



## Parents' Guidelines for Lockdown and Remote Learning January / February 2021

### **Context:**

Unfortunately, since Christmas COVID-19 rates in Dudley borough and nationally have been climbing rapidly with no evidence of slowing. Coronavirus case rates are increasing across all age ranges including children. Such high rates are causing huge pressure on local NHS hospitals and it is critical that they are brought back under control with extreme urgency. As a result of this, the government have announced that schools and colleges should be closed except for the children of key workers and those identified as vulnerable. This closure is set to last at least until the end of this half term.

This document outlines how Halesowen College will operate during this closure period.

### 1. Remote Learning during Lockdown

We will continue to teach our full curriculum during lockdown. The normal timetable will be delivered as live lessons via Microsoft Teams. The teacher will start the Teams lesson and introduce the learning content or activity. Some lessons will be delivery of information whilst others will be a mix of delivery and set tasks. The teacher will remain contactable throughout the lesson to respond to student queries and monitor work being produced. Appropriate feedback will be given to students. This could take the form of:

- Whole class verbal / written feedback
- Self-marking quizzes
- Self-marking online learning platforms (Century Learning)
- Feedback through Teams, Moodle or Turnitin.

Registers will be taken for each lesson and students will be expected to submit work. Parents are able to see their son/daughter's timetable on the **MyHalesowen** app. Instructions on how to use the app are attached in case you don't already have them – you can download the app for free from either the Apple Store or Google Play store. We will be sending a letter with login details to parents for the app during the next week. Students will continue to be set homework as they would if they were at college.

We recognise that it may not be practical for students to attend work placements. Where placements are still possible, we would encourage students to attend in line with the government guidance to protect their and placement staff / clients safety.

### Apprenticeships:

During this lockdown period, the college will continue to provide an education to all our apprentices virtually. Teaching and learning will be provided as per their normal timetable.

Any apprentice who has been furloughed is encouraged to continue with their learning programmes during this lockdown wherever possible.

Separate arrangements and specific communication will be sent if End Point Assessment is scheduled during this time.

## 2. Digital Devices and equipment for learning

We will provide ICT support for students who do not have access to equipment. Students who do not have access to an appropriate device for online learning, or have no internet access, are asked to make their personal coach aware so they can follow it up with our Learner Services Team. We will do our best to arrange the loan of any necessary equipment. Where this is not possible, we may contact you to discuss alternative arrangements.

## 3. Students applying to University

As a result of the national lockdown, the final UCAS deadline has been moved back to 6pm on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January. Students who have yet to submit their application to University can access a wide range of resources and guides via Moodle, as well as access 1:1 support from one of our careers team. Email: [careers@halesowen.ac.uk](mailto:careers@halesowen.ac.uk)

Remember that Halesowen College offers a range of Higher Education courses which are available to view via this link: <https://www.halesowen.ac.uk/study/course-category/higher-education/>

## 4. Personal coaches and home contact

Personal coaches will have weekly contact with their tutor group and this will provide opportunity for students to seek academic and pastoral support. If you are concerned about your son / daughter, please do not hesitate to contact their personal coach.

## 5. Free Meals / Learner Support Fund

Students eligible for Learner Support Fund will have their weekly allowance paid directly into their bank account. If there are any problems with this or your financial situation has changed then please contact [studentservices@halesowen.ac.uk](mailto:studentservices@halesowen.ac.uk) or contact us using the live chat facility on our website [www.halesowen.ac.uk](http://www.halesowen.ac.uk)

The College is continuing to run its FareShare foodbank initiative. This is where supermarkets donate surplus food. We are able to provide food bags to families, large and small, and to those who live independently. Delivery can be arranged to most homes. This is available on a weekly basis.

## Mental Health and Well Being

Safeguarding and Learning Support will be available and operating throughout the period of lockdown. The Safeguarding Team can be contacted as below:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Mobile Number</b>
Lynn Pass	Designated safeguarding lead	07458 009 565
Haroon Bashir	Deputy Designated Safeguarding lead	07458 064 707
Renate Broomhall	Deputy Designated Safeguarding lead	07458 045 183
Sue Crowley	Deputy Designated Safeguarding lead	07458 007 696
Lee Clulow	Deputy Designated Safeguarding lead	07458 007 697
Mandy Downing	Deputy Designated Safeguarding lead	07458 045 178
Jennifer Morrison	Deputy Designated Safeguarding lead	07458 045 171
Atlanta Hazlewood	Student Support Advisor	07458 064708

The College recognises periods of lockdown can be challenging for everyone and we would encourage learners to access resources via Togetherall, which can be accessed using college log in details. <https://togetherall.com/en-gb/>

### **Other useful contacts include:**

<https://www.thewhatcentre.co.uk/>

The What Centre has two sites in Dudley and Stourbridge. They offer support to all young people between 9 and 25. They offer counselling & bereavement support.

Young people can complete a self-referral form or be referred through a professional or parent.

<https://youngminds.org.uk/>

A web site that offers lots of information for young people and parents on a variety of subjects including anxiety, depression, self-harm, eating problems, anger, grief, and loss.

They also offer a 24/7 a Crisis messenger support service across the UK

<https://www.kooth.com/>

Free, safe, and anonymous online support for young people

Online until 10pm

<https://www.forwardthinkingbirmingham.org.uk/>

Provide easily accessible mental health support for children and young people.