Informed Scotland

Learning and Skills Digest **COVID-19 Extra | May 2020**

COVID-19 RESPONSE & SUPPORT EXTRA

- Announcements
- Information
- Resources
- Services
- Support
- Guidance

Produced by

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Interested in a whole-UK perspective? Contact elaine@emhconnect.co.uk for your free trial copy of ***UK DIGEST***.

Business

EMPLOYMENT & EMPLOYABILITY SUPPORT

- **Scottish Government**:
  - Employability resource hub has information on the support available to the employability sector
  - No One Left Behind – COVID-19 Operational Group involving **Skills Development Scotland** (**SDS**), **Department for Work & Pensions** (**DWP**), local government and third sector will develop an understanding of the impact on the labour market and employability system.

See No One Left Behind Digital on page 15.

- **DWP**: Online search and advice resources for jobseekers and employers in Great Britain, plus a stakeholder toolkit to help promote the resources.

- **SDS**:
  - Frequently asked questions (FAQs) with advice and support for individuals, businesses and training providers
  - Enhanced career and employment services via My World of Work, and continues to offer one-to-one sessions with careers advisers
  - Information on My World of Work with support for those whose job has been affected
  - My World of Work Job Hub, also on Our Skillsforce for employers, with immediate job opportunities including in healthcare, food & grocery retail, social care, childcare, delivery & distribution, food manufacturing & production
  - Support on redundancy via Partnership Action for Continuing Employment (PACE)
  - *Recommendations and advice for delivering work-based learning in the current Covid-19 pandemic*, including tips on using simulation, audio and video evidence for assessment, and recognition of prior learning (RPL).

*See the **Scottish Qualifications Framework (SCQF) Partnership**'s RPL Tool.*

- **Employment Related Services Association**: COVID-19 Employability Resource Hub with information and support relevant UK-wide.

- **Lantra Scotland**: New skills matching service for rural and land-based businesses.

- **Edinburgh & South East City Region Deal** partnership: New jobs and support website.

APPRENTICESHIPS

- **SDS**:
  - FAQs with advice and support for apprentices and their employers
  - Information on My World of Work with support for those whose apprenticeship has been affected.

- **Apprenticeships in Scotland**: #YouthRescue campaign, promoting temporary key workforce roles to 16–24 year-olds.

- **Federation for Industry Sector Skills & Standards**: Apprenticeship Portal inviting those involved in delivery, assessment and quality assurance to submit 'workable solutions' to continue training and assessment.

SKILLS, TRAINING & QUALIFICATIONS

- **SDS**: New Online Learning Portal with support from **Open University** (**OU**) **in Scotland**.
  - Aimed particularly at furloughed workers or those made redundant, it is for anyone looking to learn new or develop existing skills.
  - It provides links to free online learning materials in a range of subjects from 14+ providers, including OU's OpenLearn and those by colleges and universities in Scotland.

A Skills Toolkit launched in England offers free digital and numeracy courses.

- **City & Guilds**:
  - Working with **Scottish Qualifications Authority** (**SQA**) to align its relevant processes
  - New digital resources for skills development, including free Workplace Skills, online TeachMeets for maths and English, and free access to digital learning for automotive.

- **Construction Industry Training Board**: Adapting courses and training for remote learning.

- **Construction Scotland Innovation Centre**:
  - New online i-Con toolkit to support the built environment sector, including a knowledge hub
  - Learning platform with resources for young people in education and those active in the sector.

- **Edinburgh Napier University**, **University of the West of Scotland** and **NHS Education for Scotland**: Online training program for healthcare professionals, based on gaming technology, enabling staff to develop skills and knowledge to assess and treat COVID-19 patients.

- Free online courses, webinars and resources are being made available by:
  - **Business Gateway** including advice and links to funding sources
  - **eCom Scotland** on coronavirus preparedness and remote working
  - **Kineo** on e.g. virtual learning, leading virtual teams, and designing and delivering webinars
  - **Chartered Institute of Personnel & Development**.

