

6 May 2020

Dear RSFC students and parents/carers,

Message from the Principal

At this extraordinary time, I want to reassure you that I and everyone at RSFC are doing everything we can to support the education and well-being of all our students. Our strategy is a simple one, to provide continued structure, reassurance, and guidance so that all our students keep on learning and keep well over the coming weeks. Consequently, lessons are timetabled as normal, though they are delivered remotely via Microsoft Teams. In effect, while the college building may be closed, the college itself continues to operate, albeit through our online platform and study packs. Our students and staff have adapted incredibly well to these new ways of working, and online attendance to lessons has remained consistently excellent.

The rest of this letter summarises information I have already circulated to students and parents.

Online learning

From Monday 23 March morning all lessons have been delivered via Microsoft Teams. Students should attend these online lessons at the usual time. Lessons will be a mixture of live and recorded sessions, and opportunities to work on assignments.

It is important that students keep attending their online lessons. Not only will this give structure to students' days, it is especially important given the new arrangements about the awarding of grades (as referenced later in this letter)

Microsoft Teams is being supplemented with support materials on Moodle, videos on Clickview, and 'hard copy' study packs

SPDLs will continue to monitor students' attendance at online lessons. If a student is unable to attend an online lesson, they must inform their SPDL and teachers with a reason for the absence and a request for missed work

Please note enrichment, achievement centre placements, and social development programmes will not be delivered over this period. Students on the scholars' programme will not have a scheduled lesson but will be provided with additional reading and tasks.

Term dates

Year 12 students will finish the academic year on Tuesday 7th July.

Year 13 students will finish their academic year on Friday 22nd May.

Although term may finish, our support for students will not.

Arrangements for Centre Assessed Grades for year 13 students

The latest guidance is here: https://www.gov.uk/education#guidance_and_regulation

I have also summarised this guidance in separate emails to RSFC students and parents.

Future communications with parents and students

Teachers and SPDLs are in regular contact with students while the college building is closed. Additionally, I am emailing all students at least twice a week: regular emails on Monday lunchtimes, and Thursdays just after 4pm. Every Friday I send parents an 'omnibus' email containing my communications to students. All emails are addressed from Rochdale Sixth Form College (info@rochdalesfc.ac.uk) and entitled RSFC update. If you are not

receiving a regular email from me, please message this address studentadmin@rochdalesfc.ac.uk from your preferred email account requesting that your details be updated.

We are living in extraordinary times, but RSFC students are extraordinary young people, taught by extraordinary teachers and tutors. Together we are getting through this. Together we are extraordinary.

Keep attending. Keep learning. Keep well.

With very best wishes, and great pride,

Richard Ronksley

Principal/CEO

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