

### Get a 'Head Start' with Selby College!

At Selby College, our team have been thinking about the challenges the current national situation is giving to those leaving school this summer. They are missing the assessment and exams they expected and maybe facing uncertainty about the path of study or apprenticeship they were considering, due to the economic shock that will hit the UK over the next couple of years. They will be missing their friends, and the social structures of school and life. They will have seen some of their immediate hopes regrettably, but necessarily removed or delayed.

To try and help, Selby College will shortly be launching our online Head Start initiative. This is for existing and all new applicants (from now onwards) to our full-time 16-18 and apprenticeship programmes starting Autumn 2020.

Head Start will offer:

- Course focussed study materials and challenges to do over the next few weeks, which will get feedback, to help applicants get a 'Head Start' on autumn study
- Careers and guidance sessions from our qualified Careers Guidance team, to help applicants still thinking about their choices
- Advice sessions on transport to College, bursary support and our welfare support and counselling service
- Guidance on how our learning will be delivered in the autumn, both physical and continuing online elements
- Guidance on how to keep safe at present, and the steps we'll take in College to ensure the safest environment

Those who have already applied to Selby College will be invited to join Head Start within the next few weeks - we are looking to commence this initiative week commencing 18<sup>th</sup> May.

We would encourage anyone who hasn't applied to do so as soon as possible. Even if they are unsure whether they will come to Selby College, hold offers from elsewhere, or aren't sure what subjects they want to do, applying and accessing the programme will help them decide through the engagement with our staff and other applicants.

If young people were hoping to start an apprenticeship, we especially recommend them to apply to Selby College. We will have apprenticeships that are running, but we also believe many employers will not recruit apprentices this year. Applicants should pick a backup, full-time College course as well: a place to learn relevant skills until the employment situation improves, when we can then help them progress into an apprenticeship.

Head Start, our full-time courses and other routes may also be accessible to young adults (18-21) who now find themselves unemployed and want to return to study to set off on a new, more secure career direction. If you know anyone in this situation, encourage them to apply also.

Please be assured that strict safety precautions will be employed for remote learning, and individuals' contact details will not be shared with other applicants. We'll also have an email address for any questions and concerns from parents, and the team can be contacted on the phone.

This is such a challenging time for all of us, including the young. We hope for your support in encouraging them to keep their options open and joining our programme so we can give them a 'Head Start' on their 16-18 course, the career or further study that will come after it, and the rest of their life.

Yours sincerely,

Phil Sayles