

1. How long will the College closure last?

The College is closed to the majority of students for the foreseeable future. The Department for Education has not predicted how long schools and colleges will be closed for. We are keeping updated with the national situation and will let parents and carers know when there are any changes.

2. Are any students allowed to attend College?

The College has been asked to remain partially open for vulnerable students. The advice given to schools and colleges is below (please note that in safeguarding terms, students are classed as children until the age of 18):

Vulnerable children include those who have a social worker and those children and young people up to the age of 25 with education, health and care (EHC) plans.

Those who have a social worker include children who have a child protection plan and those who are looked after by the local authority. A child may also be deemed to be vulnerable if they have been assessed as being in need or otherwise meet the definition in section 17 of the Children Act 1989.

We know that schools and other education providers may also want to support other children who are vulnerable where they are able to do so. Eligibility for free school meals in and of itself should not be the determining factor in assessing vulnerability.

We will work with schools, colleges and local authorities to help identify the children who most need support at this time. Looking after these children will enable schools to support the country during challenging times.

The College's Safe Space for vulnerable students will open on Monday 30th March 2020 on both campuses from 11am to 2pm every week day and will include:

- ✓ A safe space to go from 11am-2pm every weekday and including the Easter break.
- ✓ Lunch (whether or not they are entitled to free school meals).
- ✓ Access to IT to give them an opportunity to complete College work.
- ✓ Face-to-face access to Safeguarding and Welfare staff.
- ✓ Access to facilitators for learning support if required and where Facilitators are available.
- ✓ Organised activities by Student Participation that will focus on wellbeing and supporting the local community.

Please note that the College has plans in place to observe all NHS/Government guidelines on social distancing in the Safe Space.

3. My young person has an EHCP. Do they have to come into College?

During this Coronavirus pandemic, our ethos is that if a learner is able to safely learn at home and is able to cope with this, then that is the best place for them to be. If your young person is struggling to cope being at home and you think that they might benefit from coming to College, as long as your household does not have anyone being 'shielded' or anyone with Covid -19 symptoms they are able to attend.

4. Am I expected to 'home school' my young person?

No. Even though the College is closed to the majority of students, we are providing online learning for all of our full-time students and your young person should have already been contacted by a member of the lecturing team and their Primary Tutor (these might be the same person).

5. If I am not home schooling, what can I do to help?

You can help your young person by giving them access to your home computer if you have one and providing a quiet space to do their work each day, if that is possible. This does not need to be a formal desk space but can be access to a quiet bedroom, dining room table or somewhere in the home that they can focus. We realise that this might be challenging for some families. If you are finding this difficult please contact their Primary Tutor or Curriculum Manager and they will give you advice on what we can do together to help the learning take place.

6. How much work is my young person expected to do?

The amount of work a young person is expected to do will vary between courses and levels. We do not anticipate that they will need to do more hours than they would at College but College staff will advise and monitor your young person's progress against expected targets.

7. Will they have Primary Tutor support?

Yes, all full-time students will have support from a Primary Tutor. This may not be the same Primary Tutor as the one they were seeing at College, but it will be someone they know.

8. My son/daughter normally sees a member of staff from the Welfare Team. How will that work now?

Students can still access our Welfare Team via telephone, text or video calls and we have ensured that students are reminded of the numbers and email regularly. If you have a serious concern about your young person, please contact the Safeguarding and Welfare Team on safe@bathcollege.ac.uk.

9. What about the end of the course, will they still have exams?

We have been advised by the Government that there will be not GCSE exams this academic year. We are still awaiting advice from awarding bodies around how vocational grades will be calculated. We are keeping updated with any communications from all the relevant bodies and we will write to you when we know more.

Please see the latest statement from OFQUAL, national qualifications regulator:

"We are rapidly working up plans to implement [the arrangements the Secretary of State for Education has set out for exams this summer](#) and, with exam boards and teaching bodies, are making considerable progress.

Students understandably want reassurance, and teachers urgently need to know what to do, and when. We expect to publish detailed information about the process and timetable which will apply this summer next week. This will include the steps we would like teachers to follow and more

detailed guidance on how to consider the full range of evidence they will have available when submitting their assessment grades. We are talking to teaching representatives to make sure that what we are planning is manageable and appropriate, so that students, parents, carers and teachers can have confidence in the approach.

We will outline by Easter the process we will follow to make sure grades are fair across schools and colleges, as well as our proposals for appeals. We will also say more as soon as possible about the arrangements for additional exams in the new academic year.

We want to reassure students waiting for news that we are doing everything we can to make sure they are not disadvantaged by these unprecedented circumstances."

10. My young person is spending a lot more time online. How do I know they're safe?

When your young person is at College the safeguarding and ICT teams monitor online activity and intervene where we are concerned about a student's online activity. As students are no longer using our Wi-Fi, we cannot do this when the College is closed. With that in mind we are giving students additional advice on keeping safe online and we have attached a document for parents from the organisation Internet Matters. If you are concerned about what your young person is accessing online when they are learning from home, please contact safe@bathcollege.ac.uk.

11. My young person has an EHCP and/or regularly has support from a Link Tutor and/or Facilitator. Will that still happen?

Our Link Tutors are currently working with the curriculum departments to ensure that all learners with an EHCP and those who receive support from Facilitators can still do that.

12. I am a key worker and need my young person to help out a home more. What if this gets in the way of their College work?

If your home situation is such that you are worried about your young person getting the time to complete their College work, please contact their Primary Tutor or Curriculum Manager for advice on how we can help you make it work.

13. The family are finding isolation difficult. Do you have any advice?

There are currently many articles that can help give families advice on self-isolation. We have attached some advice from two trusted sources.

14. My young person isn't considered vulnerable and hasn't been invited to College. However, they really need a break from the home situation. Is that possible?

If you have a difficult home situation and believe that your young person could benefit from coming to our Safe Space, please contact closure@bathcollege.ac.uk.