

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Firstly, and most importantly, I would just like to say that I hope this newsletter finds you safe and well. I want to reassure you that although not in school and sadly unable to offer direct face to face careers guidance and advice, I am still here to help with any future plans or worries about college/careers/apprenticeships/HE that you may have during these very challenging and uncertain times.

I would like to assure you that I and Career Connect are committed to supporting all students and parents throughout the challenges that lie ahead. As a Careers Advisor I endeavour to help young people explore their ideas and plans, to tell their stories, in order to help them achieve and sustain better lives. To support young people, who deserve the best opportunities now and going forward, I will do everything I can to help our students get through these difficult times as safely and confidently as possible.

To that end, my colleagues at Career Connect and I are still working and if you need us, please contact us via any of the methods below.

As a starting point below is some information from the local colleges about places on courses for September that I hope you might find helpful and reassuring. The link below is the Government website with information on the cancelled GCSE and A' Level exams.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020>

The exact nature of any alternative arrangements to any assessments, if there are to be any, has yet to be published, as soon as any further significant news emerges you will of course be updated. However, most of the colleges are reinforcing the message that it is very important for students to continue studies. The exact details of the process have not been finalised and it is uncertain what factors will be considered. It is therefore vital that students continue to complete work being set by the teaching staff. As well as providing additional evidence to inform GCSE grades the knowledge and skills students are developing now will help to ensure that they are ready to progress to their next steps after school.

I will continue to make phone calls to students about their next steps and any students who have applied to college but 'not yet had their interviews' will have their course discussions over the telephone. Please ensure that the college have a correct and working telephone number and an email address which you will need to keep checking. Also please keep checking college websites as they are up dating information all the time.

Please be reassured that every year 11 student will have a place at a school, college, training provider or apprenticeship in September. The Government's September Guarantee ensures that "that every 16 and 17-year-old has an appropriate offer of learning, by the end of September, that motivates them and allows them to progress. All young people who reach the statutory school leaving age are entitled to an offer under the Guarantee. Local authorities are responsible for ensuring that the Guarantee is met."

Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time via one of the following methods:

Email: Karen.Gallagher@careerconnect.org.uk

Mobile: 07854055268 / also on WhatsApp

Alternatively, should I not be available for any reason, please contact one of my colleagues via the following methods:

Email: chloe.elliott@careerconnect.org.uk

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/connectmycareer>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/connectmycareer/>

Career Connect also have a central email address which is monitored daily.

schoolsinfo@careerconnect.org.uk