

6 September 2021

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

We're really looking forward to welcoming you back to college. The first day of term is **Monday 13 September**. Lessons begin at **8.45am** each day so please arrive by 8.30am, if you have a lesson Period 1; otherwise, please arrive in good time prior to your first lesson of the term. Your timetables are now on Cedar, so please check to see what day and time your first lesson is. Remember to complete your Summer Independent Learning (SIL) work before the start of term.

As students return to college in September it is important that we all take steps to reduce the likelihood of Covid transmission. We want to keep students and staff safe, and we want to minimise the disruption to learning that occurs when a student is required to self-isolate.

Covid Testing

In line with government guidance, the college is providing students with two opportunities to take a lateral flow test within college at the start of term, supervised and carried out by trained staff and volunteers. These tests are not mandatory, but we strongly encourage any students that opt not to take these tests in college to instead ensure that they complete a lateral flow test at home before returning to college.

For students that opt to take the two lateral flow tests in college, the first of these will take place on **Wednesday 8 September** for both Year 12 and Year 13 students. If you would like to take up this opportunity, please complete the required consent form using the following link.

Consent form link: <https://forms.ncpontefract.ac.uk/view.php?id=285068>

The second test will be on **Monday 13 September** for students that opt-in, and students should attend during an independent study period, or at break or lunchtime. Further information about how your data in your consent form will be used can found in our privacy notice.

Privacy Notice: <https://ncpontefract.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Privacy-Notice-Students.pdf>

Students that opt not to take the tests in college are asked to instead carry out a lateral flow test at home on Wednesday 8 September, and again on Sunday 12 September. Year 13 students that have run out of lateral flow tests will probably find it easiest to collect another box of tests from your nearest pharmacy. Alternatively, Year 13 students are welcome to call into college to collect a box of tests on Wednesday 8 September, Thursday 9 September, or Friday 10 September.

If your test result is positive, you should arrange a PCR test and only return to college if the PCR result is negative, or after a required period of self-isolation in the event that the PCR result is positive. Similarly, if you have any of the main symptoms of Covid (high temperature; a new, continuous cough; loss of or change in sense of taste/smell), you should not attend College and should arrange a PCR test. <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. If you have a positive result from a lateral flow test taken at home, or through a PCR test, please notify the College using COVID-19@ncbradford.ac.uk.

Covid Arrangements at college from September 2021

As the UK has now moved to stage 4 of the roadmap out of lockdown restrictions, students, parents and carers will experience a number of changes this September with respect to Covid. New College Bradford is implementing national guidelines, ensuring the delivery of high-quality face-to-face education for all students, whilst taking proportionate steps to keep students and staff safe. The use of face coverings is no longer recommended in schools and colleges due to their impact on clear communication in classrooms.

Potential Covid cases

If students are displaying one or more of the following symptoms, they **must not** attend site:

- A high temperature – feeling hot to touch on the chest or back
- A new, continuous cough – coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- A loss or change to your sense of taste or smell – either unable to taste or smell things, or things taste or smell different to normal

If any a student displays any of these symptoms, they must:

- Self-isolate at home in line with current guidance
- Inform the college that they are symptomatic
- Book a PCR test and await the results
- Inform college of the outcome of the PCR test
- If the test is negative then they can return to college
- If the test is positive they must not return to college but must continue to self-isolate in line with government guidance

If a student has a **positive** lateral flow test (LFT) they **must not** attend site and:

- Self-isolate at home in line with current guidance
- Inform the college that they have had a positive LFT
- Book a confirmatory PCR test and await the results. The PCR test should be taken within 2 days of the LFT
- Inform college of the outcome of the PCR test
- If the PCR test is negative it overrides the LFT then they must return to college as long as they do not display Covid symptoms
- If the test is positive they must not return to college but must continue to self-isolate in line with government guidance

Contact Tracing

The guidance to schools and colleges regarding contact tracing has changed. Schools and colleges are no longer responsible for establishing close contacts of positive cases, this is now the responsibility of NHS Test and Trace. Where a student tests positive for Covid you may be contacted by NHS Test and Trace to help identify close contacts. In these cases, NHS Test and Trace will provide advice and guidance on further actions that individuals need to take.

Individuals will not need to self-isolate, even if they have had contact with a positive Covid case where:

- They are fully vaccinated
- They are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- They have taken part in or are currently part of an approved Covid vaccine trial
- They are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

In these cases, NHS Test and Trace will advise these individuals to take a PCR test, you should continue to attend college while awaiting the result of this result.

Remote learning will only be provided to students who have tested positive for Covid or have been directed to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace, assuming they are well enough to participate. This is the only situation in which remote learning will be provided.

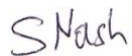
There are a number of control measures that will remain in place to reduce the transmission of Covid:

- **Hand Hygiene** – All staff and students will be encouraged to practice good hand hygiene, with hand sanitiser widely available on site.
- **Respiratory Hygiene** – All staff and students will be encouraged to follow the ‘Catch it, Bin it, Kill it’ guidance, with tissues widely available and additional bins placed around site.
- **Ventilation** – All mechanical ventilation system are set to maximise air flow through the buildings and, where available, windows will be opened. Consideration will be given to classroom temperature when opening windows.
- **Cleaning** – Cleaning staff will continue to move throughout the college cleaning commonly touched areas to reduce the spread of Covid.
- **Asymptomatic Testing** – All students have been offered two on-site lateral flow tests on their return in September. Lateral flow tests will be distributed throughout September to allow students to continue twice weekly home testing.
- **Face Coverings on Transport** – Face coverings are still recommended where students may come into contact with people they wouldn’t normally meet, such as on public transport.

Covid Vaccinations for Students Over 16

Students aged 16 and over and now eligible for a Covid vaccine. We strongly encourage all students to take up this opportunity, unless students have received medical advice not to from the NHS. Vaccination is the most significant way of reducing transmission and the effects of Covid, helping to keep students and others as safe as possible.

Yours sincerely,



Stuart Nash
Principal New College Bradford