

MSA Update following the effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic

June 2020

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for going above and beyond, making sacrifices of their own, to protect the health of this country. It has been a tough time for many people, and you have been at the forefront of our minds throughout it all.

With Courses cancelled, April/May at the MSA has been quiet and I have sincerely missed greeting old friends and meeting newcomers as they walk through those Whiston doors with apprehensive smiles on their faces!

I would like to thank everyone who has sent such gracious emails our way following the posting of the results of the March Final Written Exam. They have meant a lot and have been so lovely to receive. I am sorry that we are not going to be seeing you all this month, but I remain in hope that we will see you all in the Autumn/Winter before the December 2020 SOE Examination.

Upcoming July/August Courses

- **Primary MCQ/SBA Course July 2020**
- **Final MCQ/SBA Course August 2020**
- **Final Booker Course August 2020**

I know many of you have been waiting to hear news of our Primary and Final Written Courses that are due to be taking place this Summer in preparation for the September 2020 Written Examinations. Thank you for your patience with this.

After much discussion and deliberation with the Team, it is with great regret that I must announce that we will be unable to run these Courses this Summer.

It would be near impossible to run the Courses effectively whilst adhering to Social Distancing Measures, and it's important that we put everyone's health and wellbeing before anything else.

One of the keys to the success of the Courses is the Peer-to-Peer learning that thrives around those Group Work Tables that many of you will be familiar with. Around those same tables, there is a wealth of knowledge pertinent to the Primary & Final FRCA examinations. The ultimate object of the exercise is that, whilst using our materials, this wealth of knowledge is pooled, shared, and thus, consumed by all.

We would be unable to meet these objectives and, consequently, it would be a waste of your valuable time and money to pretend we could do so efficiently and effectively.

MSA Options Available/Upcoming Plans

The 'Final FRCA CRQ E-Club' has now been running for over a year following the success of its predecessor 'The SAQ Writers Club' and continues to receive commendable Feedback from Trainees.

The Round aimed at the September 2020 Examination has already begun, however, if you wish to still get involved, we advise you to do so sooner rather than later to gain maximum benefit from the Club.

Details can be found on the [Website](#) and our Social Media Pages; [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#)
Please email e-club@msoa.org.uk for more information.

We are in the process of planning an 'SBA E-Club' for the Primary/Final in which Members can Learn, Practice and Revise aspects of the Curriculum through the SBA Format. However, the organisation and setting up of this SBA E-Club would involve a considerable amount of work to ensure it is a viable and worthwhile exercise for members. We therefore need to know if this is something Trainees would be interested in getting involved in.

Please follow this Link to register your interest:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/sbaclubinterest>

Please note, however, that the MSA should not be depended on for Teaching or providing Teaching Materials. The MSA's primary aim is to provide facilitated exam preparation opportunities in the form of peer learning and fine-tuning/practicing exam techniques.

Other Options available to Trainees

We have noted some Virtual FRCA Teaching popping up over Social Media which you may find useful over the coming weeks and months.

[@SAVED anaesthesia](#) – <https://mmacc.uk/nw-anaesthesia/saved> - FRCA focussed Slides/Presentations. There is also a link to an online Feedback Form for each Presentation; we encourage you to complete this for the Authors who have taken a lot of time putting the presentations together to help others. In turn, you will receive a confirmation message of completion for your Portfolio.

[@FrcaTeaching](#) - providing FRCA focussed Teaching Sessions for Trainees nationally

Please keep yourself updated all things Anaesthesia via [@RCoANews](#) - The RCoA is also providing [Online Courses for upcoming Written Exams](#).

I hope you find these useful.

And I look forward to seeing you all, hopefully sooner rather than later.

Kirstie Gray

& everyone involved at the Mersey School of Anaesthesia