Dear Med 20 students

I hope you and your families are well wherever you have been spending the lockdown.

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your engagement and involvement with the Phase I online teaching we have delivered so far. Your comments and feedback have been highly constructive, we hope you that your input will continue as we develop our teaching provisions.

I am writing to update you on the current plans for your return to studies.

Like many other Universities, the Medical School has decided that students will resume university-based lessons at the start of the new academic year. **This means that Term 3 will continue online with your year group returning to campus in February 2021.** In the meantime, we will continue to fully support your learning with the delivery of online lectures and interactive groupwork sessions.

This decision was not taken without due consideration. The safety of our students is paramount to us and the current social distancing requirements guides how much teaching we can deliver in person at any given time. Additionally, there are a number of travel restrictions still in place globally. Indeed, UK government guidelines currently advise against all but essential international travel, although this may change within the next few weeks. Nevertheless, those of you located in international locations may be subject to differing travel restrictions affecting your ability to return to studies on campus before the end of the year.

Return to Studies
Curriculum

Term 3 will continue to be delivered online. I can confirm that there will be no change to the scheduled term dates, **24th August 2020** till the **13th November 2020.**

Since the University opens in September, you will still able to access the Chandos Road Building and all University buildings. If you live nearby you will be able to attend the University for self-study or to meet other students in small groups or to meet with your tutor. Staff will be on site and working in a manner that follows the social distancing guidelines in place at that time.

We will ensure that you are able to catch up any missed clinical examination skills and practical procedures in your second year of studies.

Year 1 Assessments

I know many of you are concerned about assessment and how this will be affected by COVID-19 and I want to address content, dates and the means of assessment delivery. Further detail on assessment will be provided separately by the Assessment Team.

- **Content: There will be no summative OSCE 1 as part of ETA 3**. We will assess some clinical skills such as history taking, formatively during Term 3 via some OSCE type stations.

- **Dates:** Unfortunately, we have had to make some changes to the assessment dates currently on Moodle. **ETA 1/2 will be held on 1/9/20 and ETA 3 on 30/11/20 and 1/12/20.**

- **Assessment delivery: ETA 1/2 and ETA 3 written papers will be online exams with remote proctoring that you can sit on your own devices, in your homes**.

Our priority is holding robust and fair assessments that will allow you to progress appropriately. We have held several successful remote assessments and we are confident that they are reliable, valid and fit for purpose.

I hope this letter has answered some of your questions and provided you with additional clarity for the remainder of the year. Nevertheless, we are aware that many of you will have additional questions and concerns about returning to the teaching environment. I would like to remind you that pastoral support is still available to you through your personal tutor and the UBMS Student support.

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I hope you and your families remain safe, and we are looking forward to welcoming you back to campus in February.

Best wishes
Jo

Professor Joanne Harris MRCP MRCGP MA (Med Ed) PFHEA
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