



ATTN: Students of Higher Education, New College Swindon. 03-01-2021

This communication is to provide you with information about the current position of the College, with regard to the HE provision at the college here in Swindon, since the National Lockdown.

Those of you who are students studying with us on a course franchised with our university partners, will have received email bulletins to update on the approach of that University at this time, and so we are writing to explain the approach the College is taking in line with Government guidance for [FE Colleges](#) during National Lockdown. We are taking into account advice provided by Government to the [University sector](#) and from the [Office for Students](#), recognising that our provision does not have student accommodation and we are operating in a different context to that of the University sector.

Once again we have moved all teaching, learning and assessment on-line. In dialogue with your lecturers, and in liaison with our awarding partners, we have assessed where any changes to your course or assessment may be needed in the coming weeks. Any minor changes, or delivery on-line will not in the majority of cases, materially change your course or learning outcomes. In a small number of cases, such as exams, we will make alternative arrangements to do this on-line where possible. Any changes will be communicated to you by your Programme Leader.

**The latest Government guidance proposes that the earliest return date for educational settings will be 8<sup>th</sup> March. In the week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> February the Government will conduct a review based on factors such as vaccine roll out, mortality rates, infection rates and pressure on the NHS. During the week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> February a plan will be announced for University and educational settings. We will take account of this guidance as it is published in order to communicate any changes to you as soon as possible. We are looking forward to welcoming you back to campus, but only when it is safe to do so, for our students and staff.**

We hope that by attending as much as possible in this first Semester of the year, you will have benefitted from the face to face teaching, learning and feedback of your lecturers, and valuable in person interaction with your peer group.

Your lecturers are working hard to provide live streaming, Teams and using other platforms to help you engage and successfully continue with your studies. If you are having any difficulties with your course, or access to teaching, learning or assessment please contact them in the first instance. There are other avenues of support available to you within the College which they can refer you to.

We understand these are challenging times and you may feel isolated or anxious. There are resources to support your mental health and wellbeing available through the platform [Student Space](#) including email, text and phone support. Please continue to access all avenues of support during this time, including study support, and stay in touch with your tutors and peers.

Please see our website for further information on other support we have available.

We hope you stay safe, well, and positive during this challenging time.

Best Wishes,

Higher Education at New College Swindon.