

## **Returning to College September 2020**

I hope that you and your families have stayed safe and are keeping well during this time.

As the government lockdown measures and restrictions began to be lifted, and in line with the Department for Education, the college were able to welcome back a steady increase of learners on a part time basis during term six.

We all welcome the current lift in restrictions and the return back to a more normal way of life, however we also appreciate that the COVID-19 situation still remains uncertain.

Returning to school or college is vital for children and young people's education and for their wellbeing. Time out of an education setting is detrimental to cognitive and academic development, particularly for disadvantaged children and young people. This impact can affect both current levels of learning and children and young people's future ability to learn, and therefore we need to ensure all pupils/students can return to their setting sooner rather than later.

The Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson, released a paper to schools, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July, which detailed guidance about what we should do in readiness for a full opening of our schools in September.

This is the set of actions education settings must take. They are grouped into 'prevention' and 'response to any infection' and are outlined in more detail in the sections below.

### **Prevention:**

- 1) Minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend the setting.
- 2) Clean hands thoroughly more often than usual.
- 3) Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- 4) Introduce enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents and bleach.
- 5) Minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible by grouping people into bubbles and zones, reducing numbers in the classroom, staggered start and finish times.
- 6) Where necessary, wear appropriate PPE. Where the safe distance of 2m cannot be maintained and when a young person has routine intimate care needs that involves the use of PPE, in which case the same PPE should continue to be used

We have developed our response to the guidelines offered for specialist post-16 provisions and have developed an appropriate Recovery and Online Curriculum that supports the emotional health and wellbeing of learners, but also ensures active learning and importantly skills development, with parents/carers in turn being able to easily support their young person.

We also appreciate that for most of our new learners it has not been possible to reintegrate due to shielding and also not been able to have our normal transition to a new setting period.

Therefore to ensure all learners return successfully we are proposing a phased return to college with a gradual increase in days from the start of term one:

### **Term 1: September – October**

#### **The college will operate on a two-day on site and two off site provision 9.10-3.15.**

At this time, we envisage that the college will be able to gradually increase the learner attendance and work towards offering the usual four day provision from the start of term two, week commencing 2<sup>nd</sup> November. We will of course continue to provide updates and will notify you, should the current situation change.

All learners will access two days contact in college and be able to access two days learning at home via our on line learning platform Google classroom, which many of you will now be familiar with. This will allow the college to still maintain social distancing and minimise the number of learners and staff in the college at any given time.

We understand that this may pose difficulties for a number of our families, but we hope that you will understand that this decision has been made so as to ensure safe learning and working practices for both our learners and staff and we appreciate your support in this matter.

All learners who have been attending as part of the key worker group will continue to attend full time. If you think you are part of this group, but your young person has not previously attended please ring the office for further information.

### **Reintroduction Plan**

The classes will be divided into 2 groups and for the first term they will attend part time.

We will then discuss with you about increasing attendance gradually to enable all pupils to be in college full time before the October break. Friday will initially be kept as Key Worker only day.

#### **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Friday the 4<sup>th</sup> of September will be New Learners only.**

The timetable can be adjusted for the needs of each individual learner and if necessary extended for a longer period of time in consultation with the Leadership Team. Please see your Welcome Letter for timetable details.