



**Myerscough
College**
Opportunities for all to succeed



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3 April 2020

Dear Further Education Students

Life has changed dramatically for all of us in the last couple of weeks. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the College is now in full lockdown with no students attending College or living on site. We had originally hoped that we would be able to re-start face to face lessons on 20th April, but we know that this will not be able to happen. We will keep reviewing this situation in line with Government guidance.

You will no doubt have a lot of questions about your course and what the current situation means for you as a Myerscough student. In this letter I will provide an update on as much as I can at this time.

Completing your Course

If you are due to complete your course this summer, please be assured that the College is working very closely with all the awarding bodies to ensure that you will still be able to get your qualifications. You may have heard that the Government have cancelled all exams in May and June. This means that if you were due to take a synoptic assessment, GCSE English and/or Mathematics, Functional Skills test or an industry related practical assessment in term 3, this will not happen. However, the awarding bodies will be making alternative plans to ensure you are given the grade most appropriate for you that reflects the work you have put in and are continuing to put into your studies.

The awarding bodies are still working out how to do this and they may want to see examples of your College work. It is really important that you keep all of your coursework and notes you have taken and that you continue to study on your course. Your Tutors, Progress Coaches and Inclusive Learning staff will continue to help you to do this. Please keep in regular contact with your Programme Leader via College email.

If you are part way through your course at Myerscough, then it is essential that you continue to study from home and complete the work that your Tutors set for you by the deadlines you are given so that you are in the best place possible to continue your studies once the College reopens. When this does happen, your lecturers will help you to catch up with any practical skills needed for your course and will do all they can to ensure you can progress.

Please be in no doubt that you must continue to engage in all parts of your study programme, including English and Maths if you are enrolled on GCSE or Functional Skills. All work you do in term 3 is equally important as all work completed in the previous terms of the academic year. Tutors will be asked to make recommendations on your potential achievement based on your performance and engagement throughout the study programme over the whole academic year.

Studying from Home

It can be difficult to study at home, especially if you have other members of your family trying to work, study or relax at home too. If you can, try and find a place to study that is quiet and where you can concentrate. Your Tutors will be setting you work through Canvas and many will be teaching online at the usual time of your lessons. Do try to study following your usual College timetable. Some of your Tutors may set 'homework' too. You will need to keep studying all aspects of your course, including English and Maths.

It is important to take breaks from the screen, get fresh air and keep hydrated. You could try having a study chat with your friends too to help motivate each other.

Staying Safe Online

You will be spending a lot of time online for both College work and to stay connected with your friends. It is really important that you keep yourself safe online. There is lots of useful information in the link below. Your College Tutors will be contacting you through Canvas and your Office 365 accounts. They will only ever use your College email or Skype address or Canvas to be in touch with you.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/young-people/resources-11-19s>

Library

You can still access your College Library online – just login to Canvas, find Digital Skills for Students and then Library and then there is a link to E-books, Journals and many other useful information sources by subject area. If you want to use the e-books (Dawsonera – this includes books on most subjects we cover at the College), just email library@myerscough.ac.uk and we will give you a username and password within 24 hours. If you need any further help don't hesitate to email library@myerscough.ac.uk. If you currently have books out on loan from the College, please do not worry - they can be returned when face to face classes resume.

Work Experience

Following Government advice, no students can attend their work experience placements. This will not prevent you from completing your course. Students that have engaged and built hours towards the total required will be in a stronger place than those that have not engaged. Please ensure that you have a log of all of our hours and keep this information safe for when it is required.

Progressing to your Next Stage

We will help you to prepare for your next steps while we are teaching online. Your Tutors and Progress Coaches will be in touch to support you. Keep an eye on the College website and our social media sites for careers live chat and regular updates. If you are applying for another Myerscough College course for September or to study somewhere else, we will help you to do this.

Awards Ceremonies

After much consideration and a heavy heart, we have taken the difficult decision to cancel this year's Further Education Awards ceremonies, scheduled to take place in June and July across all of our centres. This is incredibly disappointing, but we have done this to protect your wellbeing as well as that of your guests and our own staff. We believe that this is the right decision given the latest Government advice on containing the spread of coronavirus and avoiding large gatherings. We will look to provide alternative ways of celebrating exceptional student achievement in the coming weeks and months.

Free School Meals and Bursary

We understand that there is a hoax email currently circulating asking parents to give their bank details to others online for free school meals. Please do not give your bank details to anyone. The College is putting the money into parents' accounts. If you or your family are facing hardship or need bursary support, please ask for help by emailing studentfinance@myerscough.ac.uk.

Your Health and Wellbeing

This is a very strange time for all of us and we are having to get used to living very differently. We are conscious that some members of our student community may be experiencing difficulties at this challenging time. If you need advice or support, either online or via telephone, Lisa Hartley, Director of Student Support & Welfare, or one of the other members of our Student Support team can be contacted by:

email: lhartley@myerscough.ac.uk

Tel: 07407 304267

Alt Tel: 07889 754287

You may also find some of these other contacts useful:

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/for-children-and-young-people/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/>

<https://papyrus-uk.org/>

<https://www.annafreud.org/what-we-do/anna-freud-learning-network/coronavirus/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/childrens-mental-health/depression-anxiety-mental-health/>

You are all highly valued members of our Myerscough community and we are here to support you. It is important to keep focused on successfully completing the whole of your study programme and next steps towards work and your career aspirations. If you have any worries or questions, please don't hesitate to contact your Tutor or Progress Coach.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a peaceful Easter break.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alison Robinson', written in a cursive style.

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