

Dear students, parents and carers,

We would like to provide further information about the college's plans for the remainder of this term. Over recent weeks we have carefully reviewed government guidance and have been completing detailed plans and risk assessments to enable a partial and phased reopening of the college.

The safety of students and staff continues to be our main priority and we do not want to disrupt the distance-learning arrangements that teachers have in place and which are working well in the circumstances. Accordingly, distance-learning will continue to be the mainstay of our educational provision for all students until the end of the summer term. This will enable the college to safely provide some targeted face-to-face support on site for small and manageable numbers of invited students to complement the distance-learning provided to all.

We are planning a three-phased reopening of the college as follows:

Phase 1 – from 15 June

A small number of students will be provided supervised access to study space and IT resources on site to support distance-learning. Students that we feel need this support most urgently have already been contacted to discuss arrangements, with additional information to follow this week. Students will attend from 9.30am to 12.30pm for between 3 and 5 days per week, depending on circumstances. Approximately 90 students will attend New College Pontefract each day during this phase.

Phase 2 – provisionally from 22 June

Additionally, we will be asking small numbers of students to attend college for a cluster of identified subjects, for example art and photography. We will prioritise a small selection of students for which distance-learning and progress have been particularly challenging because of access to resources and equipment. Again, students will attend from 9.30am to 12.30pm on a part time basis, to complement distance-learning, in very small class sizes of no more than 12 but in most cases 6-8 depending on the size of the room. Approximately 120 students will attend New College Pontefract each day during this phase and we will be contacting relevant students in the week ahead.

Phase 3 – provisionally from 29 June

Additionally, in phase 3 we will create opportunities for targeted students to attend some subject-specific support workshops to complement distance-learning, for a wider range of subject areas. Again, students will attend from 9.30am to 12.30pm on a part time basis, to complement distance-learning, and we anticipate that class sizes will not exceed 12, depending on the size of the room. We expect a maximum of 200 students to attend New College Pontefract each day during this phase and will contact relevant students nearer the time.

We will review how each phase is going and keep our risk assessments updated throughout and will only progress from one phase to the next if it is judged safe to do so.

As places in each of these phases are very limited, we will be grateful to students for attending when requested. We will be providing detailed guidance for all students that are returning, including details about how we will ensure social distancing, cleanliness and the use of hand gels and PPE, transport information, and what you should do if for any reason you think you may be unable to attend (for example because of existing medical conditions or if they are self-isolating because of symptoms of covid).

You can find our current risk assessments [HERE](#)

You can find more details about our reopening planning [HERE](#)

Students that are not directly contacted by teachers or progress tutors should not attend college in any circumstances until further notice. We also respectfully ask parents and carers not to attend college, but to contact staff via Cedar, email or by telephoning the college if they have any queries.

We would like to remind students and parents that term dates have been adjusted in order to maximise the amount of teaching and support we can provide this term. Year 12 teaching will continue until **Friday 10 July**. Progression exams will now take place in the first week of the autumn term, with Year 13 students now provisionally returning on **Monday 7 September**. BTEC progression assignments will still be completed before we break up for the summer holidays.

As mentioned previously, much more detailed information will follow for those students that we are asking to attend college as part of our phased reopening. However, please do get in touch if you have any concerns or questions.

Yours sincerely,



Vicky Marks

Principal