

Information for Parents

As we have started the academic year, I wanted to write to you to outline the colleges' approach and expectations around online learning and how we can support your son/daughter to succeed.

As we are operating a blended learning model, most study programmes receive around 50% online delivery. Therefore, it's important to ensure your child has access to a computer, a tablet, Chromebook, a laptop, a PC or a Mac. This will be essential to enable your son/daughter to engage in online learning and make the progress in their studies.

Mobile Technology Schemes

For most courses in the college, a Chromebook is the right device for study. There are some courses that will require higher specification devices if this is the case the tutor or course leader will advise directly. We have developed three different technology schemes which will ensure all students have the opportunity to access a device. They are:

1. Financial Bursary scheme - for those who meet the requirements for financial help, may be able to cover the cost of providing your son/daughter with the right technology for the duration of their course. Eligibility is based on meeting the financial support criteria and once approved you will be contacted by the Student Services Team and arrangements will be made for your son/daughter to collect the device.
2. Loan scheme - we are able to loan some equipment out to students if needed, on receipt of a deposit. They will be able to keep the computer throughout Covid-19 restrictions but will have to return it to the College at the end of this period. Further details of the Loan Scheme will be available after October half-term.
3. Purchase scheme – this will also be available for students wishing to purchase a device whilst spreading the cost. Further details can be found below about the Chromebook Leasing Scheme and how to apply or you can click the link [here](#). This option will be available to order between **5th – 18th October**.

Students are advised that a Chromebook will be sufficient for their college needs. The laptop is a high specification and should be purchased where there is a curriculum need (Engineering/Computing/Digital Arts/Music/Media). Please also note this Purchase Scheme, option 3, does not provide a revenue stream for the college, and our leasing partner was chosen after market testing to ensure the best possible value for students.

Exceptional demand for mobile devices, as a result of COVID, has delayed the delivery and roll out for all of these offers. The devices are now starting to arrive, and plans to distribute, depending on the scheme, will be circulated in due course. Should your son/daughter already have access to their own device we encourage them to bring this into college to use on the days that they are in.

Student Online Code of Conduct

To ensure students fully benefit from the online sessions the student code of conduct sets out the college expectations required of your son/daughter. Please can we ask you to support and reinforce the importance of adhering to all aspects of the code, your son/daughter must understand their responsibilities to online sessions including:

- Attend and participate in all online lessons- achieve at least 95% attendance
- Advise others in the household that it is a live lesson so they are not distracted preventing them from engaging
- Have their camera on
- Adhere to the Code of Conduct for Online Learning which is available on their Google classrooms and also on the Student Portal. You can access a copy here https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GbD1AgpPK1PKyF5r7G8UYpSdqY_ysheY/view?usp=sharing

Staying Safe Online

Students have a dedicated page relating to staying safe online on the student portal. This includes information on:

- Staying safe on social media
- Online scams and Phishing
- How to spot fake news

The college's tutorial programme promotes termly themes around safe use of social media and online safety ensuring that your young person is aware of the dangers and understands how to keep themselves safe whilst at college, work and at home.

For parents who need advice and information to support their young person to remain safe online visit: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Mental Health and Wellbeing

The college will continue to be a safe and supportive environment for all students to attend and flourish. We recognise that for some, the return to the college after an extended period of time at home will be challenging and staff will support students to adjust to the necessary changes to the environment and routines. We hope that you

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feel reassured by the measures the college has implemented, enabling students to return to college as safely as possible.

As always, student wellbeing is at the heart of the college work and relevant staff will seek to provide appropriate support both in the setting and where required from specialist services.

Should your young person have any concerns their Achievement Support Lead (ASL), is available to offer pastoral support around a number of issues. This service can be accessed via the following link <https://forms.gle/FJuM5AadVA5a1KjL9>

We also have a dedicated Wellbeing and Additional Learning Support (ALS) Team that work closely with students and external services to offer a wide range of support including:

- Access to counselling services
- Support from the NHS Schools Nurse Team
- Signposting to specialist external services such as Centre 33
- Onsite and remote access to a support worker and or specialist support. See link for further information
<https://www.peterborough.ac.uk/students/learning-support/>
- Onsite and remote access to the college Chaplain and Health and Wellbeing Advisor. See link for further information
<https://www.peterborough.ac.uk/students/health-and-wellbeing/>

For additional information please visit our web pages on learning support, wellbeing and safeguarding. Here you will also find our college Mental Health Charter or by using the following link <https://www.peterborough.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/mental-health-wellbeing-charter.pdf>

Can we also remind you to check your emails for details of our online meet the tutor events, which will be sent next week.

Remember Government Guidelines: **HANDS - FACE - SPACE**

Stay Safe

Kind Regards
Angela O' Reilly
Vice Principal Curriculum and Quality