



The Ridge Employability College

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Date: 13th October 2020

Dear Learners, Parents/Carers,

Ref: Half Term Update

We are now coming to the end of the first half term and I would like to thank everyone for all their hard work and consideration that has been shown for each other and the new ways of working. Everyone is doing really well, attendance is at 98.14% and everyone should be congratulated.

I have been writing to you all now for several months with an update on the college news and this has included at times further changes following updates from the Government with regards Covid 19.

The news last night was to confirm that in Doncaster and our surrounding areas the risk to our health and wellbeing has increased and we are now in a stage 2 category that imposes the following restrictions on us all.

- Households should no longer mix indoors; either at home or at any hospitality venues.
- Different households may meet outdoors (including in gardens) but must continue to stick to the 'Rule of 6'.
- Where possible people should aim to reduce the number of journeys they make.
- 10pm curfews will remain in place for all pubs and restaurants.

No changes have been made by the Department for Education so we will still be delivering our teaching after half term in our HUB structures. This will still be done very cautiously, in line with current guidance to keep us all safe. We will be encouraging at all times that staff and learners apply the new recommendations of Hands, Face and Space. Learners may see more staff wearing a face covering to meet the requirements of our various sites to protect us and the public.

There will be at times an increased focus on remote teaching for all learners via Microsoft Teams or Zoom on their timetables. Staff and learners have adapted well in the first half term to this change. This is to ensure that we have an established method of remote teaching in the event of further restrictions being placed on Doncaster or the country as a whole so learning will continue.

New timetables will be emailed for the next half term and there are some changes. Individualised transport arrangements will also be confirmed too. We are still waiting for the delivery of our new

buses and we are still experiencing long journeys to and from college for some learners. I understand everyone's concerns regarding this. We are working hard to resolve this and will be amending the transport arrangements as soon as we can.

Email and text will continue to be used to communicate information to you to ensure everyone has the latest information as quickly as possible. My letters to the college community will also continue to be released to you via the website and email.

The HUBs are communicating now day to day news to keep you informed of developments in the HUBs but if you have any queries please contact your HUB lead or Mel or Sharon at any time.

Melanie Atkin, Head of College -

07950389874

Sharon McCusker, Transitions, Data and Pastoral Manager-

07429943136

The college offices are closed to visitors without a pre-booked appointment but reception is open for any general queries by calling 01302 897445.

Learners EHCP reviews for HUB 3 will be completed this term and will be conducted remotely. Everyone involved in this process will be contacted in plenty of time to ensure it runs smoothly.

The messages from the government are constantly being updated with regards health and education. I will continue to review the strategy for the college's delivery of education for the next academic year in order to safeguard the health and wellbeing of our staff, learners and families.

I will contact you directly of any changes in our approach as soon as they are known and full details will be displayed on our website. If I can ask that everyone refer to the site for the latest news.

Thank you to everyone who has helped to make the first half term a success and I hope we all stay safe by observing guidance.

Best wishes

Melanie Atkin
Head of College
Director