

Dear Student,

As you may be aware, the First Minister announced on Saturday, that all mainland Scotland would move to Tier 4 from 26 December 2020 (Boxing Day) for three weeks, as part of their efforts to reduce the transmission of COVID-19.

Following a review of Scottish Government guidance, we can now confirm that the start of term for students following the Christmas break will now be **Monday 11 January 2021**.

Learning and teaching will be online from Monday 11 January – Friday 16 January (unless you are advised otherwise by your Curriculum Department or Business Development Partner).

We will continue to work closely with the Scottish Government to ensure that we are following the latest guidelines and will issue a further update on arrangements for w/c Monday 18 January 2021 and beyond, in early January 2021.

Please see further guidance below for Monday 11 January – Friday 16 January 2021.

Students on full-time, school partnership, partnership degree and Modern Apprenticeship programmes

- Learning and teaching will continue in line with our blended learning approach. However, curriculum teams will review work that is planned to take place over the next few weeks to ensure only essential, time-critical activities will take place on campus. Most activities will be moved online wherever possible. Curriculum teams or your Business Development Partner will confirm your arrangements directly with you by Friday 8 January 2021 at the latest.
- Assessments and exams will take place as scheduled - any changes will be communicated directly to you.

Students on evening programmes

- Learning and teaching for accredited evening courses will continue in line with our blended learning approach. However, curriculum teams will review work that is planned to take place over the next few weeks to ensure only essential, time-critical

activities will take place on campus. Activities will be moved online wherever possible. Curriculum teams will communicate any changes to you directly.

- Leisure programmes will be either put online or rescheduled for a later date where possible.

Students on commercial training programmes

- Commercial training courses will be moved online or re-scheduled for a later date if not time critical.
- Travel is permitted for essential, time critical training.

Transport

- The Scottish Government Guidelines permits travel for essential purposes such as education and work. You can find more information on this [here](#).
- We advise contacting your Curriculum Team or Business Development Partner if you have pre-booked travel arranged for January to ensure you have all the relevant information in relation to your course for the start of the new term
- A letter is available which you can use when travelling, although this is not mandatory. If you would like a copy of this please speak to your Curriculum Manager.

Learning Resource Centres

- Our Learning Resource Centres will remain open for use on all campuses. There are already a range of processes and measures in place to ensure they can be used safely.

Hospitality

- Our refectories will be closed until further notice.
- Our Gallery Restaurant based at the Stirling Campus will continue to remain closed.

Sports Facilities

- Our sports facilities will not be available for use until further notice and your curriculum team will be in touch if you are directly impacted by this.

Student Support

- Student support, including face-to-face support, will continue to go ahead across all campuses where necessary in line with current processes and procedures already in place. Please email the specific department in advance to get information on their new arrangements for the start of term.

Student Funding

- Appointments to speak to a member of our student funding team should be pre-booked via funding@forthvalley.ac.uk or via phone on 01324 403000.
- Please be assured that no students will be financially disadvantaged by the current circumstances

Vulnerable Individuals

- We will work very closely with all those staff and students who are considered vulnerable or with an underlying health condition. Arrangements should be discussed as soon as possible.

Childcare Arrangements

- If anyone has any issues or concerns around childcare due to school and nursery closures, please discuss with your Curriculum Manager or Business Development Partner as soon as possible.

Health and Safety

- We already have a wide range of measures and arrangements across all campuses to ensure the safety and wellbeing of students, staff and visitors. These ensure that we continue to comply with Scottish Government Guidelines on hygiene standards and physical distancing.

Next Steps

As advised above, we will issue a further update on arrangements for w/c Monday 18 January 2021 and beyond, in early January 2021.

During the holiday period, we encourage everyone to keep checking the website for any further updates. As always, we will also issue details of any changes directly to students by email as normal.

Lastly, as part of our Test and Protect obligations – please can you notify the College if you test positive or are self-isolating via our COVID Reporting Form on the website. This will ensure we can capture FVC COVID data when the College is closed over the Christmas break.

Thank you for your support during this challenging time for everyone.

Stay Safe.

Regards

Dr Ken Thomson

Principal