

Update from Principal to all learners

Dear learner



## 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 we must - all students and staff, 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 you in completing your qualifications. This means that you should complete any assessments given to you over the Easter break, in line with guidance supplied by your tutors.

We will convert all other learning activity to remote working so that you 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 you take the time to complete this properly and on time, just as if you are in college. You will all be able to contact your tutors, remotely, and will also be able to use our wide range of support services, again remotely. So if you have any worries with your studies, your health, your wellbeing or anything else, please contact us. You will all be contacted individually by your tutors to agree an individual learning plan as to how you can complete your studies and we will update you 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 you 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 you can all still obtain skills and qualifications - and then progress to the next stage of your career 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