Dear SWAP students, **SWAP update 5th June**

I hope you are well.

For this week’s briefing, I want to highlight John’s tips this week. He has provided you all with a piece of reflective work he completed when he was a student. In the reflective log he describes what felt like a disaster at the time. How he could have handled that situation better and how that strengthened him when he went on to face further challenges in his degree and subsequent professional career.

I am also reminded, often by our students on how many mistakes I make a day. We are all learning how to cope and navigate our way through the change in our circumstances. You may not always agree with decisions that the SWAP partnership makes but they are better decisions when we hear from you.

**Completion and progression, your student profile.**

College partners are now putting together your student profiles and some of you will now have your profile grades.

We last spoke about the profile on the 17th April. Thought it might be worth while just re-iterating what we do with the student profile and the enhancements that have been made for the profile this year.

If you have not been successful in meeting your university conditions, there are always different options to explore. We are always happy to talk these through in the office. It is one of the reasons we are open during the summer. Please pop us an email on swapwest@scottishwideraccess.org and we will discuss other options with you.

**Student Profile how it works** – our profile is an enhanced reference from College to where you are intending to study next year. It has always looked at how you have developed as a learner, not just looking at your academic study. We will look at how well you are developing learning attributes, such as independent learning, research, developing critical thinking, motivation, and determination to succeed. We take a holistic approach to developing and articulating potential to succeed. It requires a lot of work in hearing from your tutors and trusting their professional experience. Interestingly for this year a lot of other qualifications, will now be using the same approach, that we have effectively used for 30 years.

**Student profile enhancements for this year**

The profile this year will include a section on the issues you are facing, such as caring and key worker responsibilities. As well as issues you faced prior to COVID – 19.

We intend to highlight your engagement with the college so we can articulate how well you have engaged with your tutor. Normally student profiles are completed in June. For this year, we intend to keep the timescales open to put together a student profile for you, which may include any work you participate in with SWAP or our universities over the summer.

As always, we will take our time with the enhancements to the profile and allow flexibility in the evidence we gather and provide for your profile.

Where you are being asked to participate in university activities SWAP will update your profile during the summer. We will keep in touch with you on that.

We also know some of you are now arranging to complete your programme with your college in August. For those students where your individual circumstances have been raised by your college tutor with SWAP, we will be able to support this through the profile process. There is no problem with that.

It is why we made the changes to the profile process this year. We just ask you to think carefully about your options and to keep engaged with your college tutor. If you need to complete work through the summer, then keep in touch with SWAP.

**Developing yourself as a learner.**

Students who are conditional firm with UWS will be receiving an email today advising of their SWAP online information day on 22nd June.

For Glasgow Caledonian University we now have an online study skills day. Hot off the presses. You can access it here - <http://www.scottishwideraccess.org/transition-days-summer-schools.php?section_id=1057>

Strathclyde University STEM summer school starts on Tuesday, but they are still offering places for SWAP students.

University of Glasgow summer school. They have been sending out follow up emails to those who have just moved to firm. If you have not received it, please let me know.

Please keep an eye on our web site as we continue to add activities. We have developed a new page on the web site for you to refer to for these activities: <http://www.scottishwideraccess.org/moving-on.php?section_id=998>

The STAY activities are available on SWAPWest website. Paula has customised the activities for degree and HNC progression. Check it out on the STAY section of the website:

<http://www.scottishwideraccess.org/stay.php?section_id=1034>

The materials will be available throughout the summer and autumn so please participate when you can. Once you complete the worksheets pop them over to SWAP. We would be really interested in your thoughts.

**What we need from you – an update email**

As we move to a transition phase from your college programme to your HNC or degree study we will be keeping in touch with you. Our partners are beginning to make decisions on how studying is going to look like next year. We will be happy to talk through these issues with you and raise any particular challenges you feel you might have. In order for us to keep in touch it is useful to have an up to date email address. Especially where you have been using your college email. If you can pop that over to the office, we will store your emails securely and use it to keep in touch.

**Let’s continue to work through this together.**

Kenny