

As always, the safety and wellbeing of our community is our priority. The situation regarding COVID-19 is very fluid and changing on a daily basis. The government is in touch with colleges on a daily basis and I will make every effort to keep you as fully briefed as possible. We are also updating the Coronavirus section of the website frequently. Here is today's update:

### Restrictions on all non-essential visitors

As from today and until further notice, no non-essential visitors will be permitted access to the college campus. We have taken this decision in the best interests of the college community. For this reason, we have taken the regrettable decision to cancel or defer the events listed below:

1. The progression event due to take place on Wednesday 18 March has been cancelled - the day will be a study day for all students and you are not required to attend college. The library will be open for students.
2. The HE parents' forum, scheduled for the evening of 18 March is now cancelled. If your parents were planning to attend, please let them know. I will send a separate update to parents later today.
3. All Aspire events involving visiting speakers will be deferred.
4. The Apprenticeship event scheduled for 1 April is cancelled – the Careers department are collating relevant information of apprenticeship opportunities and this will be disseminated in due course.

### Absences and self-isolation

The government's guidance provides advice about what you should do if you are experiencing symptoms similar to the COVID-19 virus. The full advice can be found [here](#). Any decision about self-isolation is the responsibility of the student and their parents – we cannot advise on the matter. Should you make the decision to self-isolate:

1. Please inform us by email to [attendance@kedst.ac.uk](mailto:attendance@kedst.ac.uk). All students who have notified us that they are taking this course of action will have their registers marked accordingly. Absences relating to COVID-19, including self-isolation, will not affect your overall attendance record.
2. If you self-isolate, please consider the government's advice carefully. You should remain at home for 7 days from the date that you first noticed symptoms.

### Taking care of yourself

- Remember to wash your hands often - with soap and water, or use alcohol sanitiser that contains at least 60% alcohol, if hand washing facilities are not available. This is particularly important after taking public transport.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throwing the tissue in a bin – Catch it, Bin it, Kill it
- If you are unwell, you should stay at home and should not attend college
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are unwell
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces