

Thu 14/05/2020 16:46

Dear Colleagues

It's been good to see so many of you in the last few days both through the all staff Zoom meetings and the Zoom Q&A sessions focused on recent changes. Thank you for enthusiastically embracing this way of keeping in touch. A recording of today's Zoom is below. The feedback I have received is that you appreciate being able to see colleagues you know, but also like putting faces to names that until now have been just email addresses. It's important to keep connecting and our new SMS text system is reminding those on furlough about meet ups and updates.

Six New Workstreams

In my previous updates and today's Zoom, I have referred to the work being done to see FSC through the current crisis and now I can provide more detail. For those that love a PowerPoint presentation I will upload one onto the staff website shortly which was recently given to trustees. It sets out the details and the planning assumptions that we are working to. For those less keen on PowerPoint, there are six workstreams which will look in detail at

1. Estate planning and quick start up so we can be covid secure and ready for customers
2. A new staffing model to adapt and flex to the patterns of business
3. Digital development looking at online and blended learning
4. Non FSC estate based delivery – taking FSC beyond our centres
5. Alternative uses for our estates and resources
6. Business structures to ensure FSC makes the most of our business opportunities

The Government's Extension of the Furlough Scheme

The announcement of the extension of the scheme (unchanged until July and then with additional flexibility until October) is really welcome. It gives FSC a slightly greater degree of both flexibility and certainty, whilst planning and delivering those six workstreams. I am mindful that October feels like a very long way off and that furloughed and non-furloughed staff alike have faced different but significant challenges. As you know I am also aware of the significant additional work load for non-furloughed staff and therefore I want to reassure you that SLT are looking at the human costs as well as the financial costs when it comes to making the most of the government scheme.

This week's special mention for coping with Covid goes to Maddy Jones and her team at Juniper Hall who are keeping in touch with each other via a weekly Ready Steady Cook competition where they all get a list of ingredients to cook something in 45 minutes. Staff not cooking also join in and comment on the results. Each week staff earn points for inventiveness and appearance with a grand prize at the end, a £25.00 shopping voucher and a food hamper. They balance this with a Joe Wickes style workout and a virtual coffee break.

Keep checking out the staff news pages which includes lots of useful information from free training opportunities to health and wellbeing tips.

To catch up with today's all staff Zoom click the link. You will need your usual Office 365 Password (full email address and normal email / computer password as for logging into Outlook webmail).

<https://web.microsoftstream.com/channel/3791cf71-eebb-45fc-bc6f-a3374192d32b>

Keep safe

Best regards

Mark