

Student Number:

Dear Parent/Guardian of

We want to provide you with reassurance around how we are planning to deliver vibrant learning and teaching experiences from the start of the new academic year for all of our new students starting with us in September 2020. However, we acknowledge that these are unprecedented times and there remains much uncertainty in what the future holds.

While none of us know how the global health emergency will evolve over the summer, we can assure you we have a robust learning, teaching and support strategy in place to provide all of our students with everything they need to be successful on their chosen programme of study and to develop the skills, attributes and competencies they need to successfully progress into further study or employment.

Our delivery

From September, we will welcome new and returning students for a mixture of face-to-face campus-based and online teaching, with provision adjusted to be in line with the latest government advice. The majority of classroom based lessons and many theory based assessments will be delivered predominantly online for the time being. However, all students will still have the opportunity to develop the vital skills and competencies needed to be successful in their chosen careers by accessing socially distanced small-group practical sessions and assessments on campus within our excellent high tech industry standard facilities.

Student safety and success are our absolute priorities. We will follow all government advice for their wellbeing, and deliver vibrant online learning experiences to help them achieve the positive outcomes they plan to to help them to positively progress to their desired next steps and achieve their career goals.

Online teaching and learning is already part of our DNA and our expert tutors are specialists in this area to ensure students have everything they need to enable them to complete their studies online. Our Canvas learning platform will be open 24-7 and provides the most intuitive and engaging student experience, with mobile apps for iOS and Android giving great access.

There are many benefits of online learning. Some we knew from the start; others have surprised us. There is a strong sense of collaboration among our students who, from the comfort of their home, are spending more time working together and finding smart solutions using technology to enhance their learning experience.

Many of our programmes offer a flipped learning approach, providing an active, engaging and inspiring study experience combining live lessons and lots of opportunities to discuss and interact with tutors and fellow students. We will ensure all students are confident and have all the information and guidance needed to complete online learning sessions, activities and assessments.

Our support

While we provide all the assistance each student will need to get the most from online learning, we want to make sure they have all the support they need to help them study.

All students will be provided with a dedicated Progress Tutor to support them during every step of their B&FC experience. Students will have access to a range of specialist support services offered through our Student Support and Wellbeing Team, our Progress Coaches and our Careers Team. All aspects of support are covered such as learning support, and wellbeing, safeguarding, disability, financial, transport and careers support.

At B&FC, all of our full-time students are guaranteed an industry placement with one of our 1800+ employer partners which helps to further develop work skills and attributes. Although industry placements may not happen in their traditional format for the short term, we will still be working closely with our industry partners who help to create the courses we deliver so we will ensure every student still has the opportunity to engage with employers within their chosen area of study.

We know how important it is to give students plenty of time to unwind during their studies. Enrichment is a crucial part of the B&FC experience and our Directorate of Students is working closely with the Students' Union to provide students with innovative ways to offer extra-curricular activities to focus on their enjoyment, interests and wellbeing.

Our contact

For students planning to join our B&FC community this September, tutors will continue to get to know them over the summer to help with the transition from high school. To find out much more about B&FC, including what it's like to learn with us and how we will support all of our students' study success, they can join us for our virtual open event on Saturday 20 June from 2pm-4pm. This event will provide students with a great introduction to programmes, student support, and much more. Also, our New Student Experience Event will begin from the end of June which will be a series of virtual pre-induction programmes that will introduce our new students to their programme of study, careers and B&FC expectations in regards to behaviours and attitudes and include live virtual lessons so students will get a flavour of what to expect from September. We'll also be organising face to face inductions where possible for students to meet – strictly following social distancing guidelines – before starting studies online. Further details regarding these events and our sign up/enrolment process will be sent out in due course.

We're in unprecedented times. We don't have all the answers. But you can be sure we'll keep you updated on all things B&FC as the world around us changes. Our Applicant and Student FAQ pages at blackpool.ac.uk are regularly updated with information to help with any questions our new students may have.

If you have any questions about studying at B&FC, we're here to help.

- Call us on 01253 352352
 - Email info@blackpool.ac.uk
 - Or use our live chat feature on the website at www.blackpool.ac.uk.
- Thanks for being part of the B&FC community. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Best wishes,



Simon Hughes
Vice Principal Quality and Curriculum