

Tuesday 8th March, 2021

Dear OBC/Bucks New University students

On the 22nd of February 2021, as you already know the Prime Minister announced the government's four-step plan to release England from lockdown, and the Government also updated its guidance accordingly.

Indeed, Michelle Donelan, the Minister for Universities has written a letter to all students to that effect too. The Minister explained that from the 8th of March 2021, universities can invite students on practical and creative courses who need access to specialist equipment and facilities back to in-person teaching.

At the present time, OBC does not offer any practical, or creative courses that students need access to specialist equipment and facilities **and therefore all classes continue online as currently scheduled**. In line with the Government's guidance, please do not return to your campus at this time.

Of course, we have very much missed you (the student) and the community atmosphere you create at the college so are really excited that there is now a path ahead for our college community to be back together in the near future. However, we must wait until it is safe and advised to return fully. When it is time to do so, you will receive another email from me asking you to return to your campus and providing you with relevant guidelines on how to do so.

Currently we have no plans to return to the classroom before the 21st June as per the government roadmap:

"... before Step 4 begins, the government will complete a review of social distancing and other long-term measures that have been put in place to cut transmission. This will inform decisions on the timing and circumstances under which the rules on 1 metre plus, the wearing of face coverings and other measures may be lifted. This will also inform guidance on working from home – which should continue wherever possible until this review is complete.

Step 4 - not before 21 June

Social contact

By Step 4 which will take place no earlier than 21 June, the government hopes to be in a position to remove all legal limits on social contact.

Business, activities and events

We hope to reopen remaining premises ... This will be subject to the results of a scientific Events Research Programme ..., where we will trial the use of testing and other techniques to cut the risk of infection. The same Events Research Programme will guide decisions on whether all limits can be removed on weddings and other life events.

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As we move through each of these phases in the roadmap, we must all remember that COVID-19 remains a part of our lives. We are going to have to keep living our lives differently to keep ourselves and others safe. We must carry on with ‘hands, face, space’. Comply with the COVID-Secure measures that remain in place. Meet outdoors when we can and keep letting fresh air in. Get tested when needed. Get vaccinated when offered. If we all continue to play our part, we will be that bit closer to a future that is more familiar.”

You may also have questions about other aspects of your college life. Please rest assured that we are working hard on all those details so please continue to be patient. We promise that you will have all the information that you need before you return to our COVID-secure campuses.

We appreciate that you may have mixed emotions about the Government’s latest announcement. If you do, please tell us if there is anything we can do to help and support you by emailing your campus Student Support Services (dos@oxfordbusinesscollege.ac.uk).

We are very proud of how you have all faced the considerable challenges in recent months and we’re looking forward to welcoming you back to our campuses!

Be safe and stay online for now.

Best regards.

Dr Padmesh Gupta
Managing Director
Oxford Business College

