



Myerscough College

Opportunities for all to succeed

Our Ref: AR/JP/Letters2021/Student Letter – Lockdown 2021.01.05



5 January 2021

Dear Students

National Lockdown – Stay At Home

No doubt you will have seen the Prime Ministers' announcement yesterday that all colleges and universities will **move to fully online teaching with immediate effect until after February half term** due to the spread of coronavirus. This means that no students / apprentices should now turn up for any face-to-face teaching at any of the College centres in the next few weeks.

Apprentices should however continue to attend work, as required by their employers. Essential visits to employers by tutors will continue where risk assessed as safe to do so. Students may continue to attend work placements where they are permitted by employers and are already risk assessed by the College as safe to do. Monitoring visits by Work Placement Job Coaches will now take place virtually, until further notice. No new work placement / health and safety visits will take place at this point in time, and this will be reviewed towards the end of February 2021. If your employer has put your work placement on hold, due to the current lockdown, firstly please do not worry, and secondly ensure that you let your Work Placement Job coach know.

The Prime Minister announced that **not all exams will go ahead this summer**. We do not know what this means at this stage and it is likely to be some days / weeks away before we get any real detail or clarity. This makes it even more important that you continue to work hard and produce your assignments on time and to the best of your ability. They may play a future role in determining your final grades.

Some of you have exams in the coming weeks. At this stage there are mixed messages about whether the **BTEC exams, Functional Skills exams and City and Guilds exams** will go ahead in the coming week(s). Students will be informed by their Course Tutors.

Higher Education students' semester 1 assessments will go ahead next week. Should there need to be a change to your assessment method or timetable your HE Course Tutor will be in touch.

A number of our **Residential Students** moved back into their accommodation this weekend. The Government has asked that students do not move around the country. Our recommendation to residential students is that they stay where they are now i.e. at home or at Myerscough, if they are happy to do this. If students wish to return home from their residential accommodation, we will support this decision but request that this takes place in the next few days, wherever possible. If any residential students who were planning to arrive this coming weekend still wish to return to College, you must contact the Residential Helpline e-mail address. The Government advice is to stay put but there may be a special reason why you need to return. We will consider requests on a case-by-case basis.

The priority of the Government is to restrict travel, but we also need to ensure our students are safe and are able to access online learning. If any students plan to go home they will need to sign out using the normal procedures and hand in their keys. We will be keeping the Library and IT Drop In facilities open for residential students during this lockdown and a catering service will also remain open. The gym and Stumble Inn will be closed in line with national guidance. **Please note there will be no access to teaching staff on site during this time** as they will be working from home to support online teaching. Please contact reshelp@myerscough.ac.uk (not 24 hours), if you have any residential queries.

As in lockdown 1, the College will be open for a small number of students with **safeguarding needs and for vulnerable young people including for some with EHCPs** (educational health and care plans), where it is safe and appropriate. Please contact the Core if you wish to access this support service. Please note that **clinically extremely vulnerable students** must shield as in lockdown 1.

I know that many of you will feel anxious about studying full time online, keeping up your practical skills and preparing for future assessments / exams. If you have any **concerns**, please share them with your course team who will try to answer any questions you may have. They may not have all the answers immediately as some things will need to be determined by the Government and exam awarding bodies, but we will happily share with you all we are able to.

Your safety and well-being continue to be our priority. If you have any questions, or you are concerned about your own, or the health and wellbeing of your friends, please feel free to talk to the Core Team of Student Support and Welfare Officers and Counsellors. Below is a list of contact details for support, should you need them:

- Safeguarding: safeguarding@myerscough.ac.uk , 01995 642348 / 01995 642205
- Mentalhealthsupport@myerscough.ac.uk (not 24hrs) 07407304267
- Core / student support and welfare: 01995 642348 (Monday- Friday 9-5)

Additional College support services contact numbers are below:

- Residential Support team 24hrs: 07889 754 287
- Residential Accommodation: reshelp@myerscough.ac.uk (not 24 hours)
- IT servicedesk@myerscough.ac.uk 01995 642303
- Careers (All Centres) careers@myerscough.ac.uk 01995 642177
- Work Experience please contact your individual Job Coach or e-mail workplacement@myerscough.ac.uk
- Finance bursary@myerscough.ac.uk

Further **external health, wellbeing and mental health support** is also available through the following organisations:

- NHS mental health link: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/mental-health-helplines/>
- CALM <https://www.thecalmzone.net/>
- Kooth, mental health support: <https://www.kooth.com/urgent-support>
- Domestic Abuse: <https://www.gov.uk/report-domestic-abuse>, <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/domestic-abuse-how-to-get-help#report-it>
- Health information: <https://www.nhs.uk/>
- Work/ financial guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/worker-support>

In the meantime, please look after yourselves, your family, friends and loved ones – keep each other safe and we all hope to see you very soon.

Very best wishes



Alison Robinson
Chief Executive & Principal

