



Statement of remote learning 2021-22

Hereford College of Arts is committed to supporting students to learn remotely if they need to self-isolate or if a national lockdown, or local restrictions require them to remain at home. Face to face teaching on campus remains our priority and we are proud of our track record in supporting students to access campus during the pandemic whenever we have been able to within guidelines. In the event of 'partial lockdown' or other significant increase in Covid measures short of full lockdown, we would endeavour to continue to offer some face to face learning alongside remote learning.

Delivery of Provision:

Course delivery models vary across our programmes and between further education (FE) and higher education (HE). We aim to teach the same curriculum remotely as we do on site wherever possible and appropriate. However, we will consider the needs of different programmes and students and make changes as necessary to support continued learning most effectively.

We aim to be flexible and adaptable within our teaching across all curriculum areas and will endeavour to create projects that students are able to complete remotely (more research based and less practical projects are easier for student to complete from the home environment) supported by frequent tutorial input via an online platform.

The majority of remote delivery will be through Microsoft Teams.

Some curriculum areas will use further applications from the Office 365 package during 2021-22. Many higher education students have also successfully used Adobe Spark and found Auto Desk Fusion 360 (a cloud based CAD package) to be invaluable in remote learning when considering an alternative for physical making. For FE students who are taking additional qualifications in English and maths, Century Tech is the on-line programme that is used to support HCA students. In the event of a lockdown or college firebreak, additional qualifications in English and Maths will be delivered via Microsoft teams as per timetable and will be disseminated through pre-recorded and live teaching sessions. Students who access Study Skills Support will also be offered.

Expectations:

In order for students to maintain momentum, positive engagement and good time management are vital. It is an expectation that students on all courses will take direction from their tutors and remain engaged throughout all of their sessions. Students are expected to adhere to the HCA Student Charter when learning remotely as well as on campus.

English and Maths

We are hopeful that the traditional exam sessions for English and Maths will go ahead as planned this summer (2022) and we are awaiting confirmation from the government to confirm how our qualifications will be assessed by our validators AQA and Edexcel for GCSES and functions skills. The expectation is that students will continue their studies and so we ask for all students undertaking additional qualifications to fully engage in all aspects of their English and Maths activities in order to achieve these critical qualifications. Active on-line engagement is important for all students, participating in sessions will enable students to gain academic and pastoral support. Taught sessions will also give students a platform to stay in touch with peers, teams and to help preserve the important link with our HCA community.

All FE and HE courses

Face to face teaching on campus remains our priority and we will continue to offer opportunities to ensure that students can address their learning outcomes with any practical based activities and assessments in our specialist workshops and/or performance spaces.

Student attendance is recorded each day. If application and/or attendance is poor or erratic in any subject area, then this will be identified and acted upon by a member of the staff team as appropriate. A lack of engagement will be followed up through various contact methods on Microsoft Teams, phone calls, contact with parents and emails.

Support for students with SEND.

Students in further education who are in receipt of an Educational Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or students who have been identified as benefitting from additional strategies for learning are referred to our Study Skills Team. In higher Education, students in receipt of a Disabled Students Allowance (DSA) or students who have been identified as benefitting from additional strategies for learning are referred to our Academic Mentoring Team. EHCP and DSA support is accessed by students across all curriculum areas through face-to-face and group tutorials and via online sessions delivered by Specialist Tutors, and where appropriate supported in face to face, campus based learning in curriculum areas by Learning Support Assistants in further education or the Academic Mentoring Team in higher education.

There may be other groups of learners who are unable to work at a reasonable level in the home environment. At Hereford College of Arts, students who are identified as being vulnerable or for those who lack suitable learning facilities (no IT/connectivity for example) or space to work at home may request access to the campus.

In the event of a national/local lockdown or college firebreak, students who struggle with poor Wifi connectivity should inform the college and may be able to access campus/use college IT facilities. Students can also consult IT Support to request a router/dongle to enhance connectivity.

Wellbeing and your HCA

We know that working from home can be challenging and that lockdown affects wellbeing in a number of different ways. Wellbeing information is available through the college website. If a student needs additional help with their wellbeing, then they can contact the college for support and advice via the wellbeing button on student net or via the Wellbeing email address: wellbeing@hca.ac.uk

Students can also look out for wellbeing links in the regular emails sent by our HCA Wellbeing Development Lead or posts on our HCA Wellbeing Instagram page. In the event of lockdown students may also be eligible for campus access to support their wellbeing and this can be applied for by contacting the Course Leader.