

Higher Skills students – COVID closure plan

We are committed to ensuring all our students have an outstanding learning experience and have ensured that our facilities are safe for students and staff during the coronavirus pandemic, in line with government guidance for [Further and Higher Education establishments](#)

All Higher skills programmes have been planned for this academic year with some level of flexibility in their delivery, to take into account the possibility of college closure due to Covid restrictions.

All students have been asked about their home IT facilities. In the event of a college closure, should they not have facilities to be able to work from home a safe and socially distanced space may be made available in college, or equipment provided on a loan basis.

Students have been provided with both a college account to use both MS Teams and Blackboard. All teaching material is available online and in the event of a closure lessons will continue as timetabled via Teams. Students should continue to follow this program of study and attendance will be taken at each online lesson.

Higher students should expect that assessment will continue as normal throughout their program, other than for practical assessments in which alternate methods of assessment may be made available. Assessment can also be delayed until arrangements can be made to return to college. For end point assessments provision will be made to conduct these in a Covid Secure environment.

Students studying a partnership programme or Foundation Degree should be aware that assessment guidance will differ from that of Pearson HNC and HND programmes, even within the same department.

Information about the safe opening of the college can be found on the website at <https://www.dudleycol.ac.uk/>

The College seeks to remain open at all times. Every effort will be made to ensure that external examinations continue in the event of College closure subject to health and safety considerations. It may be necessary to close individual classes and buildings during the coronavirus outbreak, due to positive cases being reported within the group. In this instance and following public health guidance students will be notified by phone and email at the first possible opportunity. Details of reported cases are available on the main college website.

In the event of the need for full College closure (either due to national guidance or advice from Public Health England), a notice will be displayed on the College website home page. We aim to put up such a notice by 6.30am if possible on the day of closure. If there is no notice up by this time, staff and students should assume that the College is open as normal. The College's telephone number 01384 363 517 will also include a recorded message about any closure, as soon as it is practicable to do so.