

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE TO STUDENTS

Responding to government advice on preventing the spread of the Coronavirus, West Lothian College stopped all face to face teaching on 17 March and spent the remainder of that week gearing staff and students up to continue with courses online.

The college buildings are now closed and staff are now working from home.

Until now, most of your learning has taken place face to face in classrooms, workshops, kitchens, salons or in the gym. Lecturers and other staff worked hard last week to be in a position to support as much remote teaching as possible using technology.

However, this shift to learning at a distance using technology is a new situation for all of us and if you need help using Moodle please contact VLE@west-lothian.ac.uk.

Our Student Support team will continue to be available to help you on the phone or through email. Please email supportlearning@west-lothian.ac.uk in the first instance.

A top priority for us is to help students avoid financial difficulties. Everyone entitled to bursaries and childcare payments will continue to be paid while the college is closed. If you have any concerns at all please email bursaries@west-lothian.ac.uk.

Applications for courses starting in August can be made through our website and we will get in touch with applicants about alternative interview arrangements.

The last few weeks have been the most difficult we have had to deal with in our lifetimes. This epidemic has cut away everything we thought was solid and stable, and students and staff are understandably anxious about what happens next.

However, this crisis will end at some point, things will return to normal, and the college will re-open later in the year.

In the meantime, please access whatever online learning you can, keep in contact with your lecturers, and take advantage of all the support available.

Jackie Galbraith, Principal of West Lothian College