

Dear UCC Students,

We are fast approaching the end of the academic year and some of our final year students are submitting their final pieces of work to complete their studies during this time. Many congratulations to those of you who are approaching the end of your student journey.

Here is a roundup of important information we would like to share with you this week:

Reopening of schools

The Government has announced plans to reopen schools for certain year groups from 1st June 2020. Please note, the College is currently reviewing the Government guidance in line with its health and safety protocols to ensure that *if* and *when* the College opens its doors it is safe to do so. Therefore, please note that the College and its facilities including the physical Learning Resource Centre (the library) remains closed for HE students until further notice. We will inform students as soon as reasonably possible of any updates to the opening of the building.

Video conferencing protocols

Some assessments are taking place via video conferencing and we would like to remind you to ensure you adhere to the protocol released earlier this term (Zoom protocol). Please ensure that when you are visible online that you have a neutral background and no photographs are in the background. Please also ensure no children come into view when online (easier said than done, we know) but this is to safeguard children.

Mental Health Awareness Week – Kindness

Be kind to yourself and others. This week is Mental Health Awareness week (18 – 24 May) and this year's theme is Kindness. For more information on how to get involved and resources on mental health visit the [website here](#) or view their [video here](#).

Read and Write support for students and staff

We would like to make you aware of a new resource, available to staff and students, to support and develop literacy skills. **Read&Write** is assistive technology and particularly helpful for Dyslexic, ESOL and any student or staff member who might benefit from literacy support. Available here - <https://www.texthelp.com/en-gb/> (Use access code **HU7WYPM2UJ**.)

The main feature of the software is that it enables **text to be read aloud**, instantly improving access and understanding of any written work or text. It also has a range of other helpful features that improve accessibility and remove barriers to learning. The following link shows you how to access the software and a brief overview of Read&Write in action: <https://youtu.be/xX-MYDaqpp>

Student feedback and surveys

Whilst the NSS survey is now closed, we are releasing a number of surveys during the following weeks. Participation in these are encouraged as it does help to inform good practice and highlight areas for improvement. We welcome all your feedback. Look out for surveys via Moodle pages (module surveys) and a Graduate Survey for our leavers. Additionally, an online learning survey will also be released via Moodle.

The NSS prize winner of a £50 Amazon voucher has been randomly selected via Ipsos MORI (the survey organisers) and the winner has been notified via student email.

Mitigation

Please note that students who need to submit Mitigation claims for Semester 2 needs to do so by Monday 15th June 2020 at noon in order to be considered for the Assessment Board outcomes. For guidance and advice on Mitigation please view the [HE Academic Support](#) page on Moodle and if you require further assistance please contact ucc.registry@croydon.ac.uk

Update from Transport for London

Transport for London (TfL) has released the following update: If you must travel, please plan ahead and travel outside of the busiest times, particularly first thing in the morning. The busiest times on the network are 05:45 to 08:15 and 16:00-17:30. It would help enormously if you were able to travel outside these times if you possibly can. They are advising people to walk or cycle to their destinations if at all possible and if you do need to use public transport to try to take the most direct route and avoid busy interchanges.

They have produced a [list of the busiest times and places on our Tube and rail network](#).

Latest Coronavirus updates

The latest Government advice and guidance on Coronavirus is to stay alert, control the virus and save lives – for the latest guidance please visit – <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

If you need advice on your physical health, visit - <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>