

Our plans to welcome Higher Education students to return to face to face delivery on Campus in March 2021.

Dear HE Learners,

Firstly, we thank you for the patience and understanding that you have shown during the first part of this academic year as we have worked hard to protect your continuation of study within the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic. We appreciate that this has been a very uncertain time however, following the most recent Government announcement regarding the staged lifting of lockdown restrictions across the UK, we are pleased to be able to write to you to outline how and when we will be welcoming our Higher Education students back to campus for face to face delivery from Monday 15th March 2021.

The government have set out that from Monday 8th March 2021, Higher Education providers should enable the return to face-to-face teaching for students on courses which support the pipeline of future critical key workers as well as students who are studying practical or practice-based subjects and require access to specialist equipment and facilities.

The College has reviewed this guidance and we are currently updating our risk assessment to enable students on the following programmes to safely return to some face to face delivery from week commencing 15th March 2021.

Confirmed for return from Monday 15th March 2021

- HND Creative Art and Design (Art Practice, Photography, Graphic Design, Interior Design)
- HND Creative Media (Moving Image and Games Design)
- HND Performing Arts
- HND Theatrical Makeup
- HND Computing
- HND Sport
- HNC/HND Engineering
- HND Public Services
- HND Social and Community Care
- BA Hons Visual Media
- BSc Creative Computing

We are currently liaising with our partner universities regarding our franchised and validated provision and confirmation on the following courses will be provided by your programme tutors as soon as this is received.

Pending confirmation for return from Monday 15th March 2021

- 2+2 Social Studies
- Foundation Degree Early Years
- Foundation Degree in HealthCare Play
- Foundation Degree in Work with Communities and Young People
- BA Hons Integrated Services

Please note for students that are classed as clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV), you will need to continue with remote learning for the time being. As per Government guidance this is likely to be up to at least the 31st March 2021. Please contact your tutor to confirm and they will support you in accessing your sessions remotely until you are able to return to face-to-face learning.

Here at NWSLC we are committed to deliver as much face to face teaching and learning across the HE cohort as possible whilst ensuring that the safety of Students and Staff remains paramount within the constraints of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Wigston Campus

Blaby Road
South Wigston
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Nuneaton Campus

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Warwickshire
CV11 6BH

Hinckley Campus

Lower Bond Street
Hinckley
Leicestershire
LE10 1QU

Harrowbrook Campus

Harrowbrook Industrial Estate
Nuffield Road
Hinckley
LE10 3DT

MIRA Technology Institute

MIRA Technology Park
1 Eastern Avenue
Nuneaton
CV10 0UX

To enable a staged return of all students across all cohorts to on campus delivery, as well as the important implementation of rapid testing across all student and staff cohorts, face to face teaching will commence on the confirmed Higher Education programmes during week commencing 15th March.

All courses not listed in the confirmed category above will continue to be delivered online as they have been from the beginning of term. The government will review by the end of the Easter holidays, the options for the return of remaining students.

Students on the confirmed programmes listed above should prepare to return for up to 2 days a week on campus delivery. It is important to note that timetables will be reviewed on a course by course basis to establish the need for students to access specialist resources and facilities to successfully complete intended learning outcomes and qualifications. Students will not be required to attend in person for sessions that can reasonably be continued online.

To ensure that the quality, standards and continuation of study for all students is protected, a blended approach to teaching and learning through a mixture of face to face and digital learning methodologies will be adopted across some programmes to maintain the ability of students to complete their intended studies. Detail regarding course specific timetables will be confirmed via programme tutors by Friday 5th March 2021 to support you in planning and preparing for your return.

It is critical that, as a cross College community, we recognise and respect that the pandemic is not over. We must all continue to do all that we can to minimise the spread of infection and keep each other safe. The following safety measures will therefore be in place as we welcome students back to on campus face to face delivery.

Face Coverings

For a time, limited period (up to the Easter break) the use of face coverings is extended for a limited period to all indoor environments at College. Students and staff will be expected to wear face coverings when moving around the premises, in corridors, communal areas and in classrooms or workshops where social distancing cannot easily be maintained, except where exemptions apply. Students are asked to ensure that when they return to College that they have their own face covering to wear in indoor environments. If you are exempt from wearing a mask, please either wear one of the sunflower lanyards or request an exemption badge from reception, any non-compliance will be challenged.

Testing plans for Students

For **symptomatic** Students

Students must not come into College if:

- they have one or more coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms
- a member of their household has coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms
- they are required to isolate having recently visited countries outside the Common Travel Area
- they have had a positive test

They must immediately cease to attend and not attend for at least 10 full days from the day after:

- the start of their symptoms
- the test date if they didn't have any symptoms but have had a positive test (whether this was a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) or Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test)

Students should report positive test results as soon as they are received to the College and more information will follow on this.

In line with Government guidance the College will be working to offer Higher Education students:

- two tests to all students eligible to attend their HE provider, upon their return
- twice weekly testing to all students currently eligible to attend their HE provider.

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It is important to note that before students get tested, they should make sure they have arrangements in place to travel home safely in the event they test positive. They should walk, cycle or drive wherever possible. If driving, they should try to be the only person in the vehicle but can share a car with their household or support bubble if necessary. They should open windows, wear a face covering and sit far away from others if sharing a car. They should not use public transport or a taxi or private hire vehicle to return home. Higher Education students who travel to College from outside of the local area are encouraged to access [community testing](#) week commencing 8th March prior to return to on campus teaching.

Testing is voluntary however the College sets a clear expectation that students should take up the testing on offer to ensure that we can keep all students and staff as safe as possible.

We will require consent forms to be completed for students who wish to be tested. Consent forms can be found and completed here: [NHS Test and Trace: COVID-19 testing for College Students](#)

Hands, Face, Space.

The three most effective ways by which, together, we can control the spread of COVID-19 are to:

- wash our hands regularly
- wear a face covering
- make space (by maintaining social distance).

When on campus it is vital that you comply with the above expectations.

Support Services

We know that the pandemic has and is affecting us all in different ways and for some this may include an impact on health and well-being. We want to reiterate that the College is here for you and that support is available if you are experiencing any mental health or well-being challenges. Our well-being drop-in services remain open to all students as we transition back to on Campus face to face teaching and learning.

We appreciate that there will be many questions regarding the transition back to on campus delivery and in the first instance we ask you to direct any course specific questions to your programme tutors, they will be able to provide you with the detail regarding attendance for your individual programmes by Friday 5th March.

In the meantime if you have any general questions regarding the information detailed in this letter please do not hesitate to contact the HE Team heenquiries@nwslc.ac.uk.

We know that the social, educational and well-being benefits of regular student attendance at our campuses are integral to the development of our students' behaviours and attitudes, personal development and of the quality of their education. We therefore very much look forward to welcoming students back to campus to provide a fulfilling learning experience over the remainder of the academic year.

Kind regards,

Carrie-Anne Abdulai
Director of Higher Education and Access to HE Provision.

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