



Dear Student,

## **Welcome Back!**

We are so pleased to see more of our students, across all curriculum areas, return to the classroom after the Easter break.

- **April 12**, for Neath College; Afan College; Llandarcy Academy of Sport; Pontardawe College; Maesteg and Swansea Construction Centre.
- **April 13**, for Brecon Beacons College and Newtown College.

You should have received notification of which groups you are in and the days you should be attending through your lecturer/course tutor.

It has been a strange time for us all and as we start returning to NPTC Group of Colleges, we are asking all staff and students to follow the Health and Safety guidelines and stay safe. This term we will be ensuring that you are focussing on any outstanding work and ensuring you are fully prepared for end-of-year assessments, so we want to make sure you are aware of the guidance in place.

**Induction:** On return, you will have an induction, so you know what you need to do to stay safe and receive your timetable. Just like the arrangements that were in place for the Autumn term, you will be placed into contact groups for classroom teaching and required to follow the social distancing arrangements that have been put in place. This will depend on the type of study programme you are following. These arrangements will be explained fully by the teaching staff during the induction programme.

**Safety and Face Coverings:** It is important at this time that we all think about others. The College will ask each student to complete their own daily health check. It asks that if you or any member of your household becomes unwell with a high temperature, persistent cough or any other COVID-19 related symptoms

you should **NOT** attend the college and must inform your teaching staff immediately.

When in College you will be asked to:

- wear a suitable face covering (3-layer) in all College communal areas and may be required to wear a face covering in class or an exam room – this is under review.
- stick to all social distanced guidelines, in all areas of the College, including classrooms and workshops – in college that is 2 metres.
- follow the tutors' instructions regarding cleaning and preparing any equipment you may be using.
- follow and understand the induction guidance your tutor will give in respect of safe working practices in study areas.

If travelling to College on a college bus or public transport, then you will be refused entry to the bus unless you are wearing a face covering. Please ensure you have a face covering with you before you leave home for college.

**Ventilation:** Plenty of fresh air is encouraged and needs to circulate in classrooms. Doors and windows will be open where possible so please dress suitably in case of a cold weather.

**Lateral Flow Testing:** All students have been offered Lateral Flow Tests to use at home. You should have received all the information but for further guidance, please see links below:

- [Letter from the Principal - Mark Dacey](#)
- [A privacy statement](#)
- [Guidance documents that will explain what the Lateral Flow Devices test involves](#)
- [Some frequently asked questions](#)

**Free College Meals will continue until the end of May.**

Whilst students begin the return to face to face learning at a college site, the College will continue to provide the £30 per 2 weeks, Tesco vouchers or direct payments until **Friday 28 May 2021**.

So students can access food when they attend a College site, they will also be able to use their Student ID Cards to purchase food from any College food outlet across all College sites.

**College Food Outlets:** Some of the food outlets across college will be reopening  
Opening hours are as follows:

- Neath College: The Brook Café including Starbucks: 08:30-14:00
- Starbucks A Block: 08:30-14:00
- Afan College Refectory: 08.30-14:00 (Café 73 is available for seating only - no food or drink sales)
- Brecon Beacons College Refectory: 08.30-13:00
- Newtown College Refectory, including Starbucks: 08.30-14:00

A grab-and-go style menu is being offered. Unfortunately, internal seating will remain closed until further notice in accordance with Welsh Government guidelines.

At the start of the pandemic, the College created an area on its website that it has kept up to date – all our latest advice and guidance is posted here as we respond to these changes. Please use the link to take you to the area. **[COVID-19 Update - NPTC Group of Colleges](#)**

On a final note – If you need further information or have queries about any of the content of this update, you can email **[studentsupport@nptcgroup.ac.uk](mailto:studentsupport@nptcgroup.ac.uk)** or call the College COVID-19 Helpline on **01639 648053**.

We ask for your understanding during this time and that you follow the guidance that is being given. We recognise there may be individual needs, and this may mean that some staff and students are unable to wear face coverings whilst at college and further guidance will be available on this matter. If you have any questions, then please speak to your lecturer/personal tutor.

