

Middlesbrough Community Learning Remote Education Offer 2020-2021

Introduction

The Covid-19 pandemic posed considerable challenges for education providers during the academic years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. Varying levels of infection rates have necessitated the Middlesbrough Community Learning to act swiftly to adapt its approach to teaching, learning and assessment between full onsite delivery to fully remote teaching and learning. In many cases, a blended approach has been used, especially when localised outbreaks have resulted in whole classes being required to self-isolate.

In order to provide transparency and clarity, the Department for Education (DfE) requires education providers to publish details of their remote education offers.

Department for Education Requirements

In order that students (and parents of students aged 19 and below) know what to expect of their FE provider if they need to self-isolate or local restrictions require them to remain at home, colleges should publish their remote education offer on their website.

The information you should publish could include:

- what remote education will be made available for different learner cohorts (14 to 16, 16 to 19, apprentices, adult learners);
- delivery arrangements, such as timetabling, virtual learning environments and assessment arrangements;
- expectations of students;
- arrangements for students studying courses that require specialist equipment or facilities;
- support for students without devices, connectivity or a suitable environment for learning;
- support for students with SEND.

Remote Education for 14-16 Students and 16-19 students

Middlesbrough Community Learning has a small number of young people currently accessing learning programmes with our Lingfield Choosing Pathways Teams. Face to face delivery is continuing through lockdown for learners.

Remote Education for 16-19 Students and Delivery Arrangements

All post 16 students have a combination of blended and onsite learning and this continues through the current lockdown. Those who do not have the appropriate IT have been loaned equipment to ensure engagement can take place.

Delivery is still onsite, with minor timetabling adjustments. All virtual/remote learning is assessed and returned and monitoring IQA processes are in place

Remote Education for Adult Students and Delivery Arrangements

All our low level English, maths and ESOL classes are delivered by blended learning (mixture of face to face and online sessions). *Due to current Covid restrictions all sessions are online, no face to face sessions

Our level 1 and level 2 English and maths classes are fully online

We use google classroom to deliver our remote learning offer. Each class has scheduled group sessions plus individual 1:1 on-line support dependent on learner need. We offer daytime classes for entry level classes and a choice of daytime or evening classes for L1 and L1 English and maths. Non-accredited classes are assessed using the RARPA framework. Accredited classes are assessed via exam-where necessary access to our Covid secure site is arranged.

Community learning delivers courses to residents 19 years plus , offering a wide range of courses online as well as blended learning (classroom/online) .Courses vary from 2-10 hours and many are flexible to enable you to study in your own time at home. We offer a range of 'Steps into ' courses that offer you a 'taster of different sector areas/job roles to enable you to learn about the job role and requirements Many of these are linked to jobs and further training /qualifications. We offer a range of IT courses to support you with IT skills for work and everyday IT skills

Most courses include assessment throughout your course with feedback from your tutor, many classes are supported through Google Classroom so you can meet and communicate with your tutor and other learners.

Remote Education for Apprentices and Delivery Arrangements

All delivery lessons, 1:1's, progress reviews and learner support is undertaken using google meets and/or webex. Lessons are delivered in approx. 30 – 40 minute slots including comfort breaks and group work. Updates for learning assistant and how to videos are uploaded onto a padlet on learning assistant for learners and their managers to access.

Remote lessons still take place in their usual timetabled slots during the week. For those learners in school environments we have negotiated that the apprentices will work from home for the timetabled sessions as school firewalls have issues with some of the remote learning environments.

The majority of apprentices have to sit external end point assessments and these can be done remotely with the apprentice and the awarding body. The apprenticeship team still undertake mock assessments with learners using the learning environments available.

Currently there are no mediations for undertaking functional skills examinations (maths and English) remotely using online platforms.

Expectations of Students

Students are expected to participate in all remote learning opportunities provided to ensure progress is maintained. Where students are unable to participate due to illness or other issue, Middlesbrough Community Learning protocols for reporting absence remain in force and registers will be marked accordingly.

Arrangements for Students Studying Courses that Require Specialist Equipment or Facilities

Where remote learning impacts on specialist equipment or resources, Middlesbrough Community Learning will prioritise this aspect of learning once face-to-face teaching resumes. . In extreme situations, adaptations will need to be made to assess practical learning outcomes differently i.e. with an adapted assessment based on a virtual practical demonstration in line with awarding body guidance.

Support for Students Without Devices, Connectivity or a Suitable Environment for Learning

Middlesbrough Community Learning provides devices to students in receipt of 16-19 discretionary bursary where they do not have access to a device. Middlesbrough Community Learning will decide what support a student needs based on individual assessment, in line with bursary fund rules that all support must be based on individual circumstances and needs. If an extended period of remote learning occurs, Middlesbrough Community Learning will aim to provide devices to all students in need.

Middlesbrough Community Learning will utilise the changes to the adult education budget for 2020-21 (AEB) to use adult learner support funds to purchase IT devices for students (aged 19 and over) or to meet students' IT connectivity costs, where these costs are a barrier to accessing or continuing in their training.

Support for Students with SEND

We are able to support learners with SEND through our Learner and Learning Support. We can provide support from a learning support assistant or purchase specialist equipment as required

Routes To Work

New for 2021 - Routes to Work are also going to work with people aged 16-29 who have already been on an ESF provision and can't go back, as well as people aged 30+.

During lockdown Routes to work continue to give IAG via telephone and virtual meetings, placing people into training, work and look at all individual barriers that you may come across. We are here to help and ensure you receive a first class tailored service by our experienced key workers.

There will be access to remote job clubs, times and dates will be discussed with a key worker

All training will be arranged and discussed with a key worker regarding virtual and online training

If referred onto Middlesbrough Community Learning Courses your key worker and tutor will discuss arrangements

If you do not have IT equipment or internet this will be discuss with your key worker who will liaise with tutors

YEI Choosing Pathways

YEI Choosing Pathways is delivered on a one to one basis, tailored to individual needs. We are currently using a blended mix of face to face appointments in the Multi Media Exchange along with online (remote) appointments , email and telephone contact. The type and form of contact is mutually agreed with your Learning Adviser to fit with your personal circumstances.

All face to face appointments take place in a Covid safe, risk assessed environment on a socially distanced basis with appropriate ppe including hand sanitiser facilities.

If you are attending the Multi Media Exchange you should only do so if you have an appointment and you will be required to wear a face covering upon entry.

Please note that all service delivery will take place on a remote basis (online appointments, email and telephone) for the duration of the Covid national lockdown implemented on 6th January 2021.

Further Information

If you require further information about the Middlesbrough Community Learning remote education offer, please email info@mcls.ac.uk.