

## MSA Update following the effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic July 2020

**Feedback from a Final Trainee/Candidate sent in April 2020:**

*"Thanks guys for all of your help and support. One day this difficult time will be gone and we will meet and smile again together. Till then... Be patient, keep safe and - for those in the trenches, sharpen the blades (of your laryngoscopes) and get ready for the fight.*

*All the best, an anonymous admirer."*

**We would like to thank everyone for their emails/messages of support and understanding. It really means a lot.**

**And, of course, to all those who have been fighting the fight, physically & mentally, Thank you.**

**We miss seeing you all and sharing a chat in the Tearoom over much-needed caffeine & cake!**

We have spent the last month in discussions with Faculty, Consultant Course Leads and Trustees regarding the October Courses.

We are gutted to let you know that, due to the unpredictability of several factors combined with the logistics of running a Course in the Education Centre safely, we have cancelled the following Courses:

- **Primary OSCE Weekend October 2020**
- **Primary Viva Weekend October 2020**
- **Primary OSCE/Orals October 2020**
- **Primary MCQ/SBA Course October 2020**
- **Final Viva Revision Course October 2020**

We are aware that the RCoA are going ahead with the November/December Exams, therefore, whilst we appreciate it will never be the same as the 'on-floor' prep and practice we provide, we will continue to work on ways we can provide online revision tools to help Trainees prepare for these Exams.

**You can find some of our updates listed at the bottom of this Notice.**

We are also postponing the opening of Applications for the Final Viva Weekend Course (27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> November) which were due to open in August until we are comfortable in making the decision in either going ahead or cancelling. We hope you can understand. We shall post on our Website/Social Media Channels as & when. We shall also make direct contact to those who attended the Final Written Courses back in February when a decision is made.

The RCoA are holding a Webinar next Thursday (23<sup>rd</sup> July) on the changes in the FRCA Exams due to Covid-19 and we encourage anyone due to sit the Exams in 2020/21 to tune in: <https://www.rcoa.ac.uk/events/frca-examinations-update-changes-due-covid-19>

Please keep checking on our Website and Social Media Channels for updates on Resources we are providing for upcoming exams.

Thank you

Kirstie, Kristianne & Nicky

& all our amazing Trainee/Consultant Faculty Leads & Members who are the backbone to our Courses

17/07/20

## MSA Updates & Adaptations

- We are looking at ways we can facilitate **Buddy/Mentor Support** for those who do not have their own 'Study Bubble'.  
*Exam Preparation can be a tough time; you can feel alone and out of your depth. The Courses create a feeling of unity and camaraderie, along with an appreciation that you are not actually as under-prepared as you have led yourself to believe(!) - it is this aspect of our Courses that Trainees will miss out on most and we want to try and create a **support system** in some way, shape or form. We are open to the floor for any advice or suggestions.*
- We have launched our new Software for the [Final FRCA CRQ E-Club](#) and this is currently being used by members of the Club preparing for the September Final Written Exam.  
*The CRQ Round for the **March 2021 Final Written Exam** will start in October – please Register your Interest to be added to the Mailing List for this Round via [e-club@msoa.org.uk](mailto:e-club@msoa.org.uk)*
- [The Booker Course](#) for the **Final Written Exam** is in the planning stages of going fully 'virtual' in time for the 2021 Examinations.
- We are currently running Pilot Rounds of an [SBA Crammer E-Club](#) for both the **Primary & Final imminent MCQ Exams** and, so far, they are being well received.  
*Going forward, we will be working closely with those playing in the Pilot Rounds to obtain Constructive Feedback as to its usefulness towards Exam Preparation whilst the Courses are unable to go ahead.  
We hope to have the next Round (for the Primary November Examination) starting towards the end of September 2020.*
- We have joined with the [Mersey Video Viva Club](#) to work on providing a **Viva Practice Tool** for Trainees sitting imminent **Viva Examinations**. The plan is to have ad-hoc Sessions running over a 2-month period leading up to the Exam, followed by a Weekend E-Course approximately 10 days before the Exam in the same format as our Viva Weekend Courses.  
*More details will come as the format and function is established.  
If interested, please add your name to the [Mailing List HERE](#)*
- We are planning **Viva/OSCE Revision Tools** using the same format as our current CRQ Club to aid and focus revision in Topics or weaker areas. This is wholly dependent on the Software Build that would be required to make it viable.
- We hope to make our **Anatomy 'Test-Yourself' Workbook** available to buy for those sitting the **Primary OSCEs and/or Final Vivas**.