

CORONAVIRUS/COVID-19 Update – 6 May 2020



I hope you and your families are well and keeping safe. I am writing to update you all on the latest position about Covid-19 and Coleg y Cymoedd.

The college remains closed to all learners and there is no face to face teaching taking place at college. All teaching and learning is therefore being undertaken remotely, using the internet and mobile devices. Although this is not how we would prefer to be working, I am very pleased to be able to tell you that at least seven out of eight learners (88%) are engaging in this way and therefore making good progress with their studies. There is still the opportunity for learners who have not engaged for a variety of reasons to get in touch so we can help you catch up - enquiries@cymoedd.ac.uk

The reason for this way of working is simple - we are following the advice of the Welsh Government on how best to keep you all as safe as we can from Covid-19. We will continue to follow the Government's advice and will not re-open any part of the college to learners unless we are sure that we can do so safely.

At present it seems very unlikely that we will be opening before half term. It is therefore essential that all learners continue to follow the advice of their teachers, undertake all activities and assessments and make use of the college's wide range of support services.

The college is working hard with all the different awarding bodies (who award the qualifications that each learner is studying for), Qualifications Wales and Ofqual to ensure that every course can be completed – and that as far as possible learners are not disadvantaged by these extraordinary circumstances.

As each awarding body makes its decisions we will advise learners. If you have not heard anything yet it means that your awarding body has not decided yet how to proceed or is consulting on their proposed way of working. I know this can be a little frustrating, but we all have to be patient – especially given that under normal circumstances results would be available from the end of June through to August depending upon the course you are studying. The minute we know, we will let you know what the arrangements are going to be – in the meantime we must continue to follow the remote learning programmes.

Although we do not necessarily know exactly how all courses are to be assessed this year, we do know that awarding bodies, employers and universities expect learners to have covered and learnt the same material as before. This is why it is so important that all learners follow all parts of the remote learning programmes right up until the end of term and if you are having difficulties doing this you contact us as soon as possible.

Although the detailed timings may vary a little from what normally happens we are doing all we can to make sure that as many learners as possible can proceed to employment, university, apprenticeship or the next year of their studies with us without any loss of time.

Education providers across Wales are working with the Welsh Government to see how we might gradually return to school / college but this is dependent on the five tests set out by the Education Minister <https://gov.wales/education-minister-sets-out-five-key-principles-schools-return> At present, I do not think it is at all likely that we will be opening full time for all learners before September. However, we would like to see if we can find ways to deliver those practical components that cannot be done remotely. Practical sessions will be our priority – but only if learners', and staff, safety at (and to and from) college is secure – again see the five tests above.

Finally, a huge thank you for working hard at home, for keeping on top of your assignments and for engaging with your tutors to ensure that you can continue to learn and be successful in future.

Karen Phillips, Principal

6 May 2020

If you need to contact us
Email - enquiries@cymoedd.ac.uk
LiveChat – www.cymoedd.ac.uk (via the Help Centre at bottom of screen)