

IRCULAR 91/2020: Message from the Principal to students

Dear Students,

I hope that this note finds you in good health.

As many of you are aware, most lecturers are keeping in touch with you through the various online platforms that the College has been offering you since the temporary closure of MCAST. I understand that learning from home might not be an easy process.

Although many may possess the right IT equipment at home to connect with your lecturers, others may not and could also find it difficult to procure such connectivity. The College will continue to do its utmost to support those students that require this equipment. You will be receiving phone calls from the various Institutes to find out if you are experiencing difficulties to follow lectures or acquire notes and other material that your lecturers are sending you from time to time. We are also trying to get additional support from within and outside the College to help you with this.

In this context, I am happy to notice College solidarity and commitment between colleagues and especially between many lecturers and students.

This shows that MCAST is much more than a learning institution. The College is a community of workers and learners that care about the welfare and well-being of each other. These are stressful times for all of us. Social distancing is not inherent in human nature. We thrive on socialising and, connecting is fundamental for our well being and the quality of our life.

As Principal, I am indebted to those lecturers who are using IT platforms to reach as many students as possible. However, I am also aware that

some of you are not benefitting from virtual learning. Don't miss out on the opportunities that the teaching community is offering you.

Technology today offers the opportunity to fight the challenging situation that COVID-19 has created through platforms of communication which we must use to keep in touch with one another but more importantly in your case, to maximise the learning experience.

I urge you to keep studying and following lecturing opportunities and to reach out to us if you need help.

Our Counselling and Support Service is offering assistance. Do make use of the email address counselling@mcast.edu.mt to help yourself and others. I also ask KSM (*Kunsill Studenti* MCAST) to alert Management if they know of any student who may need assistance that can be provided by the College.

COVID-19 is putting enormous pressures on the resources that we possess and on mobility. However, we shall do our utmost to ensure that the connection between lecturers and students continues. Therefore all Institutes will be doing all that is possible to facilitate this learning process.

As students, you must take the initiative and connect with fellow students and lecturers. On our web portal www.mcast.edu.mt the icon [eLearning](#) takes you to the various IT platforms from which you can virtually continue your studies from home. Make use of these platforms.

I reiterate that the period away from MCAST is not a holiday nor time to lay back and do nothing. It is an opportunity to have more time with your closest family but also time for yourselves to advance in your

readings, your assignments and the work that needs to be completed in your course of studies.

Do not waste your time but make use of it wisely and effectively.

The Principal/CEO.