



To Apprentices / Parents & Guardians / Salon Employers

Thank you for working with BL Hairdressing Training during the 3rd period of lockdown.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all learners and employers for accessing some or all of the support available based on your personal circumstances, this includes:

- Furlough – to ensure jobs are protected.
- Some learners on Agreed breaks – to allow remaining funding to be stopped whilst not being able to access learning, and so we can re-engage with you once you can return to the academies/work placement.
- Access Online Learning – for learners who have been in a position to continue using technology to attend weekly sessions.

We would like to inform you of the new arrangements we have made in preparing for a 'Return to learning'.

As you know the government have announced several easing of the lockdown measures and have indicated dates for returning to schools, education & training (from 8th March and age dependant) however this is based on a negative lateral flow test, which Training providers will not receive their batch from government until 31st March, so unfortunately, we cannot facilitate this process at present.

However, you can obtain a **lateral flow test** yourself, Local councils in England are offering a new type of coronavirus (COVID-19) test to people who do not have symptoms. We recommend all learners gain a test prior to attending BL Academies, the results are sent to you via text or email.

General Information – Lateral Flow testing

Around 1 in 3 people have coronavirus without displaying any symptoms, therefore regular testing for people with no symptoms will help to find positive cases earlier and break chains of transmission.

The new tests are called 'rapid lateral flow tests'. They are free and you get a result 30 minutes after taking the test.

Use this service to:

- check if your council is offering the new tests
- see if you can get a test
- find a place where you can get a test

<https://www.gov.uk/find-covid-19-lateral-flow-test-site>

Use this hyperlink to identify test centre and book yourself in for a test prior to returning to work/learning, it only takes few minutes.

Do not use this service if you have symptoms. Anyone with symptoms should order an individual test and stay at home. Using NHS test centres. Call 111.

Agreeing testing with staff/learners

BL Training Directors would like all staff/learners to be tested to help avoid any further spread of the virus and help us get back into the training academies to support learners and employers to continue with the apprenticeship services we provide.

The process to follow if someone tests positive for coronavirus.

Learners must inform BL Tutors immediately if the test result is positive, so we may put appropriate systems in place whilst you are self-isolating.

BL Training will store and delete testing data, in line with data protection law (UK GDPR)

How often testing should be performed.

It is recommended that private-sector employers offer their workforce (who are on-site) access to a minimum of 2 lateral flow tests every week. This will help identify staff who are carrying the virus without displaying symptoms, reducing the risk of transmission.

Apprenticeship Employers

Salons may reopen from 12th April 2021 (unless data changes and lockdown are extended by government). So, you should be in communications with your employer on your return to work plans too.

BL Training will be opening for students from 6th April 2021; however, this will be on invitation only as we need to limit the numbers of students on site. This will be a 'phased return' process and learners will be contacted by your tutor to discuss your return dates to the academy. Please do not be alarmed if you do not receive a date in April as we have to prioritise learners who are:

- Vulnerable / 16-19 age group / Near end of their course / Need to sit End Point Assessments

Until then, all other students' weekly online sessions will continue until your academy dates have been confirmed.

All students will be offered a lateral flow test and will only be allowed back into the academies upon a negative result. More information on administering tests will follow once government guidelines for ITPs have been released.

Any student who does not wish to have a test must contact us with their reasons for this decision as we must document what alternative plans we may need to consider. The priority is to ensure no students/staff come into contact with the virus at the academies.

Mostly, make sure you also stay safe and reach out with any questions or concerns you have.

Thank you,

Mrs Gail Dalton-Ayres & Mrs Julie Ritson

Company Directors

Monday 8th March 2021

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