

Message for Local Authorities and parents/carers of learners studying at Reaseheath College who have an EHCP and/or PEP

Following the announcement by the Department for Education on 18th March 2020, Reaseheath College will be moving to alternative delivery methods from 23rd March 2020, including online and distance learning for all students. As outlined in the statement by the Education Secretary, education providers are required to ensure vulnerable learners continue to have access to education and support.

This is an unprecedented time for education providers and the college Learning Skills Centre staff will be working with students, parents and the Local Authorities to support students with additional needs whilst following the government advice regarding social distancing.

All students at Reaseheath who are supported by an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) or a Personal Education Plan (PEP) will be provided with additional support from the Learning Skills Centre team via the core college systems (email, Microsoft Teams, Skype, Moodle). This support will be tailored to meet the individual needs of the students in accordance with their EHCP. It may take the form of regular online tutorials, telephone support, email exchanges, assistive tech support or assignment advice. Staff from the LSC will be in touch with students in due course to discuss the support we can provide.

In addition, all students will have access to careers advice and guidance from our Careers Team via email and Microsoft Teams and the Wellbeing Team will continue to offer email and telephone support to all students in addition to the wellbeing site available on Moodle. The wellbeing resources on Moodle are being updated and reviewed frequently at present in recognition of the increased anxiety students may be feeling at the current time.

In addition to the provision outlined above and as per the most recent government guidance, the college will be offering onsite access to resources and support to a small number of vulnerable students 'whose parents are critical to the Covid-19 response and cannot be safely cared for at home'.

The college considers students of keyworking parents to be those for whom both parents are classed as keyworkers under the current guidance or those for whom there is one keyworking parent/carer at home (single parent families). This cohort of students is not limited to or defined by EHCP status and will include all students who are considered Looked After Children, Care Leavers and those with a social worker. The college is currently preparing arrangements for this onsite support offer and we are in the process of identifying learners who will be offered access to the college campus using a robust assessment tool. The college will also be arranging suitable transport links that are within our means in this current situation.

The college anticipates that this provision will commence as soon as possible but not before 25th March to enable suitable planning of resources and staffing provision. It is vital that any onsite delivery does not compromise the safety of our staff and students and that it adheres to the governments guidance on safe social distancing. If a student's support need is such that it is impossible for the college to provide safe onsite support without compromising the social distancing guidance we will not be in a position to allow the student onsite. If this is the case the college will work with the Local Authority and parents to identify alternative arrangements as per the

Government guidance on vulnerable learners. Students who are to be offered access to onsite support will be contacted in the coming days to discuss transport to college and the provision available.

The college recognises that this is an unsettling time for our young people and we are endeavouring to remain open and to provide as much access to support, advice and guidance whilst maintaining social distancing measures.

Yours sincerely,



Marcus Clinton

Principal & CEO

