

Dear student

Vocational and Technical Qualifications Update

The government has now published its roadmap for how and when the UK will adjust its response to the coronavirus outbreak. The action is for education settings to prepare for wider opening, from the 1st June, in addition to the online learning that has been taking place since the 23rd March.

Our aim is to support all of you to complete your qualifications by the end of this academic year. I wrote to you recently confirming that all vocational and technical qualifications are being categorised into one of three groups that will determine how the qualifications will be awarded this year: calculated grades, adaptation of assessment or delayed to a later date. A copy of this letter can be found on our website – <https://www.bcot.ac.uk/media/3103/vocational-and-technical-qualifications.pdf>

It is our intention to continue with online learning until the end of term. We are also now considering how some of you can return to college to complete the elements of your qualifications that cannot be done remotely. I have outlined below the approach we will be taking.

Qualifications with calculated grades

Online classes will continue until the end of term. You will not be expected to attend lessons in college.

Qualifications with modified assessment

Online classes will continue until the end of term and you may be required to come into college to complete some parts of your qualification e.g. any exams or practical assessments that cannot be completed externally.

Qualifications that are delayed until normal assessments can be conducted

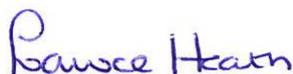
Online classes will continue until the end of term and you will also need to come into college to complete exams or practical assessments.

We have received information from some awarding organisations, outlining the requirements that need to be met to award qualifications this year, and your teachers will be discussing this with you. However, we do not have this information for every qualification yet; further guidance will be provided as soon as we know.

I want to assure you that keeping our students and staff safe at this time is our main priority and it is our intention, for the remainder of this academic year, to keep to an absolute minimum the number of staff and students coming into college. Therefore, you will only be asked to come into college if you can't complete your qualification in any other way and the number of students attending college at any one time will be kept to a minimum with appropriate social distancing measures in place.

You will be advised, in due course, if you need to attend college and what activities you need to complete to finish your qualification.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Lorraine Heath'.

Lorraine Heath
Deputy Principal - Curriculum, Performance and Innovation