

Learning in Lockdown | Episode 3

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Delivery Model

The initial phase for English and maths at the college involved Induction, where not only were the usual activities carried out, but also time was spent ensuring that the learners had access to the online facilities too. This was important as the plan was for all learners' English and maths to start online, before a phased return to face-to-face teaching. This was to help prepare learners for being offsite, if and when their face-to-face learning bubbles burst.

The learners would come in for one day a week vocational teaching and learning with online learning for the rest of the week. Everybody was proactive about the delivery model. The learners were much more ready to flip from face-to-face delivery to remote learning. As a college, they are reaping the benefits of that now.

Engagement

The learners are engaging well with online learning, but we should not shy away from how big a challenge it is and it will carry on being. A lot of learners struggle with online learning, but some do prefer it. So, we have a balancing act, trying to do what is right for the cohort.

With the adults, we started them face-to-face, and now we need to ensure that they are engaged online. With the 16-18 cohort, many of them prefer online learning and are engaging well. We are seeing good skills development. Our GCSE results show this (all the teaching was done online). The impact can be positive, if you prepare for online properly.

It is easier to make connections face-to-face, but learners are getting there. The learners benefited from some face-to-face learning before lockdown and it help bridge the gaps in the relationships. In terms of attendance, the face-to-face sessions were better attended than the online sessions at the beginning of the year, but the online attendance in the current lockdown has improved upon the face-to-face sessions. The face-to-face rapport is key, but this can be built upon and a mixed economy may be the way forward.

The importance of English and maths

Improving English and maths:

- Helps confidence
- Builds relationships
- Increases earning potential

Top Tips

- It is important to make sure the lines of communication are in place from managers to teachers to learners.
- Plan properly and get the data right.