Hello and welcome to the May newsletter where we are focusing on reminders for Summer moderation, the upcoming Zoom drop-ins, and guidelines on being a member of our dedicated Facebook group.

As well as posting useful information and news in our newsletter, we also post items of interest on our various social media channels; so if you haven't already done so follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

Summer Moderation Countdown

There is now just over 2 weeks to go before the assessment submission deadline for Summer moderation. The final date for submission of all of your assessments is Friday May 31st.

If you are worried about meeting this deadline please arrange to speak to your tutor.
Here's a link to our Facebook Group [DistanceLearningCentre.com (Official)] where you'll find a welcoming and supportive atmosphere that is designed to connect you with fellow students tackling the same course material. Engaging with this community is a valuable part of your learning journey, but like any community, there are guidelines to follow.

Here's how you can make the most of our online learning community:

- Share valuable study tips to help your peers succeed.
- Engage in discussions about course topics with other students who share your interests and challenges.
- Provide encouragement and receive support in return from your fellow learners.

However, it's crucial to maintain academic integrity. Therefore, please refrain from:

- Requesting to view or share someone else's work. Plagiarism is a serious offense and goes against academic ethics.
- Initiating private discussions via direct messaging regarding assessments. Collaboration within the group fosters a richer learning experience and guards against potential misconduct.
- Sharing assessment passwords with other students. Only tutors are authorised to distribute such information.

Let's cultivate a positive and collaborative learning environment together.

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**Online Question & Answer Drop-ins**

We have a number of drop-ins this over April and May and the links, dates and times for these are listed below:

- **Counselling & Childhood Studies** - 19:30 on Wednesday 15/05/2024
- **Physics & Chemistry** - 19:30 on Tuesday 21/05/2024
- **Psychology** - 19:30 on Wednesday 22/05/2024

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**Student Finance**
If you are going to be studying at university this year, make sure you have applied for your Student Finance!

New students should apply by **17th May 2024** for undergraduate courses starting in September.

You don’t need to have a confirmed place at university to apply – you can apply now and update your details later if you need to. You can find out everything you need to know by visiting the Student Finance website [here](#).

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**Your questions answered**

**What happens at moderation?**

Our answer:

Moderation is when the awarding body (Ascentis) check your assessments and the way we have marked them. Every time your tutor marks a piece of your work they recommend a grade of pass, merit or distinction (for the graded units). Up until the point of moderation this grade can change, after the moderation checking processes are complete the grade is fixed and is awarded rather than recommended. It is very important that you complete all of your work in time for the moderation deadlines (which you can find on your learner account) so that all the checking processes at moderation can be completed. In reality you don’t need to do anything at moderation – even though this is a busy time for us and the awarding body. Once moderation is complete the exams office will confirm this with you.