

Monday 16 March 2020

To all our students, apprentices, parents, staff and stakeholders

A statement from the Leadership Team

On COVID-19 and how the BCoT Group will act in response

It is becoming very apparent that the UK, along with many other countries, is about to enter a period of unprecedented uncertainty and difficulty which will impact us all. It appears most likely that this will be over a period of months, not weeks, and that we must all expect to make significant adjustments to our normal daily lives.

At the moment there is a lot we don't know. We don't know how things will develop and what actions will need to be taken. We don't know if the college will be required to remain open throughout or be required to close. We don't know how many staff and students will be affected and we don't know how examinations, UCAS and other key academic processes will be impacted.

The purpose of this note is for us, as senior leaders of the College group, to tell you how we will act and be guided throughout this period, and to give you assurance that we are doing everything we can to secure successful outcomes for our students and apprentices this year in what are extremely challenging circumstances.

We will always follow the advice and direction of Government, but we want to assure you that in doing so our top priorities will always be:

- The health, welfare and safety of our community – our staff, students, apprentices and their families; and
- Continuing and completing the education and training of our students and apprentices

This is a time when we will need to work together and be committed to implementing all available reasonable actions to achieve these priorities.

The key characteristics we will need are:

- Understanding – this is an unprecedented situation that cannot be accurately forecast and for which no one has a perfect solution
- Empathy – appreciating that as individuals, we will have different views and concerns and that everyone's view are important
- Willingness – to do whatever is needed to achieve our aims
- Flexibility – be prepared to adjust our plans and actions, sometimes at short notice
- Pragmatism – recognise that things will not be perfect, there will be compromises and we will keep the bigger picture in mind at all times

As a leadership team we recognise that we do not have all the answers but we will endeavour to:

- Provide clear and concise information and guidance to you
- Listen to your views and concerns

- Make and amend our decisions based on the latest guidance, your feedback and changing circumstances

We ask for your support and understanding throughout this period, and when it is over, we hope to return as a stronger and collectively focussed group of people.

With best wishes,



Anthony Bravo – Principal



Lorraine Heath – Deputy Principal, Curriculum, Quality and Innovation



David Moir – Deputy Principal Finance & Resources



Alexis Smith – Assistant Principal Foundation Learning and Student Voice



Matt Garvey – Managing Director West Berkshire Training Consortium



Mike Howe – Chair of Governors