

Parent newsletter

Welcome to our new newsletter for the parents, carers and guardians of our students.

Returning to face-to-face teaching

Following the government's announcement that colleges can return to face-to-face teaching from Monday 8 March, we have been working through the detail. Curriculum teams will be in touch with their students shortly to provide further detail relevant to particular courses.

Face-to-face teaching for the vast majority of courses will resume from Monday 15 March.

In line with government advice, we will be prioritising our courses for 16-19-year-olds, apprentices and university-level students. These students will receive a mix of face-to-face and live online delivery from Monday 15 March.

For some students, including the vast majority of our part-time adult provision, face-to-face teaching will not resume until after Easter.

Please visit our website to read the full update, which includes important details about testing and returning to College.

[Read our full update here](#)

Teaching through lockdown

In the following short video, hear from our Principal, Helena Thomas, as she talks you through how we are continuing to teach and support your young person during this national lockdown, and how you can help too.



GB MET Principal, Helena Thomas, gives advice to parents/carers on supporting their young person during the current national lockdown.

We understand this is an uncertain time, so we've prepared some frequently asked questions to offer guidance. These are available on [our website](#). Please check back regularly as any updates will be posted here. Should your question not be answered, please email marketing@gbmc.ac.uk

See our Frequently Asked Questions



Student enrichment

Even though we are not currently able to offer in-person enrichment activities, our Enrichment team are continuing to provide and promote opportunities available to our students. With a dedicated Student Experience page (which can be found through the [Student Landing Page](#)) your young person can access free events from the College and further afield, as well as resources to help with mental health and keeping safe.



Staying safe online

It was recently Safer Internet Day and we have been asking students to complete a short refresher quiz, complete with some short videos about online safety. Staying safe online is something everyone needs to think about, we have shared these videos and published useful information for you on [our website](#), including some top tips to get you started as well as guidance from the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command.

See our online safety advice



National Apprenticeship Week 2021

Has your young person considered an apprenticeship? It's a great opportunity for them to launch their career, earning a wage while they learn! We recently celebrated National Apprenticeship Week and hosted virtual Q&A sessions about the wide range of apprenticeships we offer. You can catch-up with our event recordings on our website. If you have any questions, please get in touch:

apprenticeship.team@gbmc.ac.uk

Watch the event recordings here

A letter from Sussex Police Chief Constable for parents and carers

A letter from Sussex Police has been sent out to all school leaders outlining the effects lockdown restrictions are having on young people, including more screen time, less exercise and fewer opportunities to see friends. The letter acknowledges challenges facing parents and carers, many of whom are juggling homeschooling, work and "all the other challenges of modern life". Despite these challenges, Sussex Police believe there is "light at the end of the tunnel with the rollout of vaccinations, but lives are still being put at risk by those who are breaching restrictions."

Sussex Police are seeing persistent "hot spots" where young people continue to gather during the lockdown. Jo Shiner (Sussex Police Chief Constable) encourages parents and carers to question "Do you know where your son or daughter spends their time?"

Sussex Police are continuing to patrol these "hot spots" encouraging anybody in breach of regulations to adhere to the rules. However, where this approach is not successful, and blatant rule-breaking occurs, enforcement action will be taken against the young person's parent or carer. This could result in a £200 fine.

Included in the letter are useful resources concerning children and young people to support families during COVID-19.

[Read the full letter here](#)