- **Robert Gordon University** with **NHS Grampian**: New training programme to upskill staff to be redeployed from existing roles, in e.g. dentistry or occupational health, into frontline positions during the crisis.

- **ScotlandIS**: Online hub of tools and resources to support businesses that need to undergo 'rapid [digital] transformation'. Tech businesses are encouraged to offer their services via the hub.

Business

ENTERPRISE, INNOVATION & RESEARCH

- **Nesta**: Creative Industries Policy & evidence Centre is collecting data from the sector to help policymakers understand and respond to the crisis.

- **UK Research & Innovation** (**UKRI**): Invited proposals for short-term projects addressing the impacts of the outbreak.

- **Prince's Trust**:
  - New £5m Enterprise Relief Fund with **NatWest** offering grants to 18–30 year-olds across the UK who are self-employed and/or running their own business
  - Support hub of advice and guidance.

Schools

SCHOOLS & EARLY LEARNING CENTRES

- **Scottish Government**:
  - COVID-19 Education Recovery Group; it is modelling 'what a phased approach to school reopening will look like' (set out on 5 May).
  - *Social distancing in education and childcare settings* (30 March)
  - *School and early learning closures – guidance about key workers and vulnerable children* (31 March), setting out the critical childcare and learning provision expected
  - *Supporting pupils, parents and teachers – learning during term 4* (20 April).

- **Education Scotland**: Details of its new way of working to support local authorities, teachers and parents (6 April).

- **Local authorities, schools and early learning centres**:
  - Remote learning hubs have been created and shared on Wakelet
  - **Association of Directors of Education in Scotland** (**ADES**): Sharing advice and examples from across the country
  - **ADES**: Covid-19 Recovery with issues including vulnerable learners, resources and staffing.

- **OECD**: *A framework to guide an education response to the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020*.

- ***Tes Scotland***: Hub of news items on the impact of the crisis.

NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS & EXAMS

- **SQA**:
  - Hub with statements agreed via the Qualifications Contingency Group chaired by Scottish Government, support and resources
  - Information (2 April) on evidence-based judgements teachers and lecturers will need to make about learners' grades; on marking of National 5 coursework; and on SQA's approach to certification of other courses including Nationals 2, 3 and 4
  - Learners are expected to receive their results no later than 4 August as planned and encouraged to sign up to MySQA
  - The post-results service will be free to ensure schools and colleges can question any result
  - *SQA Certification 2020 – Guidance for learners, parents and carers* (2 April)
  - Further details (20 April) on the alternative certification model
  - *Information for Centres: Producing Estimates – Session 2019–20* (20 April); grades, bands and rank order estimates for National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher to be in by 29 May
  - Coronavirus: NQ learner support has information and FAQs for students.

Schools

TEACHER EDUCATION

- **General Teaching Council for Scotland** (**GTCS**):
  - Advice for probationers (17 March) including a revised minimum requirement of days required for this year
  - *Learning Activities for Probationers* linked to the Standard for Full Registration, for while schools are closed.

- **GTCS** and **Scottish Council of Deans of Education**: Joint statement (16 March) on the ending of all initial teacher education placements in schools for the rest of this session; includes information about assessment of professional practice.

TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & SUPPORT

- **GTCS**:
  - Health and wellbeing hub of resources and advice, including 'teacher tips' videos, insights from specialists and access to resources, articles and webinars
  - Advice for teachers on 'how to look after your wellbeing'
  - FAQs related to its work
  - *Engaging online: A guide for teachers*, refreshed advice
  - Brew and a Blether conversations, on various teaching and professional development themes.

- **Education Scotland**:
  - Practitioner support for online remote learning, including working groups to support teachers and evaluate successes
  - Live and recorded webinar support sessions
  - #ESBigBlether online events to enable educators from across the system to connect, discuss issues, share resources and highlight interesting practice.

- **Educational Institute of Scotland** (**EIS**): Central source of information for teachers.

- **FutureLearn**:
  - 'The best resources for online teaching during coronavirus', advice and links to other sources
  - How to teach online: Providing continuity for students, a new free course.

- **Moray House School of Education & Sport, University of Edinburgh**: Free online professional learning resources and webinars for teachers during social distancing.
Some resources are also relevant for parents.

