

Thu 04/06/2020 15:52

Dear Colleagues,

As you will gather from listening to the daily news broadcasts, this continues to be a dynamic and unprecedented situation. Since my last email we have had some clarity on the forms that furlough will take and have seen some schools return to a covid-secure learning environment. Our focus is firmly on 4 July and being ready, should the trajectory of easing restrictions be maintained, to receive some customers from that point. There is of course uncertainty, not only around public health considerations at that date, which vary around the UK, but also about whether the most recent easing of restrictions will in fact lead to an increase in numbers of cases and a re-imposition of stricter measures. Against that backdrop we continue to plan for the future and aim to present a draft options paper to the Finance and Administration committee for their consideration next week.

On the front line the admin teams, our equivalent of NHS heroes, continue to deal proactively and sensitively with customers and take bookings for this autumn and next year. I want them to know their efforts are really appreciated.

### **Fieldwork Live**

I have attached the Fieldwork Live report. I am sure you will agree that it shows just what can be done when a group of really high performing and motivated staff work together on a joint project. Well done to all of you.

### **On the political front**

FSC has been actively engaging with government and policy makers since the start of the outbreak. This includes very specific immediate issues such as the arbitrary cut-off date for the furlough scheme which left a small number of our staff severely impacted, to working with others across the sector to put in place measures to make the future more secure. FSC and partners are already lobbying Ofqual and the awarding bodies to ensure that ecological skills, fieldwork and the NEA remain in the 2021 exam series and prevent a knee jerk reaction of putting the option in the "too difficult" box.

FSC is a member of Access Unlimited, a collaboration of organisations originally formed to help deliver the Glover Review recommendation that every child should spend a night under the stars. We are pressing the government to bring forward the funding and plans for that, but are also making the case for how outdoor learning can have a pivotal role in education as schools come out of lockdown. FSC is also highlighting this with our own centre MPs and local authorities – setting out how our resources (classrooms, outdoor spaces and teaching expertise and staff) can deliver socially distanced learning, and how spending time outdoors can help learners readjust and transition back into school.

### **C-19 OPT**

C-19 OPT have been busy interpreting government guidance which continues to change and often contradicts itself! Whilst each nation is doing their own thing, the basic guidance on physical (social) distancing and good hygiene underpin all the headlines. Last week we published OCoP W09 Covid-19 Secure, with the aim of keeping both our workforce and visitors 'Covid-19 Secure'. ([https://fieldstudiescouncil.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/EsnG3JNB4G5G1O59auOB4i0BLgxQtybd6ajUdtVqZ0\\_UHA?e=HqCP2o](https://fieldstudiescouncil.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/EsnG3JNB4G5G1O59auOB4i0BLgxQtybd6ajUdtVqZ0_UHA?e=HqCP2o)). The new Covid-Secure webpage will provide further information to our customers and reassure them that we are following government guidance. We will add a risk assessment and addition to the Customer Information Document to support this. Alongside this,

there is a USO for each location, and there are some examples in the OCoP folder. At locations you will see some changes, much like you are seeing in shops and other locations you are visiting. This is likely to include more hand sanitiser points, additional signage, new layouts and one way routes and will also require us to get used to working in a different way, with less in person contact with colleagues. We will be setting up some training for all staff to help explain this in more detail.

## **NCS**

We will not be undertaking NCS work this calendar year. However, we will be rolling over the contract and allocations to 2021. There will be some adjustments to timing, allocation and delivery to reflect Covid-19. The good news is that we have retained the deposit which amounts to £144k.

## **All staff zoom get-togethers**

We need speakers for the all staff zoom meetings at 3.30 pm on Tuesday 9 and 16 June. The FSC is filled with great stories and plans. It would be great if you would share your experience and enthusiasm.

Everyone is welcome, furloughed or not, any role, any level. The emphasis is 2-5 minute talks about:

1. Your work towards FSC's future
2. Top tips/life hacks you learnt from recent professional training
3. Behind the scenes of your role: your day to day work and ambition, including HEP students
4. Sharing your skill or interest from outside work/your wellbeing ideas

If you would you like to talk or like someone else to talk, please complete this brief form:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=wsT2sRhBnk-L4MPk-IMTflkYOA4KIX9ImTICNbR5ssIUMDNJSVdDUDZVUThINUQQ09QWTIKTVozTC4u>

To view my all staff zooms and Philip's Tuesday talks, please use this link:

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

If you are not already logged in to your FSC account, you will need to sign in to Office 365 with your FSC email address and password.

Best regards and keep safe

Mark