



22 May 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian/Carer,

## **Kirklees College – gradual increase in students working on campus and assessment update**

I hope you and your family and friends are well.

It has been a few weeks since I last wrote to you and I'm writing to give you an update on what is happening at College before the May half term break. You may have heard on the news about schools and colleges re-opening in June and I want to share with you what our plans are.

Our College campuses currently remain closed and the delivery of our curriculum remotely remains in place. This has been very successful for a very large number of our students and we have seen great examples of the work that students have been completing from home. We are very proud of all our students and their commitment, and thank our staff for the great support they have provided to students during this period.

You will be aware that following the Prime Minister's statement and Government updates that schools and colleges should plan to open from 1 June in a phased way. A range of year groups, including those in Years 10 and 12, were specified, with a focus on those taking exams in the following academic year.

Most students at college, however, do not study two-year programmes with exams at the end; many courses are assessed at different times and in different ways. Practical courses (particularly those that need a formal assessment of their skills competence) and Apprentices are not able to achieve their qualifications on the basis of a teacher proposed grade.

We are currently working on plans for a gradual and phased return for our students and staff, with a focus on those who are most vulnerable and have found it challenging to complete work from home and who cannot achieve their qualifications or progress to the next level without some face to face support or assessment. We will only start this when we feel it is safe to do so.

There is a lot of preparation needed to make our buildings safe, so to prioritise which students need our support, **we will start inviting students into college buildings from 15 June at the earliest. Teachers will contact students individually to let them know if they need to return before September, how this will work and what special arrangements will be in place.** If they are not contacted, they should not travel to college for any purpose.

In the meantime, I hope that students are able to continue learning remotely and are in regular contact with their tutors about next steps, whether that is the continuation of their current course or progression to the next level, an Apprenticeship, Higher Education or employment.

## Support for parents

We know many of you are busy with your own work or caring commitments and it cannot have been easy for some of you to have had the young person you care for studying at home. We have created a parents/carers forum to answer any questions and provide the support you may need. Information on this has been sent separately and I really hope you can join us.

We hope that the Government will announce soon a clear timetable for a move towards a 'new normal.' Once things are clearer, we aim to bring students back into college as soon as we can. However, the likely need for ongoing social distancing will require us to think carefully about which students come in and when.

## Assessments

As you may be aware, students pursuing GCSE, A Level, BTEC and other vocational courses will not be taking examinations this summer, (see [www.gov.uk/government/publications/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2020](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2020)) and will be awarded grades based on the work completed prior to lockdown and their teachers' estimation of the grade they would have achieved should they have continued with their planned learning.

We are working closely with all Awarding Organisations and awaiting final confirmation of decisions for each qualification by the regulator Ofqual and what the next steps are. Every qualification will fall into one of the following three categories and each individual student will be notified immediately by our examinations department which one applies to their studies:

- **Calculated Results** – Qualifications in this category will see calculated grades using a range of evidence collated by the tutors to fully inform their decision. Please note: calculated grade decisions from tutors are not final as these must then be checked by the awarding organisation who will then make the final and overall decision on the grades you receive for your qualification.
- **Adapted Assessment** – The assessments in the qualifications falling in this category will be adapted to help students achieve the outcomes of the qualifications. Tutors will already be engaging with students and will soon make them aware of all the adaptations for incomplete units/modules when we receive guidance from the respective awarding organisations.
- **Delayed Assessments** – The assessment for the qualifications in this category will be delayed until a return to the college has been decided and is deemed to be safe and manageable following Government advice.

The College will follow a fair and consistent approach and will at no point be disadvantaging anyone from achieving and progressing to their intended destination.

Finally, I want to acknowledge that we know the lockdown will have been tough on young people and we will do our utmost to help reduce any long-term effects on them and we want to work with you on what is the best way to do that. We know it may have been tough for you too, as Parents, Guardians or Carers, and encourage you to contact the College if you have any questions, comments or concerns.

Best wishes,



Carmen Gonzalez-Eslava  
Vice Principal (Curriculum, Performance and Innovation)

