

15th December, 2020

Dear Student,

The College has worked very hard to provide [COVID-secure teaching and learning](#) to all students, and we continue to be confident that the measures in place, in line with the government guidance, will help to provide a secure and positive learning environment for our students and staff. As you will be aware Government guidelines have stated that Higher Education providers move to fully online from the 9 December 2020.

Following the winter break it is important that we take careful measures to manage the return to College, to protect you, our staff and local communities, while reducing disruption to your education. This letter sets out how we will support you to return as safely as possible, by staggering this process and to facilitate testing.

Bradford College has access to a number of tests we can offer, we use a PCR test methodology.

PCR testing is considered the “gold standard” in virus detection. This test actually detects RNA (or genetic material) that is specific to the virus and can detect the virus within days of infection, even those who have no symptoms. The test can be done at home. If you are a student returning from you home to your term-time address and require a test please email s.gott@bradfordcollege.ac.uk and the team will send you a test kit.

If you are a student who lives locally you should follow local testing guidance.

When students can return to campus

The government has advised that:

1. The return of students to campus should be staggered - this is to minimise transmission risks from the movement of students, and from more students being on campus
2. If you are studying a course that is practical or involves practice placements you will return to campus first
3. You will be offered testing if you are returning to term time accommodation from your home address
4. If you returned home over the winter break you will be encouraged to return to your term-time accommodation when your face-to-face teaching is scheduled to start again
5. If you are sitting exams in January we have also ensured these are on-line too. This was to give you all enough notice of your assessments and the changes rather than leaving it to potential disruption.
6. To minimise the risk to yourselves and others on their return to College, you should:
 - a. act responsibly
 - b. follow local restriction tier guidance on social contact
 - c. use local community testing programme if required

If you test positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), you are required to self-isolate for a period of 10 days before travelling and to assist NHS Test and Trace with contact tracing. Your household will need to follow the appropriate guidance.

Staggered Return Dates

Your return date will be staggered according to the programme you are studying during the weeks from 4 January, week commencing 18 January 2021 and onwards through to the originally planned Semester 2 start date of 25th January.

We will support students on practical courses to return to campus in line with their planned start dates. We will also support students who require catch-up time.

Week Commencing 4th of January

The first students to return will be studying programmes that included the following elements –

Your Programme Leader will give you exact dates and timetables:

- Allied health professions e.g. Social Work, Ophthalmic Dispensing,
- Scientific or technology subjects e.g. Engineering, Computing,
- Initial teacher training (ITT) programmes (full-time)
- Art, Design, Creative Industries and Performing Art programmes
- Sports programmes

Week Commencing 11th January onwards

Your Programme Leader will give you exact dates and timetables

- Youth and Community, Counselling and Psychology
- Education Studies Programmes, wider Education programmes not reliant on placements
- Health and Social Care Programmes
- Construction Management Programmes
- Business, Accountancy, Law

Local programme arrangements

We know that some courses are better delivered online at the beginning of term. For example, where students are on part-time programmes and may be in controlled 'bubbles' at work. E.g.

- Supporting and Managing Learning in Education FdA and Top Up Part-time

Your Head of School and Programme Leader will keep you up to date with programmes that fall under local arrangements.

Access to Campus support

If you need access to College support either through Student Services, the Library, IT support, Financial advice and support, you will be able to come into College and get the support you need from Monday the 4th of January 2021 even if your programme of study has not started back, providing you are symptom free and continue to follow the government guidance in operation.

We hope you have a great Winter break and we look forward to welcoming you back to the College safe and well in January.

Kind Regards

Naomi Sharples
Assistant Principal HE

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