



Plumpton College – Remote Learning Plan 2020-21

1. Blended approach to learning 2020-21

From September 2020 our 16-19 Study Programmes, Higher Education provision and Apprenticeships have been delivered through a combination of days spent at college and an element of online learning, with an emphasis on live video lessons and tutorials that provide the same interactive learning experience as if students were in the classroom. Our Electively Home Educated students, School-links and Part-time adult courses have been delivered wholly onsite.

The delivery model that is in place is designed to enable students to safely access college for theory/practical days, and to reduce total student numbers on site by capitalising on those opportunities for online learning. This model can be further adapted at very short notice should the college need to respond to a change in circumstances whilst minimising impact on students' studies.

2. Reporting absence due to Covid-19 (if you or a member of your household display any of the Covid-19 symptoms)

Students should contact the College as soon as possible to be guided through the necessary stages (if this falls on a weekend this should not wait until the Monday morning – report it immediately):

- Email: away@plumpton.ac.uk or
- Text: 07860 004267 or
- Phone: 01273 892 100

It is imperative that if a student or a member of their household display any of the Covid-19 symptoms that they are tested as soon as possible and share the results with the College immediately upon receiving them. This then allows the college to take the necessary swift action regarding other students and guidance on when to return to college.

For guidance on what to do if you or a member of your household display any of the Covid-19 symptoms, [click here](#). If students are absent for whatever reason, they are expected to make arrangements via the Personal Tutor or Progress Coaches to access all of the lessons online.

3. Revised plans during National lockdown – January 2021



In response to the Government announcement of a national lockdown, the College is now shut to all students for onsite face to face delivery until Friday 12th February. *Students should not attend any college site until further notice.* Changes to the programme delivery are outlined below:

3.1 14-16, 16-19 study programmes and apprenticeships

- During this period timetables will move wholly online and each programme/course will have a published *bespoke remote learning timetable* for the period of the lockdown which will follow the usual timetabled days and times.
- Previously planned college-based practicals, will be replaced by online lessons which could be a mixture of live practicals and/or theory lessons which should allow an increase the proportion of practical opportunities in college, later in the year.
- The timetables are adaptable in line with any future changes to government guidelines.
- Theoretical assessments will continue as planned and be delivered virtually
- All other practical assessments are on hold pending either a return to onsite delivery or Awarding Body confirmation on how these will be adapted

2.2 Higher Education:

- During this period timetables will move wholly online and each programme/course will have a published bespoke remote learning timetable for the period of the lockdown which will follow the usual timetabled days and times.
- Sessions are being recorded for those students who are unable to join in real time
- Library resources are still accessible by contacting the library direct for scanned copies or downloads of required material.
- Assessments have been reviewed and some amendments have been made to mode and timing, but only after thorough consultation with awarding bodies, the Royal Agricultural University and University of Brighton, and in the case of the Foundation Degree in Veterinary Nursing, with the programme's PSRB, the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS).
- Multiple opportunities for student feedback are available to all HE students, and staff and students are working in partnership to mitigate the impact of the latest lockdown on study, assessment and achievement.

2.3 Part-time courses:

- During this period, where the programmes outcomes allow, sessions will move online with either theory front-loaded or a mixture of live practicals and/or theory lessons. This will support a move to an increased proportion of practical opportunities onsite, later in the year.



- Where the planned practical curriculum cannot be delivered, courses will be paused and re-started when a return to site is authorised.
- Theoretical assessments will continue as planned and be delivered virtually
- All other practical assessments are on hold pending either a return to onsite delivery or Awarding Body confirmation on how these will be adapted

4. Exams

The College cancelled all vocational and technical exams from Thursday 7 January 2021 in the best interests of the safety of students, staff and their families. We are waiting further information from specific awarding organisations on the alternative arrangements for these exams and will communicate them forthwith.

5. Remote learning platform (virtual 'online' lessons)

- The College uses Microsoft Teams as its main online learning platform which incorporates live lessons, online chat functionality, resource hub and assignment submission alongside many other features.
- All virtual lessons will take place during the same timetabled lessons which took place in College during the first term.
- During online learning, our expectation is that students will access and participate in all timetabled sessions including being on time, using a professional online background and dressing appropriately.
- Students are expected to turn their webcams on during online lessons unless directed otherwise by their teachers
- Registers will be taken as usual to record attendance at online lessons and any non-attendance will be followed up. Where we have concerns about student attendance or engagement, we will follow our standard process.

For support with Microsoft Teams our platform on which our virtual lessons are delivered please refer to the student [induction](#) section on the VLE.

6. Support for students without devices or connectivity

The College is keen to work with those students who may still be having some challenges accessing virtual lessons. In order to be able to do so effectively, a smartphone is not sufficient and therefore we continue to make laptops available for students to borrow should they need them. We also have ways of supporting students with poor internet connectivity, so if either of these apply students should contact our IT team at helpdesksupport@plumpton.ac.uk.



7. Student learning support

The Inclusive Learning and Development team are offering online learning support in a variety of forms including:

- Group sessions on using Microsoft Teams and the assistive technology available
- 30 minute 1:1 Structured Support sessions which can be booked through the Inclusive Learning and Development team via tutors or self-referral
- Online Learning Support Assistants in some virtual theory lessons (as per existing timetable)
- 1:1 sessions with a Key Learning Mentor for identified students
- Personal Development Programmes for identified students

Students should get in touch with their personal tutor, progress coach or contact:

- Dereen.taylor@plumpton.ac.uk
- Hugh.hennesseyholland@plumpton.ac.uk

8. Student Wellbeing

Our Student Wellbeing & Safeguarding team are available Monday to Friday, 9am - 4pm to help students' access emotional support. This could include general support and advice on wellbeing, details of support services in the local area, or referral to counselling through the Plumpton College Counselling Service provided by As You Are Counselling Centre.

The team can be contacted via:

- Student Wellbeing WhatsApp - 07387 411834
- Or email safeguarding@plumpton.ac.uk