

Dear Parent/Carer,

On Thursday 19th March, we announced that we were following Government advice and closing down our campuses until further notice. It was with huge sadness that we took this decision as we are well aware of how important college life is to our learners. In a climate of uncertainty, we want to continue to be a constant for them.

Many students are only six months into their course and I'm sure you and they are concerned about how this will impact their learning. Others are coming towards the end of their course and might wonder what the next few months has in store for them. My job is to keep that continuity for our students and ensure that we provide the best possible teaching and learning in this unprecedented climate. That means transferring our courses online as much as we can. This obviously comes with its difficulties, as we deliver practical-led creative courses, but our teams are working tirelessly to ensure that technology and resources are utilised as efficiently as possible in order to give your child the college experience they deserve.

You may have heard about our Virtual Learning Environment 'Moodle' before. Moodle is where all our student's work is accessed and stored and is now also the portal for students to retrieve assignments and information. In order for your child to continue their learning, they must log onto their Moodle account and follow the work plans on there. We will be checking to ensure all students are logging in and completing tasks. What is also important to us is that our students still have their regular tutorials with their course leaders. These will now be run as individual phone calls (to the number we have on our system) and as group Google Hangouts with the rest of their class as per their usual timetable.

The Easter break will begin as usual after Friday 3rd April. We are yet to know what the guidance will be about the opening of schools and colleges from Monday 20th April, but we are preparing for whatever the outcome might be. With your permission, we would like to update you with important information about your child and the college. To provide us with your most up-to-date contact details, please ask your child to log in to their eILP on Moodle and choose 'Parent/Carer Contact' from the 'My eILP' menu. Moodle, our virtual learning environment, can be accessed from any desktop or mobile browser by typing fe.atm.ac into the address bar.

Nothing could have prepared us for the impact of Coronavirus and I would like to assure you that as a college, it is our priority to make sure all our learners can continue their study, just in a different way. These are unprecedented times and I thank you for your continued support and patience during this challenging period.

Yours Sincerely,

Matthew Newbould
Director of Education