



## **COVID-19 Employer / Apprentice Update – 15 June 2020**

As you will be aware, we have been delivering online class sessions via Zoom since Easter on apprentices' normal college days. These online classes are supplemented by activities and assignments to allow apprentices to stay on track with their learning.

We have been very pleased with the way that apprentices have responded to these sessions and kept on track with their learning. Those who have been furloughed have taken the opportunity to progress well with their learning and the majority of those who have been working have been able to attend as we requested. Apprentices completed a survey last week and 83% rated the training and support they have received from LITE as excellent or good. Experience has also shown us that the initial one hour zoom session is insufficient and we are extending the sessions to an hour and a half.

We do however have a minority of apprentices who have been unable to attend the sessions due to the work schedules required by their employer. Whilst they can watch the recordings later we are finding that these learners are missing out on their learning and are falling behind.

Whilst there have been flexibilities around apprenticeships during this time there is still a contractual requirement for 20% of an apprentice's contracted hours to be dedicated to 'Off the job' training. Their attendance at classes is part of this requirement. We are now asking all employers to plan rotas going forward to enable apprentices to be allocated their class day for training.

As we are nearing 3 months into this pandemic, and more of our apprentices are returning to work. We are planning for what is to become our 'new normal' in terms of apprenticeship learning. Based on our COVID-19 Risk assessment it is our current intention, subject to Government approval, to resume class attendance in September with half the class attending in person and half attending remotely for the full day. In this way we can ensure social distancing and safety requirements are met. Please bear this in mind in your planning to ensure apprentices are not scheduled to be at work on their college day.

Classes will continue by Zoom until the summer break. We are also planning some 'practical / examination workshops' during the summer to cover aspects that have been missed and ensure students are prepared for their examinations. Once we have the dates for these we will update you.

We are waiting for further information from City and Guilds with regard to the conduct of external examinations and OSCE's. As soon as we have any further information we will let you know.

If anyone wishes to contact me to discuss this further please do email me on [jsreed@liteltd.co.uk](mailto:jsreed@liteltd.co.uk).

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