

From Monday, our tutors moved to an online delivery model, and are – as far as is possible – following a similar timetable to the one students are familiar with, but using Microsoft Teams and our VLE, BlackBoard, to work with students, make materials available to them, collect work and give feedback. Early signs are that this is working well, although tutors report that this shift in approach requires a lot of preparation on their part. I am reluctant at this point to ask them to do any more.

Given the uncertainty which still exists as to how students' A Level, GCSE and other qualification grades will be calculated – and, significantly, what evidence teachers will be able to use in such decisions – we are telling our students that it is still important to be engaging with their studies and producing work which may be able to contribute to their final grade. I have been reluctant, therefore, to place any other demands on prospective students until we have clarity on these issues, since I am reluctant to undermine the efforts of colleagues in secondary schools.

I am keen to ensure that Year 11 students are both keeping their study habits going and preparing for their College courses. For both of the above reasons, however, I am unwilling to make materials available until after the Easter break, at which point I will be asking curriculum teams to identify activities and resources which would benefit prospective students of their courses. I hope this makes sense to you. We will be putting this message out to prospective students through our website and social media platforms and updating them as the situation develops.

I am sorry not to be of more immediate assistance to your students, but I hope you will understand my reasons. Good luck with your own lockdown endeavours.

Yours sincerely,

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