

Valley College
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Valley College

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registered in England no 11055200

Headteacher of Tor View School and Executive Principal of Valley
College: Mrs L Parrish
Head of College: Ms E Melling

Dear Learner and Advocates

Re-opening Arrangements

We are delighted to be re-opening college to learners on **Tuesday 9th March 2021**, and would like to share our plans in line with our updated risk assessment, which has been updated to reflect the latest government guidance which can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings>

CEV Learners

If you are a learner that falls into the Critically Extremely Vulnerable category, then you will be aware that you have been requested to continue to shield until the 31st March. We will await further guidance on when you will be able to return.

Testing

Thank you to everyone who has responded by completing the Microsoft Form, sent out on Friday 26th February, to allow us to plan both on-site and home testing. If you have not completed this form, then there is still time to do so here:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=EIPtrcvGGk6VzhagziBpx8thnx8n20BKuH-vdfxMUN1UMDkyWTBVMjYzQkiHVTdBNVpMN1q1RDNEUS4u>

We will complete on-site testing for all learners, for whom we hold consent, on Tuesday 9th, Friday 12th and Tuesday 16th March. Home testing kits will then be distributed for you to conduct the home tests every Friday and Tuesday, starting on Friday 19th March.

The college testing programme is only to detect asymptomatic cases. If you or the learner display any symptoms, then please book a test through the usual means and isolate until you have the results. Our covidpositive@theviewtrust.org email address remains active and is monitored at weekends. If you choose not to provide consent for the learner to be tested, please be assured that they will be welcome in college.

Staff will continue to be tested twice weekly, on a Monday and Thursday.

Groupings

Learners will remain in their PACE group, and this will form their pod. The learners have an allocated toilet facility, to be cleaned regularly throughout the day. PACE groups will be socially distanced from each other. In accordance with guidance, there is no requirement to group siblings together, unless they are naturally in the same group. Access to outdoor space will be structured to ensure pods do not mix. If the learner has an individual risk assessment in respect of their Conduct Support Plan, these will be reviewed ahead of the learner returning to college.

Arrival & Collection

Arrangements in place during the Autumn term will remain effective until further notice.

If the learner arrives via LCC transport, we will manage their arrival in line with procedure to ensure they are greeted and escorted into college by a member of staff from their pod.

If you choose to transport the learner to college, please continue to queue at the Valley College gate, respecting social distancing and wearing a face covering in line with government guidance (unless exempt). You will be greeted by a member of staff who will arrange for the learner to enter into college.

Personal Belongings

We will continue to reduce the amount of equipment travelling between college and home. We will continue to communicate between home and college using email/phone call.

Lunch Arrangements

All learners will be eating lunch in their pod. Free meals for those eligible will be provided as usual. If the learner brings a packed lunch, then this will be stored in their PACE room, and will be returned home at the end of each day. Please ensure that lunch bags/boxes are cleaned thoroughly each evening.

Medication

Please could you ensure that medication is brought to college when the learner returns. Medication needs to be prescribed and sent in the correct packaging that is clearly labelled with name, date and dose. If the learner has asthma, we will need their inhaler at college.

The learner develops Covid-19 symptoms in college

If this is the case, the learner will be supervised by a member of staff in our identified isolation space. You will be contacted immediately to come and collect the learner, following which you will be required to book a COVID test as a priority.

Contact

Please ensure that we have your current address, telephone numbers and email addresses if they have changed, so that we can contact you quickly if we have to close the learner's pod or contact you for any reason.

Therapists in College

In accordance with the guidance, therapists will recommence their work in college and we will be working collaboratively to plan their return.

Helping the Learner Return to College

Lecturers have been in close contact with all families throughout this lockdown period. If you have any concerns regarding the reopening of college for the learner then please contact their lecturer or the Head of College who will be happy to discuss any finer details.

Finally...

We understand that for some of our learners their return to college may be difficult and we will be providing additional emotional and wellbeing support. Similar to September, our "Transformation Curriculum" will continue to target priority skills.

If any advocates have any concerns about their young person returning to college, please contact the lecturer in the first instance.

Warm wishes



Mrs Louise Parrish
Executive Principal



Ms Eileen Melling
Head of College