

Case study – Nelson and Colne College Group ‘Returning to Learning Safely’

Nelson and Colne College Group – consisting of Nelson and Colne College, Accrington and Rossendale College and Lancashire Adult Learning – has put considerable time and investment into making its three campuses safe for staff and students, while retaining a welcoming and friendly feel to its learning environments.

While on site, the safety of students and staff is the number one priority for the College Group, and as such, learning bubbles have been developed. This is to ensure that students studying the same subjects, or those from the same department, are retained in their bubble in the vast majority of instances to reduce the mixing of students. This extends to lunchtimes too, with a ‘grab and go’ system in operation at College Refectories, ensuring students lunch together in their bubbles.

A mandatory face mask rule for all students and staff has been implemented, with any exemptions in line with Government guidance, and all staff have been provided with a visor and hand sanitiser.

Blended learning is also a new feature of delivery this new academic year – face-to-face and remote – and the College Group has been innovative with systems and technology to ensure that online learning delivery provides students with the same exceptional teaching experience as they would expect if they were in the classroom.

Social distancing measures remain in place across social and learning spaces and hand sanitising stations have been introduced throughout College campuses. Enhanced cleaning and disinfecting of ‘high touch’ surfaces is also frequently taking place.

Principal and Chief Executive of Nelson and Colne College Group Amanda Melton said: “We have gone to considerable lengths and invested significant amounts of time and money to ensure that our College campuses are as safe as they possibly can be, all with the ultimate outcome of achieving the successful recommencement of face-to-face teaching and learning.

“This is significant step and it is absolutely essential to get young people back on track with their learning aims and career aspirations. I’m incredibly proud of the way staff right across departments in our College Group have worked together to make a safe return to education possible this September.”