

Apprenticeship Programmes News Feed 2021

(Apprentices at higher level study should also read the HE news feed)

Date	Topic	Useful Links
25 th January 2021	<p>Return to College</p> <p>In line with Government guidance we are seeking to have a staged return to College from 8th March 2021. Apprenticeship students L2 and L3 who attend weekly day release programmes in College will be part of this staged return. (Higher level apprentices on engineering and science based programmes will also have a pre-Easter return – see HE news feed)</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Students will be invited to their first test prior to their first on-site class, which in some cases will be in advance of 8th 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 providing information about the testing procedure and associated details, will be sent out.</p> <p>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 tutors will inform you about and these are summarised in a Covid safe paper on this website.</p>	<p>https://www.wigan-leigh.ac.uk/parents</p>
15 th January	<p>End Point Assessments and Functional Skills Exams</p> <p>Wherever possible we shall conduct EPAs and exams online. However this opportunity is not universally available or practical. If apprentices are ready for assessment the College will provide in College (or EPA centre) opportunities in very small groups and subject to robust risk assessment to take the assessment. Your teacher or trainer assessor will provide you with information regarding this on an individual basis.</p>	<p>Providing apprenticeships during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</p>
15 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. Apprentices attending an End Point Assessment or Functional skills exam should expect to have to comply with this arrangement in advance of the session. Individual guidance</p>	<p>https://www.wigan-leigh.ac.uk/parents</p>

	and invitations will be provided	
15 th January	Work Place Visits Whilst the majority of learning and support provided will be remote and online where an apprenticeship's place of work is open and operative we shall investigate the possibility of a visit if this is necessary for progress. The decision will be guided by the employer and the College risk assessment for each situation as we seek to ensure everyone involved remain in a Covid safe environment and we adhere to any changing Government guidance.	Providing apprenticeships during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
14 th January	Employment and Continuation issues The College will continue to provide education and training to you even if you are working from home for your employer or are furloughed for as long as we are able to demonstrate that the 20% off the job learning is being maintained and that progress is being made in line with the original timescales of your programme. In some cases because you are not in work practising, learning and demonstrating your skills, or because your employer has temporarily redeployed you to a role that does not match the apprenticeship standard, it will not be possible to maintain the pace of learning required. In these situations it may become necessary to have a formal break in learning (BiL). Your trainer assessor will discuss this with you and your employer if required. If you are made redundant then we can, under certain circumstances, continue working with you for up to 12 weeks whilst together we seek a new employer. If you resign or are laid off under other circumstances or the redundancy rules are not applicable to you for some reason then we have just 4 weeks in which to continue working with you to find alternative employment before we must withdraw you from the programme. If at a later date you are back in work a new start can be made acknowledging the learning previously achieved. The College is committed to trying to ensure you complete the programme so in all cases we shall undertake an individual assessment of circumstances and seek to support you.	Providing apprenticeships during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
5 th January	AAT assessment announcement We currently expect AAT assessments to remain available worldwide during the national restrictions in the UK announced on 4 January. Training providers and assessment venues that are able to remain open to administer assessments in line with their local guidance must continue to adhere to all Covid-19 regulations and guidance in order to ensure the safety of staff and students. They should also consider moving to increased levels of online learning where possible. The College is providing access to AAT exams during this period and your tutor will keep you advised.	
6 th January 2021	All Apprenticeship learning will continue online during this period of lockdown. This includes your regular contact with	

	your trainer assessor who normally meets you in your workplace as well as day release classes when you would normally learn in College. Further guidance concerning continuation of work and learning will be provided as guidance emerges	
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