**Tutor update: 17th August**

Welcome back from the SWAP team.

We hope everyone had a good summer. It is really good to welcome everyone back. SWAP is still dealing with a number of students from last year and thanks to all those who have provided additional evidence. We are getting there.

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. Either looking at their evidence, completing the programme, issues with IELTs testing and some who are now shifting to different degrees. We are starting the process of collating the evidence for each class and will receive the final destinations in September. These destinations will come in a brand new “Form D”.

**Programme content.**

We will again have flexibility with programme content this year. To ensure flexibility, we will do that on a college by college basis at this stage. Clearly still some unknowns in terms of assessments in SQA units but as a first step **can you please pop over a copy of your intended units for the year**. We will then arrange a discussion to see what we think might be the issues in terms of delivery and how we handle that in terms of progression routes.

In terms of progression routes, it is likely that university summer transition materials will be used more as part of conditions. We will flag this up to students when we are speaking to them at induction. This is likely to be the biggest change when progression routes are published in October.

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.

**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. If you can re-assure students at an early stage of that, it will be helpful. While we will be looking at transition in a bit more detail. It seems clear that where we have used university materials over the summer that has helped progression.

**Preparation for Higher Education 2020**

Amy and Paula have been working hard on enhancing the prep for he materials. We will have a separate email going out about the development this week, with samples of the changes. The review of prep has looked at how we approach student’s academic development and thinking through how the materials can also develop their well being and social development. We are going to consolidate the materials as well as utilising material and feedback we have received from students. **On a practical tutor basis all the materials will now be available online, so there will be no need to download and print off worksheets.**

The first set of new materials will be available online from 7th September. The first lesson, “introduction to preparation for higher education” will be ready to be reviewed by tutors in the next day or two. For all of the new lessons, they will be open for tutor review and feedback. Ensuring you have a chance to input into the new materials and actively provide some input before they go live.

Apart from time specific aspects such as UCAS, the packs are going to be a bit more “fluid” in terms of timing. Allowing a chance for students to do their prep prior to the delivery of “your prep time“ in the timetable. It will fit in well with our new ways of working and hopefully give you a bit more time for guidance. As always though we are keen to hear from you on how you feel it will work in practice.

**Induction and student registration**

For induction, an online induction lesson will be available for students to work through. We will have that online by the end of the week. We would then intend to do an induction “online visit” from a member of the team during prep time. If you can let us know when that will be suitable, the team will take the students through the session. Pop us over a suitable time slot. The session will focus on student’s questions arising from the induction lesson. We will spend a bit of time on the learner agreement, spelling out student’s responsibilities. **If you can please encourage students to register when they start their programme.**

**Curriculum group meetings**

It is to put it mildly going to be a pretty challenging year. We are planning to have at least 1 zoom curriculum meeting a term. Just want to check and see if that is about right in terms of meeting up, if tutors would prefer that more often or less. I think one of our strengths this year will be sharing what we do.

Look forward to hearing from you

Kenny, Amy, Paula, and Lisa

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