- **Practitioners Robin Macpherson and Mark Healy**: New online [Professional Learning] **PL Gaitherin'** for teachers; lectures shared weekly followed by discussion on Twitter.

Schools

- **Scottish Educational Research Association** (**SERA**): #SERAConnects, a series of fortnightly online educational research events.

- **Scottish Schools Education Research Centre** (**SSERC**):
  - A new Home-Learning resource with videos, self-study packages and activities for science, technology, engineering & maths (STEM) subjects, early years and primary, and technicians
  - SSERC TV professional learning materials for school technicians and science teachers.

PARENTS & CARERS

- **Education Scotland**:
  - Scotland Learns new area of the National Improvement Hub to help parents support their child's learning, with activities on a range of curricular areas, plus a new weekly newsletter
  - Parentzone guidance and advice, including for those with additional support needs.

- **Scottish Government**: Parent Club new hub of information and advice for parents and carers on managing the impact of COVID-19 on their child's learning and family life.

- **Enquire**: Information for parents and carers on the impact on additional support for learning.

DEVELOPING THE YOUNG WORKFORCE & POST-SCHOOL

- **SDS**:
  - FAQs with advice and support for pupils and apprentices
  - My World of Work information about support, including for secondary pupils and parents and carers
  - Continues to offer one-to-one sessions with careers advisers.

- **UCAS**:
  - Hub of information, including for those applying to university or advising applicants
  - Specific information for those in Scotland.

LEARNING RESOURCES

- **BBC**: Extended Learn at BBC Scotland resources, including: Bitesize; The L.A.B. Scotland outreach project, designed to develop digital media literacy with learners creating their own content; and activities for during lockdown.

- **BT**'s Skills for Tomorrow with **Computing at School** (part of **BCS**, **Chartered Institute for IT**): Resources to support parents with learning at home, including to support digital skills, computing, IT and computational learning.
  Skills for Tomorrow also has resources for teachers and businesses.

Schools

- **Data Lab**: Data science for schools with resources for learners and teachers.

- **e-Sgoil**:
  - Live, online learning opportunities for pupils via Glow
  - Courses developed with **SCILT** (**Scotland's National Centre for Languages**) for primary and secondary pupils up to Advanced Higher in languages e.g. Gaelic, German, Spanish, Mandarin
  - From June 2020, Gaelic (Learners) courses at National 5 and Higher will be available weekly
  - Environmental activities for learners in partnership with **Keep Scotland Beautiful**.

- **Gaelic4Parents**: Audio books for early years and primary learners and online homework help.

- **IBM** and **Cisco**: Free access to video conferencing for teachers, and charity staff, across the UK supported by their staff; Cisco Webex technology can be used for online teaching, remote assistance or general communication.

- **Microsoft**: Free help to run classes online via their platforms open to all UK schools.

- **National Galleries Scotland**: Weekly creative taster activities for children and families to develop creativity skills and make their own discoveries about art.

- **Penguin Random House** with **Speakers for Schools**:
  - Virtual Penguin Talks with authors and employers delivering live talks aimed at 14–18 year-olds across the UK
  - New online hub of free teaching resources accompanies the talks.

- **RBS**:
  - MoneySense Home Learning Hub with resources aimed at age groups from 5 to 16
  - Weekly live lessons for families.

- **SSERC**: Young STEM Leader Programme is continuing for new and existing participants.

- **UK Government**:
  - Virtual Cyber Security School for 13–18 year-olds across the UK, part of the Cyber Discovery programme; access to 200+ free cyber security challenges and webinars run by industry
  - **National Crime Agency** and **Cyber Security Challenge UK**: free access to CyberLand cyber skills game
  - CyberFirst free online activities and a summer school for 14–17 year-olds.

- **Young Scot**: Learning Resources to support home learning/education around COVID-19 and other relevant topics to support Curriculum for Excellence at a number of ages.

