

Our Approach to Learning during the Covid period

We are committed to ensuring that all of our students, whatever their age or programme, benefit from as much direct, in person teaching and learning as we can safely deliver whilst maintaining a Covid secure environment. A number of the steps taken at College are to reduce footfall on site, others are to ensure we minimise the size and extent of contact bubbles, both aimed at reducing the risk to both staff and students of virus transmission. Some of these measures are staff related in that many support service staff are working partially or wholly from their homes. Other measures involve the timetable structure, for example ensuring students are attending mainly at one end of a week or another, to reduce contact and numbers. Practical workshops and real working environments, like the hair and beauty salons, are equipped with business standard safety equipment and are being delivered strictly in accordance with published guidance. Inevitably however there is some on-line delivery of lessons either planned and permanent for this academic year or in response to incidences of infection and the Track and Trace scheme.

General Timetabling practice:

All 16-18 Entry, Level 1 and Level 2 courses are being directly taught in College

All 16-18 Vocational Level 3 students have one day of scheduled on-line learning per week all other classes being directly taught in College

All A level student learning is being directly taught in College

Part time adult learning is being delivered directly in the evenings or at the Adult only site, Leigh Adult learning Centre

Higher Education learning is being directly taught in College

Apprenticeship training is continuing directly taught in College for day release aspects and in the workplace supplemented by some on-line contact

This strict limitation of remote learning means that the practical and specialist equipment needs of the curriculum are being met whilst still maintaining a Covid secure environment

On- Line learning Approach

Remote, on line learning where scheduled or required due to Covid isolation issues, is delivered through the College's chosen online platform Microsoft Teams. See notes, guidance and support documents in the Parent / learner information section of this site.

On-line classes are taught live at the appointed timetabled time through invitations issued through the College Outlook (Email) calendar system. It is only by rare exception that on-line resources are issued for completion without teacher support. Students are expected to attend all sessions and participate in learning in the normal way.

Students require a suitable device, computer, tablet or similar with Wi-Fi connectivity to access remote learning lessons. The level 3 students routinely requiring these devices have been supported in ensuring that equipment loans, or financial support if eligible, is available to them. Other students

moving temporarily online in response to Covid situations are offered equipment loans where required. Bursary support to eligible students at any level has been directed to providing IT support equipment.

For students for whom online learning is not suitable alternative flexible approaches have been adopted on an individual basis to ensure their continuing participation in education.

Additional learning support and pastoral services are available both directly in College and remotely online. We recognise that additional numbers of students are feeling vulnerable during these difficult times and we contact students even more frequently than usual to support their wellbeing.

Parents and students should ensure that they are aware of the College timetable and be reassured that they will receive direct telephone or email contact in the case of any non-planned remote learning being required.