

16-18 Study Programme News Feed

(Also relevant to Adults attending Study programme courses)

Date	Topic	Useful Links
17 th March	Home Testing Once a student has had 3 lateral flow Covid tests through the College centre they will be issued with home testing kits to continue regular testing at home. The kits include comprehensive instructions but if there are any difficulties students should speak to their tutor or the head of studies team. It is essential that students register their test through the NHS link quoted in the pack and email their result inclusive of a screen shot of the NHS registration of test to College. Please include name and student number in the subject bar of the email to Covidappresults@wigan-leigh.ac.uk . If you have a positive test please stay at home and send a direct message on Teams to your personal tutor, a head of studies team member or head of department for further support and direction. Alternatively you can phone 01942 761600 and ask for a member of Heads of study. The government are encouraging whole household lateral flow testing and we recommend that you look on your local council website for home test collection pick up point information. The College continues to operate robust Covid safe systems including the wearing of masks, social distancing, hand sanitising, timetable adjustments to reduce mixing of groups etc	
25 th February	Return to College In line with Government guidance we are seeking to have a staged return to College from 8 th March 2021. Covid 19 Lateral Flow testing has been recommended. Initially this will be conducted within the College test site facilities and then twice weekly by students at home, albeit the College will maintain a centre as a supportive measure to be used according to need. Students will be invited to their first test prior to their first on-site class, which in some cases will be in advance of 8 th March or during their first period at College. Students will be advised by their tutor of the date of their return to class over the three week phased return plan period. Letters home, providing information about the testing procedure and associated details, will be sent out. Timetabled sessions will continue on-line throughout this period transitioning seamlessly to face to face teaching. There will be additional Covid safe measures in place across the College that your personal tutor will inform you about and these are summarised in a Covid safe paper on this website.	www.wigan-leigh.ac.uk/parents

<p>16th January</p>	<p>Government Consultation concerning the award of Vocational technical Qualifications (VTQs) Open to parents, students, teachers from 15th to 29th January</p> <p>This consultation covers the scope of qualifications and the approach to awarding qualifications in 2021.</p> <p>The impact of this proposed approach for our students is broadly that written exams will be cancelled in most cases and the knowledge & academic aspect of courses will be primarily assessed through assignment work and will no longer include exams or written controlled assessments taken in College.</p> <p>However you will need to continue to complete work, undertake on-line tests and assignments set and marked by your teacher and moderated by awarding bodies during lockdown and when you return to College. This work and that already completed will count towards your final grade.</p> <p>If you are taking a course that has a significant and important practical element, such as a construction trade (for example plumbing, plastering, brick, electrical installation), hairdressing, beauty, accountancy etc. then final exams that prove your competence will still be required and these may be delayed as in most cases you need to get back into College or possibly a work placement to be able to complete your learning before taking the assessment.</p> <p>The College will be responding to the consultation and will update students and parents once specific details and this general direction of travel are confirmed</p> <p>You are invited by Government to respond to the consultation and there is a link in the adjacent column</p>	<p>Alternative arrangements for the award of VTQs and other general qualifications in 2021 (publishing.service.gov.uk)</p>
<p>14th January 2021</p>	<p>Pearson BTEC exams update:</p> <p><u>As you may have heard, the DfE has announced today (PDF)</u> that scheduled assessments vocational qualifications, will not take place in February and March. For students taking Pearson qualifications, this means that external assessments for BTEC Level 2 Tech Awards, Firsts, Technicals and Level 3 Nationals will not go ahead in February or March. While we welcome this decision, which aligns to the position for General Qualifications, and puts your safety first, we know that many of you will be disappointed, as you have been studying hard believing you would be able to take the assessments.</p> <p>We want to reassure you that we will put arrangements in place for those of you who are now unable to take your external assessments to ensure you are not disadvantaged, so that those of you expecting to complete your qualification this year will be able to progress. We understand that Ofqual will consult on arrangements for issuing grades this year for regulated Vocational and Technical Qualifications this .</p> <p>Students please note that it is imperative you continue learning and attend all of your scheduled lessons. It is clear to the College that there will be robust arrangements in place for</p>	<p>https://www.pearson.com/uk/about-us/news-and-policy/news/2021/01/learner-update-on-vtq-assessments.html</p>