Further & Higher Education

UNIVERSITIES & COLLEGES

Scottish Government:

- Further & Higher Education Ministerial Leadership Group held its first meeting (2 April)
- Committed (9 April) to work with the university sector and **Scottish Funding Council** (**SFC**) to assess the nature of the effects of COVID-19 on teaching, student issues and research
- Announced (6 May) a one-off £75m increase in research capital funding for universities, administered by **SFC**, to protect research programmes against the impact of COVID-19.

UK Government:

- Announced (4 May) measures to protect students and universities from the impact of COVID-19, including an intention to work with devolved administrations to support higher education
- A new Research Sustainability Taskforce is to be established.

SFC:

- Hub of information for colleges and universities, including guidance, FAQs and links to other bodies
- Guidance for universities and colleges in Scotland regarding new information on the application of the UK Government's Job Retention and Loan Schemes for education.

Universities Scotland:

- COVID-19 webpage for relevant information on higher education and the crisis
- *An existential challenge: the financial threat facing Scotland's universities as a result of COVID-19* (9 April).

STUDENTS: APPLICATIONS, FINANCE & SUPPORT

Scottish Government:

- Student Information Scotland, new website including guidance on accessing funding and student accommodation
- £5m emergency financial support (8 April) to help students facing hardship
- Letters (14 April) to university and college applicants to reassure them that they will not be disadvantaged, and to university principals urging them to observe a moratorium on changing offers made until 20 April for consistency with English providers (*for whom this was later extended to 4 May*).

SFC: Information on student support in colleges (6 April) and emergency financial support (8 April).

Student Awards Agency Scotland (**SAAS**): Information and advice, including FAQs on funding issues such as student accommodation, study abroad and placements, and for disabled and medical & nursing students.

Further & Higher Education

- **UCAS**:
  - Hub of information, including for those applying to university or advising applicants
  - Specific information for those in Scotland, including in wider further education and higher education, colleges, on access courses or other qualifications.

ASSESSMENT & QUALIFICATIONS

- **SQA** and **Colleges Scotland**: Joint statements on 26 March and 3 April:
  - Colleges are to use professional judgement to assess evidence in HNC, HND, NC, National Progression Awards (NPAs) and National Qualification units
  - Certification of submissions will be undertaken by SQA in line with normal arrangements
  - A reduced external verification model will be adopted for HNs, NCs and NPAs.

- **Quality Assurance Agency** (**QAA**):
  - Support and guidance resources, including on *Securing academic standards and supporting student achievement*, *Practice and lab-based assessment* and *Accelerated degrees*
  - *International examples of practice in response to the COVID-19 pandemic: An overview* (24 Apil) on learning and teaching, assessment and feedback, and student support
  - *'No detriment' policies: An overview* (28 April)
  - *Should providers include a COVID-19 statement on degree transcripts: Arguments for and against* (1 May), highlighting the dilemma facing institutions.

***Universities Scotland** explained that each university has published how it will ensure fairness.*

LEARNING & TEACHING

- **Advance HE**:
  - Hub of resources for higher education institutions and staff, including on governance, leadership, teaching, learning and student success; COVID-19 updates; and webinars
  - Creating Socially Distanced Campuses and Education, a 'rapid, generative' international project.

- **College Development Network** (**CDN**):
  - COVID-19 Information Centre including resources, for colleges and staff
  - Online bespoke support sessions for college teams
  - Virtual College Expo20 'The Future is Now: Learning from Lockdown', 11 June, online.

- **Jisc**: Details of publishers and content providers who are widening access to their resources.

- **QAA**:
  - **QAA Scotland**: Extended Focus On: Technology Enhanced Learning resource hub, including resources developed across the sector and internationally
  - Quality Discussion Forum for practitioners to share thoughts, experiences and practices.

Further & Higher Education

COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

- **Universities Scotland**: #WeAreTogether: HE's response, examples of the contributions being made by the 19 higher education institutions.

- **Universities UK**: Hub of information and resources including on student and staff health and welfare, admissions, international work and the longer-term impact for universities.

