

17 September 2020

Dear parent/guardian,

Today, the local government announced some new, temporary restrictions that will be introduced across the North East from midnight tonight (Thursday 17 September).

We know that all of the changes can be confusing and sometimes concerning for our students and their parents and guardians, so we want to confirm what these measures mean and how they'll affect students at Newcastle College.

What are the new restrictions?

These new measures affect the way we spend our social time and they've been developed to try and reduce the number of positive Covid-19 cases across the region while avoiding another full lockdown. This means trying to avoid closing schools, colleges and businesses.

From midnight, regulations will lawfully ban the following:

- Residents must not socialise with other people outside of their own households or support bubble in private homes and gardens
- Hospitality for food and drink will be restricted to table service only (this does not apply to canteen facilities within Newcastle College)
- Late night restriction of operating hours will be introduced, with leisure and entertainment venues required to close between 10pm to 5am.

Residents are also advised to adhere to the following guidance to further reduce rates of infection:

- Residents should not socialise with other people outside of their own households in all public venues.
- Residents are advised to only use public transport for essential purposes, such as travelling to school or work

- Holidays should be taken within your own household or support bubble
- Residents are advised against attending amateur and semi-professional sporting events as spectators.

Will Newcastle College Remain Open?

Newcastle College will remain open for learners and all students should continue to attend lessons following their usual timetable.

After six months out of education and continued disruption to exams and qualifications, it is vital that young people can now continue their education safely and with stability. We know you will agree with our aim to ensure that our students are in the best position possible to succeed.

The changes announced today do not affect colleges and therefore all students should continue to attend lessons.

Is it safe to attend college?

The health and wellbeing of our students is our top priority, but it is important that students can continue their education and benefit from spending time with their tutors and classmates.

We have made many changes to the campus and to the way that we teach in order to make learning as safe as possible. This includes reducing the time that each student spends on campus so that they're not around as many people while they are here.

These changes have been approved by Public Health and they are designed to stop any unnecessary contact between students and colleagues, reducing the risk of spreading any potential illness.

It is vital that everyone on campus follows our safety measures. All of our students and colleagues are asked to follow the safety measures, set out in this [Keeping You Safe guide](#).

This means they need to:

- maintain a safe 2 metre distance from others at all times, even if they're outside
- follow the one-way systems in place on campus
- wear a face covering inside buildings on campus
- remain in their allocated building for lessons and break times, including using the catering outlets in their allocated building
- leave signage and classroom set-ups as they are - do not move furniture, close windows or remove signs.
- use the lifts one person at a time
- wash and sanitise hands regularly
- stay home if they're showing any symptoms of Covid-19
- do not smoke on campus

Concerns

We understand that these new restrictions may be concerning for you and you may be worried about your child attending college. We want to reassure you that the new restrictions are in place to ensure that young people can continue their education safely and without further disruption.

Newcastle College follows all of the advice and guidance set out by our local Health Protection team and we have robust procedures in place to ensure the health and wellbeing of all of our community.

If you have any concerns or worries about the measures we have in place, or the processes we follow, you can contact your child's Personal Tutor directly to discuss these. Your child will have direct contact details. We will do everything we can to support you during this time.

Thank you once again for your continued support during what is a difficult time for everybody.

Best wishes and stay safe,

Scott Bullock
Principal