

Update from Principal to parents/carers of Learners

Dear parent/carer



## CORONAVIRUS

I know that this is a time of rapidly changing information so I thought it would be helpful if I wrote to you to outline the position with regard to Coronavirus and Coleg y Cymoedd, particularly in light of the statement today from the Education Minister about school closures.

Firstly, and most importantly, the college is following all the advice provided by the UK and Welsh governments. In particular, this means that our learners, their parents and carers, and our staff must follow the guidelines on self-isolation, hand washing and social distancing.

That takes me onto my second point. Today's announcement was about school closures but we will also be phasing out face to face learning after Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 4pm, with next week being a transition week to allow us to complete limited pre planned assessments. Learners will not be expected on campuses from Monday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March, unless they have pre-arranged assessments (provided they are well). There will be no amendment to the planned Easter holiday arrangements and our priority is to support learners in completing their qualifications. This means that learners should complete any assessments given to them over the Easter break, in line with guidance supplied by their tutors.

We will convert all other learning activity to remote working so that learners can stay at home to do this work, partly in order to encourage social distancing and to slow the spread of the virus. It's really important that learners take the time to complete this properly and on time, just as if they are in college and your support in this would be really appreciated. Learners will all be able to contact their tutors, remotely, and will also be able to use our wide range of support services, again remotely. So if learners have any worries with their studies, their health, their wellbeing or anything else, please contact us. Learners will all be contacted individually by their tutors to agree an individual learning plan of how they can complete their studies and we will update them on any changes to the assessment requirements agreed by awarding bodies.

We are working closely with the Welsh Government to make sure that attendance requirements are waived and that financial support, such as EMA, is continued provided that learners continue to keep in touch and complete any set work.

This is a difficult and unsettling time for all of us and whilst we must all take personal responsibility for our own health - and that must come first for all of us - I want you to know that the college is doing all it can to ensure that all of our learners can gain their skills and qualifications with as little delay as possible.

We are in the process of establishing some specific helplines to deal with queries and I will write again when I know more.

Karen Phillips  
Principal