

PARENT AND CARER NEWSLETTER

KEY DATES

- **Tuesday 27th April – Virtual Open Evening and Applicant Evening**
- **Wednesday 19th May – Applicant Event**

RETURNING TO CAMPUS

After the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday 22nd February and the Department for Education's Operational Guidance dated February 2021, Halesowen College has been working through the implications and planning how we can most safely and practically get students and staff back into college. Reopening the college is a positive step back towards normality, and the benefits of having students and staff back on campus will be huge. However, we remain committed to doing so as safely as we can.

Students and staff have been taking part in twice weekly lateral flow tests. This has helped to allow a blend of online and face to face teaching at the college. The testing has been a massive success with around 600 students tested per day. It has been great to see so many staff and students back on site.

VIRTUAL OPEN EVENING

On the 27th April from 4pm-7pm Halesowen College will be holding a virtual open evening. Our virtual open events offer you and your child the opportunity to see our amazing £20 million campus, hear about college life from current students, find out about our wide range of courses, learn about our free coach service and have your questions answered by our friendly staff. Your child will also be able to make an application to secure a place on their chosen course for 2021/2022.

For more information and to register please visit www.halesowen.ac.uk/openevents/



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SUPPORT AT COLLEGE

We know this is a very difficult time for all and we wanted to highlight some of the support that students have whilst attending Halesowen College:

- **Personal Coach:** Each student is assigned a personal coach for their time at Halesowen College whom they will see on a weekly basis. Students will belong to a tutor group which, wherever possible, is within their principal subject area. The personal coach monitors and tracks student performance against targets and provides support and guidance. Your child's Personal Coach is your direct link with the College. You can contact them if you have any concerns or queries.



- **Careers Service:** Aiming to prepare students to move onto higher education or skilled employment enabling them to make a significant contribution to society. Although qualifications remain very important they are not the only thing that is considered. Potential employers are looking for students' employability and work readiness when filling vacancies. Through mentoring, seminars, individual guidance and training we do everything we can to ensure that our students develop these skills and attributes so that they get ahead in the workplace.

To find out more visit the Learner section of our website: www.halesowen.ac.uk/learners/

WELLBEING

Halesowen College take students' mental and physical wellbeing seriously and has lots on offer to support them with this including:

- **Togetherall:** an anonymous online community where members can support each other. Students can access Togetherall 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. There are trained professionals available 24/7 offering a safe space for members. It also contains self-assessments, recommended resources and has

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creative tools to help students express how they are feeling. Togetherall also offers a wide range of self-guided courses for students to utilise at their own pace.

- **Mental Health First Aiders:** College has trained Mental Health First Aiders who are available to support students throughout their time at Halesowen College.

- **Mental Health Trim Trail:** The mental health trim trail runs around the outskirts of college and is a lovely place to make the most of being outdoors. Along the trail there are various seating areas where students and staff can take time out of their day to be with friends or to have some quiet reflection time for themselves.

- **Free gym for students:** The College Fitness Suite is well equipped and includes equipment from the Cybex Prestige range. Students wanting to use the facility can do so free of charge after a quick induction with the gym supervisor*. Staff are on hand to offer advice and guidance on technique, training methods and nutrition.

* (in accordance with government guidelines:)

- **Clubs and societies:** at Halesowen College there is a chance for students to try new things, engage in sport clubs or meet up with others with a shared interest. Clubs include Environment Group; Debating Society and Craft Club, as well as a large range of sport clubs.

- **Period poverty:** Halesowen college has placed baskets of free sanitary items in bathrooms across all college campuses for students to access if they need them.

- **FIKA:** The college has purchased an APP for students and staff to use called Fika. Fika aims to help us maintain our mental fitness and build resilience.



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COMMUNITY SUPPORT

• **Fareshare deliveries:** Fareshare is the UK's longest running food redistribution charity. Halesowen College has become a member of Fareshare, and every £30 raised will enable the Students Union to buy 80kg of food that we will give to students and staff who need it most as a fortnightly food parcel. Students receiving these food parcels will do so discreetly.

• **Bistro food deliveries:** During lockdown the Bistro began doing meal collections and deliveries for the wider community. There was a great range of meals at competitive prices all of which were created by catering students. Not only did this allow the college to engage with the wider community, the students were able to gain industry experience during lockdown.



• Delivering tech to students: Halesowen college is keen to support its students and during lockdown the college provided a range of technical equipment such as laptops to support students with their online learning. Through doing this the college helped to ensure that online learning was accessible to everyone.

TLEVELS

T Levels are a new type of course being introduced at Halesowen College in 2021 that students can study at college. Equivalent to 3 A Levels, the T Levels combine classroom learning with industry experience. Developed in collaboration with employers and businesses, T Levels include an industry placement that is worth 20% of the course, where students are expected to complete meaningful work for an employer. This will help students develop the essential work-ready skills that employers are looking for. T Levels will allow students to progress onto higher education, apprenticeships and employment. Halesowen College currently offers T Levels in Early Years, Health, Healthcare science and Digital.

For more information see our digital prospectus: <https://bit.ly/3gCZxTc>



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HIGHER EDUCATION SUCCESS

Despite the challenging year many of our students have done very well with their courses and are now studying at university. Vocational courses, as well as A Levels, allow students to progress to university.

Some of the courses our vocational students have gone on to study include:

- o Wildlife Conservation at Aberystwyth University
- o Veterinary Nursing at the Royal Veterinary College – University of London
- o Biomedical Science at University of Worcester
- o Adult Nursing at Keele University
- o Architecture at University of Lincoln
- o Law at the Aston University
- o Accounting and Finance at Coventry University
- o Multimedia Journalism at University of Northampton
- o International Relations and Politics at Oxford Brookes University
- o Primary Education at Newman University
- o Psychology at De Montfort University
- o Child Nursing at University of Huddersfield

- o Cyber Security at Staffordshire University
- o Software Engineering at Nottingham Trent University
- o Performing Arts at UCEN Manchester
- o Criminology at University of Worcester
- o Professional Policing at BCU
- o Physiotherapy at UCB
- o Sport and Nutrition for Health at Liverpool John Moores University
- o International Tourism Management at Manchester Met University
- o Events Management at Sheffield Hallum University

TAKE OUR STUDENT OR PARENT AND CARER NEWSLETTER SURVEY HERE

Student Survey:

<https://bit.ly/3nbTNBf>

Parent and Carer Survey:

<https://bit.ly/2PcSWUt>

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