**Student Webinar – 13th May 2020**

**Hosted by David Malthouse and Ben Bullman**

**Qualification Update**

**AAT:**

* The AAT have announced plans to start remotely proctored assessments in August.
* There will be a phased release of units starting with:
	+ Level 3: Advanced Bookkeeping
	+ Level 3: Financial Accounts Preparation
	+ Level 3: Management Accounting Costing
	+ Level 4: Professional Diploma Synoptic Assessment
* The Level 3 Advanced Synoptic Assessment is still being reviewed, as the inclusion of an excel element within this assessment makes it harder to remotely proctor.
* Exact dates for remote assessments are to be finalised.
* Level 2 students who have only their Synoptic Assessment to complete will be awarded an estimated grade on the 13th August.
* Training Providers with students who are eligible for estimated grades will be contacted shortly.
* The AAT continues to review all of its assessments in relation to remote examinations and when centre-based exams can resume, based on government guidance.
* The full AAT statement can be found in this link: <https://www.aat.org.uk/about-aat/coronavirus-update>
* No details have been released yet about software requirements or rules about the use of calculators and pens.
* First Intuition are currently looking at Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) with the AAT which may allow some students to progress in their qualification. We will update with any news as soon as possible.

**ACCA:**

* With June exams cancelled in the UK, the next available exam sitting for students was scheduled for September.
* Last week the ACCA announced that it would be possible from June to sit exams in the three Knowledge Level papers and the Law module at home using remote proctoring technology.
* For the September sitting, the ACCA also announced that remotely proctored exams at the Applied Skills Level papers would also be available.
* The ACCA are continuing to assess the Strategic Professional Papers to see whether they can offer a remote solution for these exams too.
* In a further update, the ACCA has also contacted training providers to announce that they will be running a small pilot of remotely -proctored exams in July covering a select number of papers. Places are very limited and FI have been allocated a small number of these.
* The syllabus for September ACCA exams is changing. The changes are not huge, and an overview can be found in this link. <https://www.accaglobal.com/content/dam/ACCA_Global/Students/resourceFinder/ACCA_Syllabus_Changes_2020_FINAL.pdf>

**Feedback from ICAEW and CIMA remotely proctored exams:**

* The ICAEW are offering remotely proctored exams for the 6 Certificate Level papers. Feedback we’ve received from students is as follows:
	+ Calculators are now permitted. Students must use the one provided online.
	+ Pens and paper are also not permitted, and students must use the online pad.
	+ It’s not possible to use the online pad and calculator at the same time.
	+ Further information about ICAEW exams, as well as demonstration of the online calculator can be found in this link. <https://www.icaew.com/coronavirus/qualifications-update/faqs>
* CIMA are offering Objective Test and Case Study exams via remotely proctored invigilation. Feedback from students so far is as follows:
	+ Students are able to use their own calculator.
	+ Pens and paper are not permitted, and students will need to use the online pad.
	+ Further information can be found in this link. <https://www.cimaglobal.com/Studying/Student-Coronavirus-COVID-19-exam-FAQs/>
	+ CIMA exams are monitored using remote proctoring software and a by a live invigilator. Students are able to see themselves in a small window throughout the exam and this can be distracting.

**Support from First Intuition:**

We have support available to help students through this difficult time. This includes:

* AAT revision sessions – these are one-hour slots covering many of the AAT assessments with more to be added. This page has more information and details on how to book. <https://www.firstintuition.co.uk/fihub/aat-revision-sessions-with-our-expert-tutors/>
* We are also launching a series of ACCA Masterclasses aimed at helping students to build and retain knowledge until the next exam sitting. Details will be made available very soon.
* FI have gained spaces for a workshop aimed at supporting mental health during this time. Students can log on with this link <https://training.championhealth.co.uk/> Password is filands
* David Malthouse will also be launching a ‘Maths for Accountants’ session. This is likely to be a 45 minutes session and will cover some common areas of difficulty. A link will be added to the AAT revision session.
* Ben Bullman will use next week’s Student Webinar on Wednesday evening to cover the Practical Experience Requirements (PER). This will be aimed at all students, as well as those who need this for their qualification (ACCA and CIMA students). More info can be found in this page. <https://www.firstintuition.co.uk/fihub/practical-experience-requirements-your-guide/>
* Students who wish to contact either Dave or Ben can do so using these email addresses davidmalthouse@fi.co.uk and benbullman@fi.co.uk