



South Thames Colleges Group

27 March 2020

Dear students and families

Corona Virus (Covid-19) – update 27.03.20

We are now reaching the end of our first week of College closure and are very sad that we're not in our buildings, mixing together and working closely with each other.

But learning has continued and so many of you have adapted well to these strange times. Thank you very much for taking the opportunity and turning a tough situation to the good. We're trying to share good news stories and positive messages across our websites and social media to help us all feel connected.

We will continue to run learning into next week, but parts of our curriculum will take an Easter break and then be ready to get going again after that. Your teachers will tell you how this will work and what you need to do.

We can confirm that for all FE students, exams are cancelled and new arrangements are being put in place for assessing coursework. For HE students, assessment formats may change, but are likely to continue in some form. We're written separately to you with more detail. The latest guidance on GCSEs and other public exams from the Government is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020>

If you're struggling with the challenge, though, we do have some resources to help support you and give you the strength to carry on. This site has some useful ideas and links to other sources of support:

https://parentinfo.org/article/how-to-look-after-your-family-s-mental-health-when-you-re-stuck-indoors?utm_source=Thinkuknow&utm_campaign=03cb8440df-TUK_ONLINE_SAFETY_AT_HOME_24_03_20&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0b54505554-03cb8440df-64707681

I can't say how long this will go on for. We have to be ready for a sustained period of closure though, probably months. It'll be tough, but we're not going to give up and we will get through this alongside you.

Please continue to be very self-disciplined and rigorous about your hygiene and social distancing, isolating yourself if you need to.

We all wish you well and hope you'll take very good care of yourselves,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "P. Mayhew-Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and a long, sweeping underline.

Peter Mayhew-Smith
Group Principal and CEO