



Dear Parents/Carers,

Please find below today's student update, we wanted to remind our students that support is available for remote working and mental health and wellbeing, there are some useful links included. In addition, there is an opportunity for you, as parents/carers, to contribute to the government consultation regarding examination/qualification grading for this year – the links to the consultations are below.

It is really important that we keep you updated and listen to your concerns, so if you have any feedback or suggestions, please feel free to contact me directly.

Best wishes

Julia



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Dear Student,

As always, I hope you are keeping well. There are a few updates to share with you this week...

### **Are you accessing support?**

We are very aware of the struggles that you may be experiencing whilst studying remotely, I think we would all prefer to be back on site as soon as we possibly can. I just wanted to make sure that you are aware of the support in place for you through your tutors and our Student Services Team. In terms of looking after yourself and your mental health and wellbeing, please find below links to both government and NHS websites – the NHS youth mental health site is particularly good with videos to support you with a range of topics, particularly related to lockdown and remote learning.

<https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/youth-mental-health/>

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/876996/Easy\\_read\\_looking\\_after\\_your\\_feelings\\_and\\_body.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/876996/Easy_read_looking_after_your_feelings_and_body.pdf)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-for-the-public-on-mental-health-and-wellbeing/guidance-for-the-public-on-the-mental-health-and-wellbeing-aspects-of-coronavirus-covid-19>

### **Do you need additional data?**

Yesterday we received a number of Vodafone SIM cards as part of the Vodafone #keepconnected campaign – if you are currently in receipt of Free School Meals or accessing the Bursary funds and

you need more data, please contact [StudentWelfareSupport@weymouth.ac.uk](mailto:StudentWelfareSupport@weymouth.ac.uk) to check eligibility. We will arrange for the SIM cards to be sent through to you via the post.

### **Are you finding it impossible to study from home?**

Studying and working at home is not always easy – if you are really finding it difficult to focus and concentrate whilst studying at home, or do not have access to an appropriate location to study, please make contact with us to discuss alternative options. Please email [StudentWelfareSupport@weymouth.ac.uk](mailto:StudentWelfareSupport@weymouth.ac.uk) to discuss your specific situation and requirements, we may be able to provide an alternative approach to help you during this challenging time.

### **How will you be awarded examination grades for this year?**

On Friday evening, the Department for Education and the examinations regulator Ofqual, launched joint consultations seeking views from members of the public on their proposals for the awarding of grades for this academic year for GCSE, AS, A Level, and separately for vocational qualifications. These consultations close on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021. We remain committed to ensure that you all receive the grades that you deserve, and we will of course be responding to this consultation, both as individual members of staff and as a College. Of course, it is you who are most affected by these decisions and we therefore feel that it is incredibly important that you have the opportunity to read and respond to these consultations. You can express your views by following the links below:

#### **Vocational and Other Qualification Consultation:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-alternative-arrangements-for-the-award-of-vtqs-and-other-general-qualifications-in-2021>

#### **GCSE, AS Level and A Level Consultation:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021>

We encourage parents/carers to contribute too. Whilst the consultation closes in less than two weeks, we do not expect the final outcomes to be announced for some weeks after, possibly March. As soon as we are informed of the outcome we will update you again to ensure that we continue to support you to achieve the grades and qualifications that you each deserve.

Please continue to do your best, keep in touch with your tutor and seek help and support if you need to!

Best wishes

Julia