

A message to the parents and carers of year 11 learners.

Hello, my name is Karen Phillips, Principal of Coleg y Cymoedd.

As a result of this pandemic, year 11 learners and their families may not have been able to find out about the college and its courses so if your son or daughter is thinking about joining a course with us in September, or you are not sure what options are available, this message may be of some help.

The first thing I would say is that there are still places available on courses at all 4 college campuses which are Aberdare, Ystrad Mynach, Rhondda (Llwynypia) and Nantgarw **and it is not too late to apply.**

If your child knows what course they wish to apply for, then they can apply now through the college's web-site – www.cymoedd.ac.uk. It is easy to apply but if anyone would like someone from the college to help, please ring 01443 662800 and select option 1.

If your child does not know what course is suitable or wants to know more about the courses on offer, I would suggest you go to the college's web-site and look at the 'courses' section and you can see what is available on each campus. Please ring us on 01443 662800 and select option 1, if you want to talk to someone from the college about these options. Your child's school will also have a careers advisor from Careers Wales available to speak to you about the different opportunities that are available at college and elsewhere.

You can also join on of our Open Events, which are all held via the college web-site at the moment. The next one is on 24th March from 4.30pm – 6.30 pm – please go to the college web-site if you wish to know more.

You and your child might be asking why you should choose Coleg y Cymoedd as my next step? Here are some of the reasons that we think might help you decide...

What do we offer?

1. CHOICE – we offer the widest range of vocational qualifications alongside 24 A-levels, but college is more than just qualifications we will work with you so that you develop skills to succeed in life
2. EXPERTISE - we have the very best teachers, who are subject specialists and many have extensive industrial experience. They are all determined to help you achieve and are able to deliver a blend of learning on and off campus to encourage your development
3. SUPPORT – we have professional, dedicated and specialist support staff providing that extra support when needed – whether you are struggling or need that extra stretch and challenge
4. PARTNERSHIPS – we have excellent links with over 1000 employers and all universities within the region and across the UK
5. FACILITIES – we have first class learning facilities in all areas and across all campuses and fantastic IT support to enable you to work independently to enhance your directed learning

What will it be like for you?

6. LEARNING FOR A PURPOSE – college will provide you with an excellent stepping stone to university, an apprenticeship or employment and we also offer a number of progression routes to HE within the college. We have a dedicated employment bureau Futures@Cymoedd to work with learners to secure the best destination after college
7. TARGETS – you will have regular tutorials to ensure that you are on track and both coping with the course and achieving your potential
8. WORK EXPERIENCE – although the pandemic has temporarily affected our work placement programme, we hope to restart this soon and you will be able to participate in an extensive range of work experience placements with employers and/or in our professional salons and restaurants, which run on a commercial basis
9. BOOST – every campus offers activities over and above your learning programme to enable you to try out new hobbies, gain new skills and develop your self-confidence. In addition, we have excellent academy provision for sports enabling you to pursue your academic and sporting dreams
10. SUCCESS – we will expect you to work hard but we will also work hard with you to ensure that when you take your next step you will be ready

Don't just take my word for it – participate in one of our open events ,have a look on the website at the virtual tours of every campus. You can also check out our social media and the learner testimonials, go to the links on the Coleg y Cymoedd You Tube channel to see the experiences others have had, or contact us to discuss your options.

I wish you good luck with your search, if you decide to join us, I look forward to welcoming you to the college in September 2021.

