

Message from Mark Castle Weekly Catch Up - Zoom meetings, admin and training opportunities
Thu 07/05/2020 14:50

Dear Colleagues,

Zoom Q&A meetings

Following my last email about the reduction in working hours, I said that I would organise some open zoom meetings for all staff, whether furloughed or not, to ask questions. Delivering and receiving difficult news is always harder when there are no face to face meetings or the in-person support from managers and colleagues, so it will be good to “see” as many of you as possible. The dates and times for next week are below and a zoom invite will follow shortly. If there is a need for a third meeting we will organise that too.

- 10.30 – 11.00 on Tuesday 12th May
- 14.00 – 14.30 on Thursday 14th May

Help for Admin Heroes

I have received a plea from our hard pressed admin teams who are still battling with thousands of bookings, rebookings and cancellations. They are known for their speedy and often instant responses to both staff and customer emails, but at the moment they have asked if staff could be patient. They will get back to you as soon as they can, but blocking up their inboxes with reminders isn't helping.

Training Opportunities

With so many unknowns, it good to focus on things we can achieve even with the current restrictions or even if furloughed. I want to draw your attention to the many excellent [training and learning opportunities](#) that are available and that FSC staff can access for free. Covid-19 has thrown up a number of [challenges for staff](#) across the organisation to learn and adapt to new ways of doing things, and adapt quickly. It has also provided some staff with unlooked for time where they can brush up on their skills and knowledge. It's a while since I did my Scottish Highers so I've learnt a lot from watching [#fieldworklive](#) sessions and the [Biolinks meetups](#) are on my list. But the training available covers not just subject knowledge, but technical, personal and digital skills. The current situation has seen many of us have to get to grips with IT, brush up on basic maths to help with homework and be much smarter about managing our own health and wellbeing.

The choice of free courses is overwhelming, so we have tried to pick a range of good quality ones that come recommended and that should appeal to a wide range of staff and interests. We have tried to reflect the skills that have already been identified in the training plan that we know FSC staff need or have asked for, along with some that are related to the current situation. We will be adding more. Please take a look at the staff news page for more information.

I hope that you manage to find a way to enjoy the bank holiday. On VE day, FSC was already two years old. It's good to remember that this charity started in bleak and uncertain times because people saw a need and wanted to meet it. The need is still there and will be even greater after covid-19. I want to thank all of you for doing your bit to make sure that FSC will be there to meet it.

Best wishes and stay safe

Mark