

## Information for HEIs regarding disruption caused to Whitburn Sixth Form students during COVID-19 pandemic

Whitburn closed to all students on the evening of Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March, slightly earlier than national measures were introduced due to increasing difficulties with staffing the curriculum. Students were initially supported with work set via Microsoft Teams which was self-directed although staff could be contacted through the chat feature for support. Assignments were set with hand-in dates.

The Government announced the requirement for 'high quality face-to-face' teaching for Years 10 and 12 from 15<sup>th</sup> June. From this point, Whitburn Sixth Form students were able to access video calls via Teams for four weeks, with one week of in-school, socially distanced lessons.

In summary students had:

**9 weeks working from home – self-supported study**

**4 weeks of video lessons**

**1 week of socially distanced teaching in school**

It should be noted that some students experienced issues regarding access to suitable devices, or lack of microphone. Some were unable to attend sessions due to caring responsibilities. Some have issues around anxiety which limited their participation in online teaching sessions. Individual difficulties will be detailed in the applicant's reference.

Year 12 Mock exams were postponed and students sat these w/c 28<sup>th</sup> September. This has hampered students' ability to check their progress, and delayed their UCAS applications and the associated research. We launched the UCAS Apply process virtually, but ran a catch-up session in September. Many are later than usual with their research, personal statement drafts and finalising choices.

w/c 23 March	Remote learning supported by teachers available on chat function	
w/c 30 March	Remote learning supported by teachers available on chat function	
w/c 20 <sup>th</sup> April	Remote learning supported by teachers available on chat function	
w/c 27 <sup>th</sup> April	Remote learning supported by teachers available on chat function	
w/c 4 <sup>th</sup> May	Remote learning supported by teachers available on chat function	
w/c 11 <sup>th</sup> May	Remote learning supported by teachers available on chat function	
w/c 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Remote learning supported by teachers available on chat function	
w/c 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Remote learning supported by teachers available on chat function	
w/c 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Remote learning supported by teachers available on chat function	
w/c 15 <sup>th</sup> June	Video lessons via Teams	<b>Note:</b> Guidelines change to require high quality face-to-face for exam classes (Years 10 & 12) from 15 <sup>th</sup> June
w/c 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Video lessons via Teams	
w/c 29 <sup>th</sup> June	In-school face-to-face, socially distanced lessons	
w/c 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Video lessons via Teams	
w/c 13 <sup>th</sup> July	Video lessons via Teams	