

PETROC

SCHOOLS UPDATE

EDITION 1
JUNE 2020

Dear colleagues,

I hope you're all safe and well, and that your teams are adapting well to the opportunities and challenges of running online learning environments.

I felt it important at such a time that we keep communication channels to schools open and clear. We'll be sending out regular updates to you to let you know what we're doing so you can keep your teams, parents and pupils informed. We'll also be providing updates via our website and social media channels.



REOPENING

Like yourselves, we've been reviewing the government guidance about reopening as it transpires.

At present, we are working towards reopening for a small number of our students and apprentices, for example, those who require practical assessments in order to complete their qualifications, from Monday 15 June. We will be updating our communities via our website and social media channels when our path forward is clearer.

Join in... You can follow us
on social media for lots more
news and photos.



YEAR 11 TRANSITION

We, like you, are keen to ensure that your Year 11 students continue to stay engaged with learning and are excited about their next steps in life. That's why we have developed a number of different ways in which to engage with students. This includes **PETROC PACE** an AI platform that helps students to continue to learn at their own pace. This week we are launching **PETROC PACE+**, a website that gives all your students the opportunity to explore their chosen college subject, get involved in some activities and start to think about their next steps with us.

We have also written to all Year 11 applicants to ensure that we keep in touch with them directly and to help them stay connected. We plan to communicate with them again over the next couple of months before they join us in September, ensuring that they know what to expect. But, if you can think of any other ways in which we can help you to keep your Year 11s engaged, then please do let us know.

And that is not all we are doing, we have put in place a number of ways in which applicants and potential applicants can get in touch with college to receive advice and guidance on their next steps if they are still undecided.



PETROC PACE allows students to develop their English and Maths skills. At the start of lockdown there was talk of pupils being able to resit their English and Maths GCSEs in September, so we were keen that they carry on learning to ensure they can achieve their best possible grades.

Petroc Pace uses Artificial Intelligence to tailor learning towards the individual students' needs, and allows them to feed back not just via their answers to set questions, but also on their emotions towards learning at that time.

As this site requires a Petroc ID to access it, learners need to make, or have made, an application to Petroc to access this cutting-edge educational provision. They can apply through the Petroc website at petroc.ac.uk/courses-search

So far, over a thousand Year 11 applicants have accessed Petroc Pace, with over 20,000 questions answered.



PETROC PACE+ is due to launch on 1 June, and gives students a taste of what their course will be like when they start with us in September. They can find out more about the course they've applied for, as well as all the other courses available to them. The aim is to make sure they make the right choice for their future.

Pupils will get to meet their teaching team, find out about careers in their chosen subject area and have the opportunity to complete online tasks and activities. We will be releasing monthly updates to Pace+ to ensure learners remain engaged between now and starting with us in September. Schools and parents will also have access to this site.

CURRENT APPLICANTS

Pupils that have recently applied to Petroc will still get any advice and guidance they need. We have arranged phone calls for new applicants with a subject tutor, where they can discuss their next steps and determine which course is right for them. If applicants want to discuss anything about college life, they can request a call back via the 'School Leavers' page on our website. We've also developed an online careers advice tool that applicants can use to help them select their next steps. This can be found on the careers section of our website.



PUPILS AT RISK OF BEING NEET

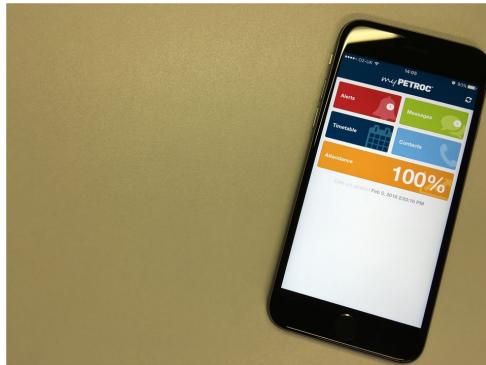
Petroc works with a local group of providers for 16-19 year olds. We share the ambition that every young person gets an education and is able to improve their life chances as a result. We will be meeting a range of groups to see how best we can support these young people to engage in a positive next step. If you'd like to discuss this further, please contact Toby Di Georgio, on toby.digeorgio@petroc.ac.uk



MYPETROC APP

For many years now we have had the MyPetroc App and online portal available to all of our students. The App allows them and their parents to review their attendance, check timetables, engage with college facilities and activities and is a one stop shop for everything to do with their studies.

Every new student receives their own unique ID at point of application, and are able to see the course they have applied for, and of course this is now their route to interact with the PACE learning platform too. In light of COVID-19, we are updating this App to make it an even smoother transition for applicants when they join us in September. Once updated, all Year 11 applicants will be able to upload a photo for their ID badge and will be able to upload their GCSE results when they receive them. This will mean that the start of term is a more curriculum-focused time of year, rather than administrative. Once this new functionality of the App is up and running we will let you know.



#discoverPETROC™

#DISCOVERPETROC

We know that some students, in both Year 10 and Year 11, would have been looking forward to visiting the college at one of our open events this summer. So over the next few months, we are planning a range of online, interactive experiences, giving everyone access to our college, its fantastic facilities, our amazing lecturers, and the huge range of courses we offer, from the comfort of their home.

We have already put in place virtual tours of the three campuses which can be viewed at: petroc.ac.uk/campus-tours, and we are currently working on the online version of our Year 10 Taster Days which take place at the end of June.

Pupils will have the opportunity to find out about Post-16 options, take a virtual tour around the college, and get a flavour for what it's like to be a student at Petroc. There will also be demonstrations to watch and the opportunity to complete activities.

Hopefully this short newsletter gives you a flavour of the activities we have planned, to ensure we are doing all we can to support our local schools. I also know that Sam Newton, our Schools Liaison Officer, is in constant contact with your team as well. If you think there is anything further we can do to support you and your students at this time, please do get in touch with myself, or my Executive Team.

Best regards,

Sean Mackney, Principal and CEO