**Coordinator update: 29th August**

Hi folks,

We hope everyone had a good summer. We welcomed our first SWAP programmes back to college this week. I thought it would be useful to pop together an update for our university coordinators as well. Apologies in advance is a bit longer an email than I thought it was going to be. I promise for this year, I will try and be a bit less long winded!!

Following on from what we learned last year, we will continue the same core working principles.

* Appreciating we are still working through a pandemic and that this will have consequences for our learners.
* Finding solutions for students in terms of completion and progression. We know a little bit more now in terms of what works well, and that evidence will support our work this year. Pretty clear our students are a resilient, hardworking bunch who manage challenges.
* In finding solutions we will work with as much flexibility as we can.

**Class of 2020**

There are still a few students we are working with. Mainly with admissions teams, they have all been great this year. I am sure they have all had more difficult challenges than SWAP to deal with but any I have thrown their way have been dealt with. We are starting the process of collating the evidence for each class and will receive the final destinations towards end of September. Plan is I will pop over the final UCAS spreadsheet and also have a brand new “Form D” with a bit more contextual information.

**Class of 2020 – 2021**

Our colleges partners are all back and are returning students at different times. Some are up and running this week with others not returning until 23rd September. As you would expect we are picking up already quite high levels of anxiety over the future, so we are back into re-assurance mode for the new cohort.

**Programme content.**

I have stressed to college partners, that we know they might have to be flexible again this year. Especially ensuring the correct balance between the academic requirements and guidance aspects. We will keep that within curriculum frameworks and any difficult ones I will highlight. So far though, any changes have been minor (the ICT unit which is now looking a bit redundant), colleges will be looking to deliver the content online and we will see how they year develops.

Looking at the longer term, we will be starting a review of the programmes this year in a project called curriculum for fair access. That will look at programme content and the SWAP holistic model as a whole. I think that will be good timing as clearly, we know that our university partners are going to find it just a bit challenging as well. The review will be driven through curriculum working and I will be discussing further to gain your assistance.

**Student profile and progression**

The amended COVID profile worked well. We will keep the same profile in place for this year, that will allow us to evidence any COVID impact. We are for example, conscious of the potential for local lockdowns, illness, and impact on family.

In terms of progression routes, I will circulate the drafts this week. Apologies we simply didn’t have the time to send these out before summer. The additional time has also though given us some re-assurance that programmes will be up and running this year, so we can highlight them on the drafts. Will of course give some additional time for these to be looked at.

**Preparation for Higher Education – new developments**

Paula and Amy have been doing a substantial piece of work on developing the materials for delivery online and in thinking through the delivery of core prep for he activity. They have put together a video intro - https://youtu.be/riiqzg9E9Do

First of all, attached the prep for he development guide, containing the learning and the “social and personal” developments. In looking at the principles of our prep work, we looked at the european framework for personal, social, and learning to learn competencies. The full report is available here - <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/publication/eur-scientific-and-technical-research-reports/lifecomp-european-framework-personal-social-and-learning-learn-key-competence>

As a report it is worth a read. It has a resonance for our work, basing the learning competencies on lifelong learning principles as well as being conscious of the broader adult education needs of the students we work with. A lot of the way we support our adult students is reflected in the report and it therefore provides a good structure for prep for he.

The prep for he development guide highlights the topics, which we will roll out through the year. We are going to place each lesson topic in the review section for tutors. Allows everyone an opportunity to comment, which we warmly welcome and of course to have an opportunity to see what the students will be provided with.

“Introduction to Prep for HE” is now available for review. Please follow this link –

<https://360.articulate.com/review/content/c162ec1b-2d3b-42a5-9afa-de844983e144/review>

Leave comments either on review or email them through. Be good to hear from you. We will have this one ready for students on the 7th September

We have consciously tried to “flip” prep for he by asking students to research the topics and then allow college tutors to follow up during timetabled prep for he. We are also conscious that we are moving to a different way of learning this year and have therefore intentionally limited the activity to core prep for he. We also know there will be students starting their studies a bit later this year. To make the prep for he development manageable we are going to limit the activities to the following before Christmas

1. Induction / 2. Intro to Prep for HE / 3. Prepare to Be Successful / 4. How do you Study /5. Critical Thinking / 6. Choices: Applying to University and HNC

The study skill topics will take place after Christmas. In the future we are going to play about with that but for this development year we are keen not to over burden.

**STAY project**

While we embedded the STAY work into preparation for higher education and Paula rather fantastically popped it up online for this year’s students. We thought there was some merit in keeping a bit of focus on STAY and using the project to keep in touch with some students this year. These will be mainly the students who we have had to do some additional work with over the summer. However, I think we might want to extend that to other vulnerable groups where we have learned they may struggle a bit with impact of COVID. Paula and I will be in touch to build on the good work we have done on the project so far.

**SWAP meetings**

We are planning a curriculum meeting each term, which college tutors are going to find useful. We will also have a SWAP executive partnership meeting once a term as well. Appreciate some of you come to these meetings in addition to your coordinator role. I don’t want to over burden with meetings! I think it will be useful to have an early uni coordinators meeting so we can reflect on how useful a number of the transition sessions have been and maybe have a look at what we can do to support SWAP students into the early stages of their progression to university. I just want to check that is ok in terms of scheduling. I was thinking October and then we can think how it will benefit you most in terms of keeping in touch with yourselves.

Apologies again for the length of the email – hopefully, they will shorten during the year.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Kenny