	issuing qualification results this year which will require you to undertake tests, complete assignments and similar work which will be externally moderated and graded. Please do not be complacent but instead see these unusual times as an opportunity to shine.	
14 th Jan	Exams and Assessment over view Learning is continuing on-line during this period of lockdown and staff and tutors at College are remaining in close contact with awarding bodies to ensure that all students continue to build up the necessary evidence of achievement and competence to enable them to be successful in their programme of study. Details are only gradually emerging and we aim to keep you informed in a general way through this news feed but specifically through your tutors. There is currently little information concerning the most practical subject areas and we shall keep you informed as any details emerge.	
12 th Jan	GCSE English, Maths & Science Following the announcement that it won't be possible for exams to go ahead as normal this summer, the Education Secretary has confirmed that GCSE exams will be replaced by a form of teacher-assessed grades, with training and support provided to education providers to ensure these are awarded fairly and consistently. The full details will be decided in consultation with Ofqual.	
12 th Jan	A LEVEL Update Following the announcement that it won't be possible for exams to go ahead as normal this summer, the Education Secretary has confirmed AS and A-Level exams will be replaced by a form of teacher-assessed grades, with training and support provided to education providers to ensure these are awarded fairly and consistently. The full details will be decided in consultation with Ofqual.	
12 th January	OCR qualification update External Assessment_There may be an opportunity to take the external assessment at a future date. If this is not possible due to arrangements still to be announced for this summer, OCR will work with the DfE and Ofqual to make sure they are treated fairly. Internal Assessment OCR have reviewed all the units being taken this academic year and have provided guidance at qualification and unit level on changes to requirements or alternative approaches to support public health guidance. These changes will make sure that the learning outcomes and assessment criteria can still be met. The adaptations depend on the nature of the unit.	

11 th January	<p>Lateral Flow Covid Testing Stations have been set up in College to test staff and students with NO symptoms</p> <p>In accordance with Government guidance issued in December the College has set up a Covid testing centre in College at both Wigan and Leigh to test staff and students without symptoms as a measure to enable as many programmes to remain teaching in College as possible post lockdown. In the short term, during lockdown, the stations enable the small numbers of specific activities continuing in College to do so as safely as possible and test the process before larger scale use.</p>	www.wigan-leigh.ac.uk/parents
11 th January	<p>Pearson BTEC assessment announcement / reassurance</p> <p>Following the postponement of the January exams, Pearson are continuing to work with DfE and Ofqual to ensure that BTEC learners are not disadvantaged. We will keep you updated as soon as we know more regarding the summer external assessments.</p> <p>The current guidance is to continue with assessment with your teachers. Pearson have made some adaptations to qualifications to mitigate against some of the impact of the continued disruptions and these can be discussed further with teachers once the full arrangements are announced</p>	
8 th January	<p>Ascentis assessment announcement / reassurance</p> <p>In light of the Prime Minister's decision to return to a national lockdown, with schools and colleges closed, we will continue to work with our regulators (Ofqual, CCEA, Qualifications Wales & QAA) and we will communicate any information to centres as soon as it becomes available.</p>	
6 th January	<p>City & Guilds assessment announcement / reassurance</p> <p>City & Guilds will continue to work with Ofqual and Government to ensure that they can support learners and providers during the lockdown period, so that no learners are disadvantaged. Both City & Guilds and ILM run assessments throughout the year and have wide ranging adaptations in place to enable most of them to continue throughout the Covid19 pandemic and lockdowns. In relation to the Spring and Summer exams series, they are working with the regulators and government departments on how to proceed and will communicate further as soon as possible.</p>	
6 th January 2021	<p>All 16-18 Study programme January exams, mainly BTEC, are postponed and all learning will be on-line until further notice due to the National Covid pandemic Lockdown. (See letter)</p> <p>Students will not be disadvantaged by this decision taken in light of the scale of the exams at College and Government Covid Safe guidance.</p>	

