

Dear Student

How quickly everything has changed! I had not imagined this time last week that Covid-19 cases would be so high, you would be learning remotely, and arrangement for exams would be radically changed. We had spent time during the holidays putting together plans so that we could give you all lateral flow tests, making the site safer for you to learn. I am sure that these will be useful when you do return.

I have been looking at the attendance information today and I am delighted (but not surprised) to see that you are making the most of your remote lessons. I appreciate that this has been a very confusing time, with the last-minute cancelling of January exams and little detail about how grades will be awarded in the summer. What we do know is that predictions will be based on a range of evidence, and will reflect the level of your work by the time of their collection. It is a very long time until June/July so there is everything to work for. Every lesson counts! We will be sending absence texts in the usual way, so please ensure that a parent lets us know if you are unable to attend. If you are having difficulty joining your lessons for any reason, please contact your Personal Tutor or email info@qmc.ac.uk so that we can provide help. Advice about remote learning, as well as information about how to keep yourself safe on-line can be found via the [Student Remote Working Guide](#)

Post-Christmas can be challenging for everyone at the best of times, and I know that you were looking forward to coming back to College to see your friends. It is important that you look after yourselves! Hopefully the on-line lessons will help with that connection. While the days are short the current timetable should give you an opportunity to get some exercise through the lunch break. We will also be providing a list of lunchtime **enrichments** that you can join while we are locked down – please look out for a link to these. Details of other activities that you can get involved in can be found in the weekly College News, and **virtual work experience** opportunities are listed on Firefly: <https://qmc.fireflycloud.net/work-experience/virtual-work-experience>

If you have any concerns please contact your Personal Tutor. Other sources of support are listed below:

Sources of support:

- **Well-being Team:** [Chris Tuckwell](#) [Lucy Poynter](#) [Barbara Dossett](#) or via firefly where there are lots of resources: <https://qmc.fireflycloud.net/well-being-and-self-help-guides>
- **Support with working remotely:** , IT.Support@qmc.ac.uk
- **Careers and UCAS advice:** [Kirsty Poole](#) or via Firefly: <https://10to8.com/book/bdwfpp-free/> where you can book in for a consultation via Google Meet.
- **Library:** [Library Team](#)

Finally, here is a link to the Action for Happiness January calendar, which provides lots of ideas about ways to stay positive: <https://www.actionforhappiness.org/january>

I do hope that you and your families are keeping well, and I will update you regularly with information as we receive it

Kind regards

Ali Foss

Principal
Queen Mary's College

