



PRINCIPAL'S BULLETIN

Thursday 31st December 2020

Return to College in January 2021

As you will have seen in the news yesterday, Wednesday 30th December, the DfE announced that it was delaying the return to schools and Colleges from the 4th January 2021 to the 11th and 18th January 2021 respectively, for exam and non exam students in 2021, to allow for the planning and implementation of a Covid 19 testing provision in each school and College.

As directed by the DfE to enable the planning element of this, **in the week beginning 4th January 2021, all students at the College will be expected to stay at home and to access all their learning from home using MS Teams, except for the following:**

- o Vulnerable students (the College's DSL and Senior Director for ALS will be in contact with this already identified group of students to determine with them individually their best learning environment for this week)
- o Students without the IT facilities at home to access learning from home using MS Teams (these students have also already been identified and have been accessing their timetabled remote learning sessions from the College since September. This access to the College and to the College's IT facilities will continue for such students in this week but they will be required as an addition to sign in at reception on each day in College)
- o Students with a critical worker parent/carer (the parents/carers of students in this group who would like their son/daughter to come into College to access their learning in this week at the College using the College IT facilities must email stuhelp@huddnewcoll.ac.uk from a work address by 8.30am Monday 4th January 2021)
- o Students with an external examination:
BTEC Level 2 IT students on Tuesday 5th January 2021 (17 students)
BTEC Level 2 Business students on Wednesday 6th January 2021 (28 students)
BTEC Level 2 Health and Social Care students Thursday 7th January 2021 (48 students)

Please note there will be no College buses operating in the week beginning 4th January 2021 and no catering facilities available on site.

College bus users needing to come into College in this week can claim for all transport costs to and from the College (please keep any bus tickets and please request a receipt if using a taxi to support any such claim).

All students in receipt of a Free School Meal allowance will still receive this in this week. It will be paid directly into bank accounts.

In the week beginning the 11th January 2021, the following students will be expected to return to College as per their timetable:

- those preparing for any upcoming assessments or exams, for example vocational and technical qualifications (AGQs and VTQs), GCSEs and A Levels during this academic year

This is all our students except those in Year 12 on a dedicated 3 A Level programme of study, unless they fall into one of the following exemption categories (in which case they can also return to College on Monday 11th January 2021, as per their timetable):





PRINCIPAL'S BULLETIN

- they are a vulnerable student
- they are studying a practical A Level and/or need access to specialised equipment in the A Level
- they do not have access to IT facilities at home to engage in remote learning
- their parent/carer is a critical worker (as above the parents/carers of Year 12 dedicated 3 A Level students who would like their son/daughter to come into College to access their learning face to face from Monday 11th January 2021 must email stuhelp@huddnewcoll.ac.uk from a work address this time by 12.15pm on Friday 8th January 2021)

Those also excluded from a return to College on Monday 11th January 2021 are those students in either Year 12 or Year 13 who are defined as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable. These students are directed to shield again by the DfE and to engage in all learning remotely until further notice.

In the week beginning 18th January 2021, all students will be expected to return to College, as per their timetable except those who are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable who must continue to shield and to access all learning remotely until the DfE advises otherwise.

From 4th January 2021, as a College, we will be planning how to implement safely a rapid testing provision at the College, and we hope to have this in place by the week beginning Monday 18th January, 2021, when all students will return to College (except those who are CEV). Such a provision will we hope help to reduce significantly the number of close contacts required to be sent home to self-isolate for 10 days as a result of a positive Covid 19 test within their learning bubble(s).

In the interim period, from Monday 4th to Monday 18th January, where there will be no rapid testing provision at College, we would strongly advise all students who are able to take advantage of the walk-in Community Testing provided by Kirklees Local Authority, to do so, and to only return to College, as directed above, if the test is negative.

Thank you in anticipation of your full support with yet another 11th hour announcement from the DfE, this time about the return to face to face learning in January 2021.

And please be reassured in implementing a rapid testing provision at the College our primary concern, as always, will be the safety of our students and our staff. We will not do anything to a timescale which puts this in jeopardy.

Wishing you all a very happy and safe New Year.

Angela Williams
Principal

