

Thu 18/06/2020 15:30

Dear colleagues

It was good to see so many of you on the call this morning, 153 I counted and some great questions.

FSC's Road Map and Models

This week's F&A committee considered our detailed plans and models for the coming months and work has been done to try to model both the best and worst case scenarios. These are now going to the board of trustees meeting in the first week of July and I will report back as soon as the decisions are made. There are still so many unknown factors and I have always been upfront with you that, whilst we are doing everything we can to protect the charity, I cannot promise certainty and I cannot promise that there will not be significant change.

Opportunities for FSC teaching staff

Last week, FSC offered members of the education team who do not have a formal teaching qualification (PGCE, PGDE or equivalent route to Qualified Teacher Status) the opportunity to apply for a PGCE course for the next academic year by taking a one-year sabbatical from mid-July 2020 until mid-August 2021. They would then be able to return to the FSC at the end of their sabbatical. Currently there are a number of bursaries available for subjects that are in particular demand including £26,000 for Biology and between £15,000 and £17,000 for Geography. With teaching at FSC likely to be disrupted for some time it is an ideal time to grab the chance of getting a very useful qualification and I am pleased to see considerable interest in the scheme.

Keeping in touch

It's good to see many of you joining the all staff meetings and my regular updates either live or via catch up. I would encourage you all to keep in contact with us and your colleagues. With staff now being asked to return after what might be the longest time away from work that you may have ever experienced, don't underestimate the impact of this transition. You won't be returning to the same FSC either. Many things have changed and changed quickly. During my time in the army there was a big emphasis on managing major transitions like this and although, sadly, I can't offer you decompression time in Cyprus, I am mindful that it may not be easy. Our Health and Wellbeing pages on the staff website have lots of information and in particular Zurich have a webinar on managing anxiety about returning to work. Click [Health Assured](#) (username: **Zurich** / Password: **Assurance**)

Covid-Secure Centres

One way to help reduce anxiety about returning to work is to feel confident about all the work that has been done to make our centres and work practices covid secure. This might also include continuing to work from home. It's essential for staff and visitors to be reassured. A huge amount of work by the health and safety staff and many others right across FSC has been done to translate government guidelines into workable, daily operations. Now, everybody has to do the training.

Covid-19 Secure Training

It is a requirement that **all staff** (those at work and furloughed) will need to complete the FSC Covid-19 Secure training. This combines reading the OCoP (which is standard for new guidance), with additional explanation of the new systems and processes.

We have created a new FSC Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) which has been a great opportunity to look at how we can deliver our internal training. With so many changes and the current restrictions in place, delivering face to face training is unlikely, so by using the new online VLE, we can create a digital course, that you can all do at your own pace.

You will soon receive log in details to the FSC internal training site <https://courses.field-studies-council.org/login/index.php>. Your username will be the first part of your FSC email address (eg. j.smith@) and the password will be in the email you have been sent. You will need to change this password the first time you log in. On the dashboard you will see a link to the Covid-19 Secure Training, click this, then work your way through the course. If you have any queries please contact please contact Julie on training@field-studies-council.org

Stay with Us: FSC's new holiday offer

School trips are still not allowed under the current guidelines so FSC is focussing on using our centres for no frills holidays from 4th July for those that want to get out into the countryside. With travel abroad an unlikely option for many, breaks in this country are likely to be in demand. Being able to escape from the impact of recent restrictions and responsibilities and spend time in our locations must be tempting. You can see more on the website [here](#) and we have managed to secure some expert (via Kim Somerville one of our trustees) free help to develop the campaign from staff currently on furlough themselves from Magpie, a communications agency. We are asking all staff to share Stay with Us with all your friends and networks, and more social media content to help you do this will be provided shortly. If each member of staff persuades friends to book for just 2 nights this could raise £100K of income- we know we have many advocates for FSC in the workforce so please let us know how you get on.

Best regards and stay safe

Mark