



The Ridge Employability College

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Date: 26th May 2020

Dear Learners, Parents/Carers,

Ref: Home Learning 2020

It has been a strange week I think as we all reflect on the decision for staff and learners to return to site from next Monday, 1st June 2020.

The phased approach in our return to the delivery of sessions on site is filled with caution as we all continue to put first everyone's safety. The road map message from the Government is constantly being updated and I will keep this decision under review to safeguard the health and wellbeing of our staff, learners and families.

As you are all aware, the Government restrictions are going to be lifted slowly and only if the rate of infection continues to fall. If the message from the Government changes before 1st June 2020 I will reconsider the position if the safety of learners and staff may be compromised.

The college site from 1st June 2020 is reopening to a limited number of learners and staff each day to meet the social distancing guidance and health & safety requirements. We are calling them 'Contact Days'.

All learners have been contacted independently with details of the dates and times they are expected in college, the staff who will support them and their fellow learners they will be grouped with. The sessions will focus on health and wellbeing and provide learners with the opportunity to socialise at a distance with members of the college. Learners' sessions are scheduled to start at 10am and learners should be collected at the end of the session at 2pm from the Bullcroft site.

A deep clean will be completed at the end of each session. All staff and learners will be required to observe instructions to follow social distancing, hand washing through the session and at times to apply a facial covering. A choice of facial covering will be provided. At this point I would like to thank members of The Ridge Supporters who as always are fully supporting the college. They have set up a cottage industry of seamstresses who are frantically sewing to support our externally sourced supplies of PPE.

Home learning as I say will continue right through the remainder of this term. A craft challenge is attached to this letter all inspired by this lovely weather we are enjoying.

We launch 'Social Zooming' this week. Our staff will be inviting learners to attend a Zoom meeting where quizzes and social debates are going to be hosted to help learners meet virtually with their friends from college. If anyone is interested, please let us know so we can add you to the invites. The sessions will run Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursdays between 11am-11.30am.

Some weekly reminders,

To help keep us safe as we all use social media and internet platforms more, there is an update from NOS (National Online Safety). This is still on the website for anyone who hasn't seen it.

Staff will continue to support learners with virtual learning if appointments are booked. Staff have marked all the work learners have returned up to last week. Marking feedback now forms part of our weekly calls to learners and photographs of the marking are being sent out to learners.

Virtual learning via 'Whats App' with our teaching staff is available every day between 9am & 3pm. If you would like support with your learning this week please book a teaching slot. Please contact Kerry or Sam on their numbers below.

There is also still access available to activities on www.wizardingworld.com for learners who may be interested in Harry Potter.

If parents want to catch up with other parents, there is the 'Group' page on the college face book page. This helps you to keep in touch with each other and share experiences.

Teaching staff are available Monday to Friday this week between 9am and 3pm for learners/parents and carers who are continuing their learning on:

Stuart Vaughan, Head of Curriculum-	07903513057
Kerry Richardson, Functional Skills Co-Ordinator-	07919168566
Samantha Everatt, Teacher-	07900043137

If you have any queries regarding welfare or support, please contact Mel or Sharon at any time:

Melanie Atkin, Head of College-	07950389874
Sharon McCusker, Transitions. Data and Pastoral Manager-	07429943136

I hope everyone will join together on Thursday this week in clapping for our carers as we thank all front-line workers for their contribution to keeping us safe.

We would like to thank you all again for your support at this unprecedented time and appreciate with the return to college there could be information from the time at home that parents may want to share with the college to help us to help your young people in their transition back to college. Please contact either Mel or Sharon and we will support in whatever way we can.

If we can do more to help, please let me know. As I have said the teaching team will be continuing home calls every Friday but we are available during the week for any concerns on the numbers detailed above.

I hope that everyone is staying safe. I am available for any questions as we prepare everyone for our return to classroom sessions.

Best wishes to all our families at this difficult time.

Yours sincerely

Melanie Atkin
Head of College