



October 2020

Welcome to the new term.

We understand it has been an unusual start to the new academic year for all of us but we have been pleased with the maturity of our students who are aware of our Covid regulations and have acted in a sensible and appropriate manner. We are encouraging the use of face masks in all communal areas and within class if students choose to wear them. We have three weeks until half term and students are working extremely hard to complete coursework and exam tasks.

Academic Progress

Our students all have access to our virtual learning platform Firefly and all resources and lessons are accessible via this platform. Tasks, homework and assignments are also set on this for students to complete whilst learning from home. This is an easy to use learning platform that compliments the work we complete in class. It is proving valuable for those students who find themselves needing to self-isolate and enables all learners to keep on top of work.

In addition to this, all our students across all sites have access to Office 365 accounts which enables students to work from wherever they may be and work can be completed via any device. This also gives our students access to Word, Powerpoint and Publisher and any apps that they need to use to complete coursework.

In addition to this 'Teams' is available for us to enhance our blended learning with students able to access live lessons from home in 'real time' with the rest of the group. Tutors can also use this to engage with home learning and we please ask that you have signed the learning agreement to sign up for this.

To enable student progress and predicted grades we are adopting a unit approach to our teaching and learning across all levels and sites. Exam units are being taught weekly throughout the academic year and, in addition, students are concentrating on completing one unit of coursework in short six-week blocks. This is proving popular as it enables students to concentrate on one piece of coursework at a time rather than overload them with units.

Exams – GCSE resit exams commence 2 November. If you are resitting a GCSE please look out in the post for your timetable. All exams are held at our Spellow Lane site, Liverpool. Please also be aware that Year 13 students are being entered for their sport exams in the January exam window in addition to the June exams.

UCAS – Our Year 13 students have had UCAS workshops to complete their University applications. Most are nearly ready to be submitted and we would appreciate your support in encouraging these to be completed ASAP.

Football Progress

The training schedule is going well and all students on all sites have access to training weekly. In addition to this, twilight sessions will be available from November to those students who wish to train in addition to college time.

It has been difficult to fulfil all our fixtures to date due to Covid regulations and our coaches have worked hard to organise friendlies in addition to league matches. However due to the late start of some leagues and competitions and the current Covid restrictions, football matches as you will appreciate have looked very different this season. Therefore our students may not be playing as regularly as they would have in a



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'normal' season. The cancellation of fixtures and last minute changes have been out of our control and are as frustrating for us as they are to the students. We will continue to work hard to fulfil and organise as many games as we currently are allowed.

Other

Our three Foundation Degree students are still working hard coaching and developing grass roots football in Aruba gaining valuable work experience to support their studies. They have received nothing but positive feedback. Look out for a piece in the Liverpool Echo shortly about this!

Students have been asked to complete an induction survey as part of our student voice which enables us to tailor our learning and football opportunities to improve our offer. Results received so far have been positive with many commenting that our virtual learning platform has improved our student support.

Please inform us if you think you are entitled to free school meals or help to purchase kit, travel and so on – we can offer student support if you are eligible. Our bursary information is on our website and available to all students via Firefly. In addition to this support students have access to a school nurse and counsellor if the need arises. Appointments can be made via Teams.

Lastly, I know you are aware that we have had problems with the delivery of our Hummel Everton kit. This has been frustrating for us and students but I am pleased to inform you that we have just taken delivery of our remaining order and once this has been stock-checked, it will be available to all our students who are missing parts of their playing kit.

Stay safe,

Staff @Everton Football College