

CBT/LD

18 May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

I hope you and your families are all well and that students are progressing well with their home learning programme. If there is anything we can do to support you further at this time please do not hesitate to let us know. The best way to contact us at the moment is by emailing enquiries@energycoastutc.co.uk.

Further to my letter last week, and following the Prime Minister's speech on Sunday 10 May and the guidance to schools which followed it, we have spent some time considering how we can deliver some face to face education for students in year 10 (including 9) and 12 from 1 June. This letter contains a large amount of information and I would be grateful if you would read it carefully.

The government guidance states "From June 1, we expect that secondary schools and colleges will be able to offer some face to face contact with year 10 and 12 pupils. This will not be a return to full timetables or pupils back in school or college full time, rather some support to supplement pupils' remote education." We are very keen that students should have face to face access to their subject specialist teachers and physically return to the UTC as soon as possible, but we also are very aware that student and staff safety must come first. Staff are currently working hard preparing 6 hours a day of online learning and marking, assessing and giving feedback on student work.

The guidance to schools also goes on to say that students must be kept in the same small groups of students whilst at school, ideally with the same member of staff all day and that the use of public transport should be avoided if possible. Students or staff who fall in to the clinically extremely vulnerable or clinically vulnerable groups, or who live with someone in one of these categories, should also not attend school. Once some schools start to offer some face to face teaching, the local hub for children of critical workers and vulnerable students, which for us is at Jericho Primary School in Whitehaven, will close. This provision will then be offered by the UTC. The new list of critical workers, issued on 14 May is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision#critical-workers>

We have risk assessed all options available to us and considered factors unique to the UTC including but not limited to: the size of our classrooms, the number of staff who fall in to one of the vulnerable groups, catering facilities, transport facilities, cleaning requirements, PPE requirements, etc. and have decided that we will move towards more and more face to face support for students in a controlled, phased, way which keeps everyone as safe as possible. This approach has been agreed with the Chair of the Board of Trustees. Please find further details below.

Up to Friday 22 May

Year 10 (including 9) and 12

- Students will continue with their home learning programme – giving 6 hours a day of lessons.
- All students must continue to sign in with their tutor by 10am each day.
- Some students will be contacted daily.

Year 11

- Students will continue with their 'Year 11 in to 12 transition' home learning programme.
- Students must check in with their tutor once a week.
- Some students will be contacted daily.

Year 13

- Students must check in with their tutor once a week.
- Some students will be contacted daily.

Children of critical workers with no available childcare, or vulnerable students

These students should continue to attend the hub at Jericho Primary School, Whitehaven.

Monday 25 May – Friday 29 May

Half term – no lessons

Monday 1 June – Friday 19 June

Year 10 (including 9) and 12

- Students will continue with their home learning programme – giving them 6 hours a day of lessons.
- As part of this programme, all students will start an online, face to face, lesson with their subject teacher, once a week for each subject they study. This will give students between 6 and 10 face to face lessons per week, as part of the online programme. The remainder of the online programme will continue as normal. Students will be sent details of how to log in to these face to face virtual lessons which will take place on Zoom, Microsoft Teams and Google Classroom. Students will also be sent details of how to keep themselves safe online. **Students must check their email every day to receive password protected log in details for these lessons.**
- All students must continue to sign in with their tutor by 10am each day.
- Some students will be contacted daily.

Year 11

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- Students must check in with their tutor once a week.
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Year 13

- Students must check in with their tutor once a week.
- Some students will be contacted daily.

Children of critical workers with no available child care, or vulnerable students

Children whose parents are critical workers or who are in a vulnerable home setting will be able to come to the UTC building during the school day and be supervised by staff. They will follow the learning programme appropriate to their year group as detailed above.

If you would like to take advantage of this programme and need a place for your child please let us know as soon as possible by emailing enquiries@energycoastutc.co.uk.

Places on this programme must be booked in advance so we can ensure appropriate staffing and safety measures are in place. Please do not send your child to the UTC during this time without having a confirmed, booked place.

Monday 22 June onwards

The UTC will, during the previous weeks, assess the latest government advice to schools and risk assess all available options. I will write to you nearer this time to advise you of the next phase.

Laptops and home internet access

We currently have over 100 laptops on loan to students to enable them to complete their home learning. If you need to borrow a laptop, or you do not have access to an internet connection, please let us know as soon as possible by emailing enquiries@energycoastutc.co.uk

Support

A number of our students are now accessing 1:1 telephone, email and online face to face support from our school counsellor, our SEND department, tutors and heads of year. If you would like to access support from any of these sources please do let us know. Please also check our social media pages where we regularly signpost to a range of local services designed to help at this time.

Free school meals

If you are in receipt of free school meals you should be receiving Edenred vouchers via the government scheme. Our records show that many of these vouchers have not been accessed. If you do not receive the vouchers, or are having a problem downloading them, please do let us know.

If your financial circumstances have changed and you believe you may now be entitled to free school meals, for example if you are now receiving Universal Credit, please apply here <https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/schoolsandlearning/freeschoolmeals.asp> and let us know as soon as you have done so, as we can then organise vouchers for you.

Thank you for your support during this time and I hope you and your families stay safe and well. Please try to follow the government recommendations regarding staying at home if possible and minimising social contact.

Yours faithfully



Cherry Tingle
Principal