer term. Your tutors will advise you on how any practical assessments will be completed and any adjustments to the expectations of the awarding body for your specific qualification. If you are a first year learner on a two year programme you will be required to continue to engage in all of your learning and complete all 1st year units. If you are required to complete an industry placement in 2020-21 you will be supported to start the planning process for this. Learners hoping to progress to other programmes in the College in 2020-21 are reminded that completion of your current programme is a pre-requisite entry requirement. Curriculum teams will be interviewing learners who wish to progress to the next level between Easter and May half term.

Apprenticeships

The college has provided guidance to employers regarding the continuation of training for apprentices. The following summarises the current position for apprentices:

- Each apprentice will be given a clear plan of learning for April and May. This plan will be uploaded to the Learning Plan section of SMART assessor. Whilst the College is closed training will be delivered through a number of electronic platforms including Skype, Microsoft Teams and SMART Assessor. Assessors and the Training and Development Managers for each industry sector will be working with employers and their apprentices to ensure all parties know what they should be doing, how they can access learning and how they can get further support should they need it. It is likely that apprentices will be working on a range of knowledge and skills based activities online that link to their standard or framework. Maths, English and digital skills development will also be a focus. It may be possible for an apprentice to get ahead during this period and complete a significant proportion of the off the job training helping to reduce this requirement once they return to their normal working pattern. Apprentices who have been furloughed can continue with their off the job training and should continue to engage with this learning online through the platforms outlined above.
- Progress reviews of apprentices will continue and we will endeavour to help employers remain an active participant in this process albeit remotely in many cases.

- Apprentices who are due to have their end point assessment in the next two months may face a delay. The College is working with End Point Assessment Organisations (EPAO's) to determine if alternative arrangements can be used for the EPA. The College and its assessors will appraise apprentices of these and support them to prepare for any adapted assessment processes.
- The Government has announced that where there is a specified time limit for EPA post gateway, a further pause of 12 weeks is now allowable. The College will work directly with employers and apprentices on the scheduling of these assessments and any associated implications or logistics.
- The government has confirmed that apprentices whose gateway is delayed can have an extension to the assessment timeframe. The College will work directly with employers and apprentices on the scheduling of these assessments and any associated implications or logistics.



GCSE, AS and A level students in England

3 April 2020

A message for all GCSE, AS and A level students this summer

I understand how unsettling the past weeks have been for you, since the [announcement that exams have been cancelled this summer, and that you are urgently waiting for news](#). I wanted to let you know what we are doing to provide you with grades. Our over-riding aim in this is to be fair to students this summer and to make sure you are not disadvantaged in your progress to sixth form, college, university, apprenticeships, training or work because of these unprecedented conditions.

How will grades be calculated?

Your school or college will be asked to send exam boards two pieces of information for each of your subjects, based on what they know about your work and achievements:

- the grade they believe you were most likely to get if teaching, learning and exams had happened as planned
- within each subject, the order of students at your school or college, by performance, for each grade. This information will be used to standardise judgements – allowing fine tuning of the standard applied across schools and colleges

Your school or college will consider a range of things like your classwork and homework; your results in assignments and any mock exams; any non-exam assessment or coursework you might have done; and your general progress during your course.

This information will allow us, with exam boards, to standardise grades across schools and colleges, to make sure that, as far as possible, results are fair and that students are not advantaged or disadvantaged because their schools or colleges are more generous or harsh than others when

making those judgements. That means the final grade you get could be different from the one your school or college sends to the exam board.

Do I need to complete any new work for my school/college to submit a grade?

Your school or college is not required to set additional mock exams or homework for your centre assessment grade, and you won't be disadvantaged if you were not set, or were unable to complete, any work given out after schools were closed.

Can I see the grades my school/college submits for me?

No, this information will be confidential. Please don't ask your teachers, or anyone else at your school or college, to tell you the grades they will be sending to the exam boards or where they have placed you in the order of students; they will not be allowed to share this with you.

I am a private candidate – what does this mean for me?

If you are a private candidate (for example, home-schooled, following distance-learning programmes or studying independently) the centre you are entering with should include you where the head teacher or principal is confident that they and their staff have seen sufficient evidence of your achievement to make an objective judgement. We are urgently exploring whether there are alternative options for those students who do not have an existing relationship with a centre and who need results this summer to progress. Unfortunately this is unlikely to be possible for all private candidates, some of whom may instead need to take exams in the autumn to get their grades.

We appreciate that this is a matter of real concern to private candidates and will provide an update as soon as possible. We have asked organisations that represent universities and FE colleges to consider the steps that providers could take when making admissions decisions this summer for any private candidates who do not receive a grade. They have told us that they believe that institutions will consider a range of other evidence and information for these students to allow them to progress wherever possible.

When will I get my results?

We're working hard to get results out as soon as is possible – results won't be delayed after the dates they were expected in August, and ideally they will be issued a little earlier, so you can have the certainty you need.

Can I take my exams another time?

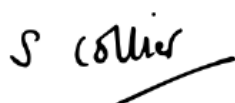
We are working with exam boards to offer additional exams in the autumn term as soon as it is possible to do so. We'll let you know about these in the coming weeks.

The information we have published covers GCSEs, AS and A levels, plus Extended Project Qualifications and Additional Extension Awards in maths. You can find out more about which qualifications and students are included, and the current arrangements for those which are not, in our [detailed guidance](#); along with answers to other questions that you and your parents or carers might have. We will keep updating our guidance as new

information becomes available, including to share details about vocational and technical qualifications as soon as we can, so please keep an eye on our website.

Please be reassured that the grades you get this summer will look exactly the same as in previous years, and they will have equal status with universities, colleges and employers, to help you move forward in your lives as planned.

With every best wish,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Collier', with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

Sally Collier

Chief Regulator, Ofqual