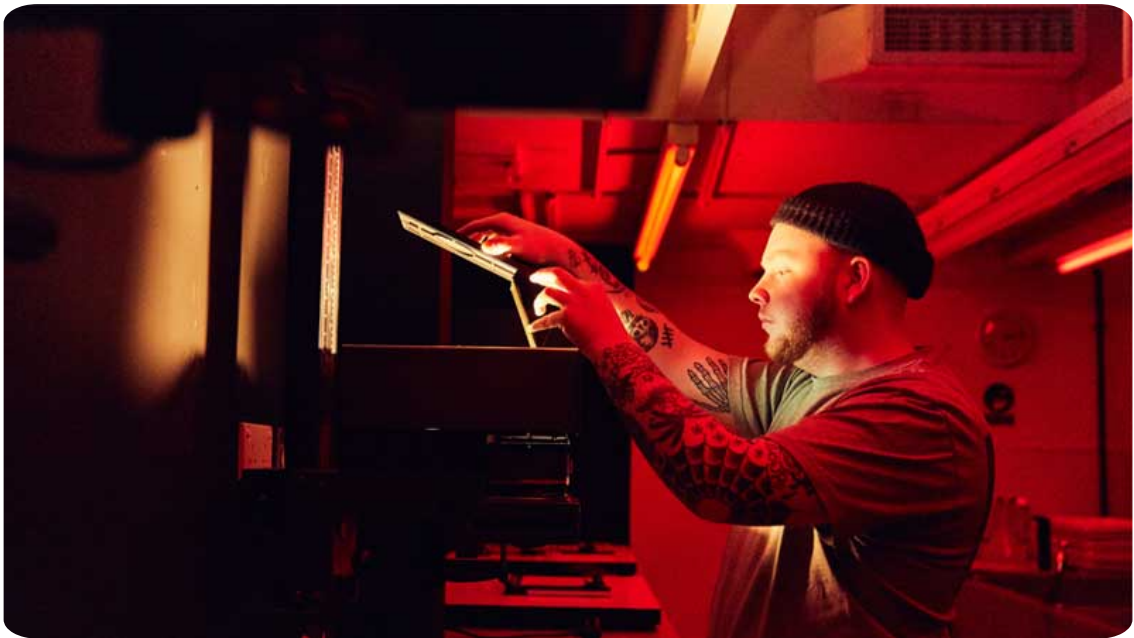
Progression to University

We have been supporting our students with their applications to university ahead of the priority UCAS deadline (Friday 29 January 2021). We have 861 applications in progress so far, which is up from 753 this time last year. It's not too late to apply and students can access support with any late applications, alternative education pathways, student finance queries, and preparation for university. For further information, please email: wp@gbmc.ac.uk



How to capture work on film

A series of 'How to ...' video guides are now available for GB MET students to learn how to film their work and share it online. This is a great resource developed exclusively for the GB MET by Big Egg and Lookout making use of the College's UniConnect funding stream. Students can access the videos via the [Student Landing Page](#).



Creative degrees

Date for your diary: Virtual Q&A sessions | Wednesday 24 March 2021

This event is for anyone interested in studying a creative degree with us, to hear from our industry-expert teaching staff and ask any questions about our courses or possible careers. We offer an extensive range of creative degree programmes so we'll be running three separate sessions to cover each subject area. You can find out more about this event, and book your place, by visiting [our website](#).

[Book a place](#)

Pastoral mentor support

We understand that it is a really challenging time for families at the moment, and it's really important that our students have access to the support they need. Whilst our pastoral mentor support service is for students, we do speak to parents/carers/guardians of those under 18 and of students over 18 who have given their consent. Our Mentor team is available to discuss support with families in relation to keeping students well and engaged in their learning during lockdown. To get in touch with our Pastoral Mentors, email mentor@gbmc.ac.uk

All of our usual support services are also still available. We have a wealth of resources available to students that can be accessed by the [Student Landing Page](#). Here, students will also find the contact details they might need to access our support service teams - these include IT, additional learning support, financial support, safeguarding, careers and more.

[Click here for health and wellbeing resources](#)



Meet our BIPOC Ambassador

Meet Sami, our new BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and other People of Colour) Ambassador here at GB MET. Sami is here to provide a safe space for students of colour to voice ideas and experiences and to get their voices heard. This new role has been introduced to help the College gain a better understanding of the student experience at GB MET for a person of colour and to make the College a more inclusive place for everybody. As a former student herself, Sami is "GB MET through and through!". To get in touch, please email bipocambassador@gbmc.ac.uk



Unifrog - the complete destinations platform

GB MET students can benefit from the College's Unifrog subscription and should have received a welcome email in their College inbox. Unifrog is a one-stop shop for a huge variety of resources relating to careers, education pathways, wellbeing. The newly added 'Read, Watch & Listen' area that signposts students to documentaries, podcasts, articles to enhance their knowledge of their subject area. [Click here](#) to watch the Unifrog student launch video or email careers@gbmc.ac.uk for more information.

'Creative Industries Freelancer Network' Launch

Is your young person considering becoming a freelancer in the creative industries? We are running a series of free virtual events during National Careers Week (1 - 4 March 2021) where they can learn about what it's like to be a freelancer from the experts themselves. **Click on the links below to book, or for more information email wp@gbmc.ac.uk**

- What is a Freelancer?
- Monetising Your Creativity
- The Power of the Network
- Practical Tips and Tricks

If you have any questions about anything in this newsletter, please contact marketing@gbmc.ac.uk

