



## The Ridge Employability College

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<https://www.facebook.com/TheRidgeEmployabilityCollege/>

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Learners, Parents/Carers,

Ref: Home Learning 2020

It has been a busy week interpreting the most recent guidance from the Government and various advisors to the college. The road map message is that they would like as many learners to return to college as soon as possible.

I am approaching this with caution. My priority is the health and wellbeing of all learners, their families and the college staff. This is to ensure that everyone remains as safe as possible.

I am intending to reopen the college site from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 to a limited number of learners and staff each day. Home learning will continue until the end of the summer term for all learners.

I spoke with most parents and some learners last week and took your views into consideration. Your comments contributed to the decision to offer learners one contact day a week. Each contact day will be called a Hub and learners and staff will attend the same day each week. The numbers of learners and staff in each Hub will be limited to comply with social distancing and to ensure it meets the college's risk assessments. In the event anyone displays any symptoms the whole Hub will isolate for 14 days and the person displaying symptoms will be required to be tested for Covid 19. The remaining Hubs will continue attending.

The sessions will focus on health and wellbeing and provide learners with the opportunity to socialise at a distance with members of the college.

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. No food or drinks will be allowed in college and we are requesting that no bags are brought into the buildings. All refreshments and a choice of a hot or cold lunch will be provided. These requirements are to ensure the environment is as safe as we can make it for us all.

Learners should be transported to college by a family vehicle and the session is scheduled to start at 10am, learners should be collected at the end of the session at 2pm.

I will be contacting all learners who indicated they wanted a place back at college later this week with details of their contact day.

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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 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 I will reconsider the position if the safety of learners and staff may be compromised.

I do appreciate how difficult it is for everyone at this time and the consideration everyone gave to the decision to support the reopening of the college site and I'd like to thank you again for all your support.

Home learning as I say will continue right through the remainder of this term and a further 4 packs were sent out last week. A fitness challenge is attached to this letter. I hope everyone will enjoy the challenges in the nice weather that is forecast this week.

We are also launching 'Social Zooming' later 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.

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). I've reattached it to this letter for those parents who might have missed it last week. Parents and learners have personalised links for this site. We have issued these previously but if anyone experiences difficulties with this please contact Sharon McCusker on her number below.

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 available.

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](http://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.

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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

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