**Apprentice / Employer Covid-19 Update - 05/01/2021**

**All Change!**

Further to the Government announcement last night returning us to a National lockdown I confirm that all classes will be delivered remotely, using Zoom, for the foreseeable future.

Tutor’s and apprentices have become very familiar with this way of learning over the last year so there should be little impact on learning or progress.

The Government guidance clearly states that ‘Public examinations and vocational assessments scheduled to take place in January will go ahead as planned’. We are therefore expecting students with planned examinations to attend as scheduled.

Any apprentice attending to sit an examination must only do so if:

* They are not experiencing symptoms of covid-19
* They have not been in close contact with anyone displaying symptoms / tested positive of Covid-19.
* They have not been working at a practice or branch where there is anyone with Covid-19 symptoms / positive Covid-19 cases. Regardless of whether they have been in close contact.

Any apprentice who does not meet these requirements should contact their tutor to make suitable alternative arrangements.

On arrival at the training centre:

* Apprentices will have their temperature checked and be asked to confirm they meet the above requirements.  Apprentices are expected to check-in using the NHS app, our QR code is displayed at the entrance of the premises.
* Apprentices will be required to always wear a mask (and any other PPR, required by their employer) except when they are sitting at their workstation taking the examination / assessment.
* Apprentices will be asked to wipe down their workstations before and after use with wipes provided. This is in addition to the enhanced cleaning protocols in place, followed by staff

Any apprentice who has concerns about attending the centre to take examinations is advised to contact their tutor.

New cohorts for Veterinary Nursing and Animal Care and Welfare at Stockport will commence as planned. Apprentices will receive a Zoom invitation from their tutor in advance of their first session which they should attend from home. We ask new apprentices to check that they have the resources in place to access their classes remotely. Anyone with concerns should contact us.

We ask all apprentices, wherever possible, to keep their video on during class sessions when attending remotely. It is far better for both the tutor and the student to be able to see each other and interact during the session. If any apprentice has technical difficulties with this, please let your tutor know.

On a happier note, we have had our first two students take the professional discussion element of their End Point Assessment. I am pleased to confirm that Sarah-Jayne Simmons achieved an overall Pass grade and Megan Pearson achieved a Distinction. Congratulations to them both.

Thank you

Jackie Shopland-Reed

Head of Centre