

## Message for residential learners and their parents/guardians

As you will be aware on Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> March the government announced the closure of schools and colleges from Monday the 23<sup>rd</sup> March until further notice in a response to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

Following this advice and with thorough consultation with a number of key external organisations including the Association of Colleges the college announced that from Monday the 23<sup>rd</sup> March all FE, HE and Apprenticeship programmes will move to a distance/online mode of delivery until further notice in order to minimise the number of students on the college site and therefore reduce the risk of Covid-19 being spread.

Residential students who are living in college accommodation will be expected to vacate their accommodation and return home from the date of the 23<sup>rd</sup> March until notice from the government that normal school and college services may resume. This decision has not been taken lightly but as the number of staff on site diminishes due to sickness and self-isolation and in order to comply with the directive from government we unfortunately have no choice in this matter.

However, the college understands it may take some time for arrangements to be made for residential student's safe travel home and therefore the college commits to providing support and continued residential services for the near future and as best we can within our means. There may be some learners who have significant extenuating circumstances who should identify themselves to the Safeguarding Team as soon as possible.

We have had a number of enquiries from students who are self-isolating whilst in college residence and whether the above also applies to them. Only where a learner is self-isolating because they are experiencing the specific symptoms of coronavirus should they need to remain in residential accommodation (these learners may still wish to travel home in this circumstance and if they do we recommend they do so as safely as possible). Learners who are not displaying symptoms are able to travel freely and therefore are expected to make arrangements to travel home as soon as possible.

We have also had a number of enquiries about refunds for accommodation fees for any time lost in accommodation. For full information on accommodation fees visit: [www.reaseheath.ac.uk/covid19/#fees](http://www.reaseheath.ac.uk/covid19/#fees)

I am sure you will appreciate this is an unprecedented situation and we thank you for your co-operation and understanding in this difficult and challenging time. The college's number one priority is keeping its students and staff safe, followed by ensuring every student still has the opportunity to achieve the qualifications they deserve. We will continue to focus all our efforts on these priorities and ensure you are kept up to date on developments as we are aware of them.

If you have any further questions please contact the College Safeguarding team on 07889 216789.



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