- A growing number of colleges are hosting/have hosted their first online and virtual open events:
  - **West Highland College UHI** held its first Virtual Open Day on 20 March via Skype
  - **Inverness College UHI** held a Virtual Open Week in April in place of its open evening
  - **North East Scotland College** is hosting a Virtual Open Day in May
  - **Perth College UHI** and **Shetland College UHI** are organising Online Open Weeks in May.

- **City of Glasgow College**: Sharing videos of online lessons and skills demonstrations via its ClickView showcase and sharing channel.

- **Dumfries & Galloway College**: New online delivery models for a number of courses normally delivered in a classroom, with materials supported by interactive workshops with an instructor.

- **Royal Conservatoire of Scotland** (**RCS**): RCS at Home new online community to connect students, staff and audiences while the campus is closed.

- **University of Edinburgh**: Sharing open educational resources on a range of topics.

- **University of Strathclyde**: Wellbeing & working from home hub for staff and students.

- **West College Scotland**: Offering 60 free online courses during lockdown to support individuals and businesses to 'upskill, reskill or learn for personal development'.

Community & Adult Learning

COMMUNITY LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT (CLD)

- **Scottish Government**:
  - CLD Stakeholder Reference Group set up to inform the Further & Higher Education Leadership Group (*see page 10*)
  - Updated CLD organisations (30 April) on its relevant response to the pandemic.

- **CLD Standards Council**:
  - Guidance and FAQs (27 March) for further and higher education institutions, and for CLD students at college or university, on the impact on practice placements
  - Conducting a series of surveys over the next four months to find out about the successes, challenges and wellbeing of CLD practitioners in responding to the pandemic.

- **Learning Link Scotland**:
  - Useful information for third sector adult learning organisations (1 April)
  - Published (23 April) *Adult Learning and COVID-19*, results of a survey of providers in the first two weeks of lockdown and *The Financial Impact of COVID-19*, a snapshot in mid-April.

TEACHING & LEARNING RESOURCES

- **Lead Scotland**:
  - Free online learning options and information 'suitable for everyone', including digital, reading, writing and numeracy skills, and specialist or university-led courses
  - Podcast on online safety on the barriers people with learning impairments, low literacy and dyslexia can experience.

- **Education Scotland**: ESOL page on Wakelet with links to materials that support practice and professional learning.

- **Arts Society**: New online Arts Society Connected for older people, including lectures, film screenings, live author Q&As and a community forum.

- **BT** and **ITV**: Beyond Limits: Top Tips on Tech to help people develop basic digital skills to stay connected and access online services and information.

- **Campaign for Real Ale** (**CAMRA**): Learn & Discover materials and new virtual pub.

- **Carnegie UK Trust** and **CILIP** (**library & information association**): Stepping into Leadership, free online skills development materials for library professionals and others.

- **Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe**: Useful tools for online teaching and learning.

Community & Adult Learning

- **OU**: OpenLearn and **FutureLearn** have numerous free courses.

- **Scottish Library & Information Council** (**SLIC**):
  - Free online public library services, including eBooks, audiobooks, games, downloadable music and newspapers
  - Digital resources to help libraries, from early years to adult reader development
  - With **Fun Palaces Scotland**: Online Culture & Wellbeing Community Group to help cultural organisations connect during the pandemic.

- **UKRI**: Coronavirus: the science explained, a website for non-scientists interested in learning about the evidence and facts about the virus, disease, epidemic and its control.

CHILDREN & FAMILY LEARNING

- **Children's University** (**CU**) **Scotland**: Posting daily and weekly learning activities and challenges for children and families.

- **CILIP**: National Shelf Service YouTube channel with book recommendations from professional librarians to help children and families discover new reading experiences.

- **Parenting across Scotland**: Information for you and your family.

- **ScotlandIS**: Online hub of digital tools and resources for children and families.

YOUNG PEOPLE & YOUTH WORK

- **YouthLink Scotland**:
  - Hub of information including on how to move youth work online
  - COVID-19 Youth Worker Survey to inform its work with Scottish Government.

- **Youth Scotland**:
  - Action Fund to help youth groups and youth workers meet the needs of young people
  - Online Hi5 Award, enabling young people to gain an accredited award at home.

- **Young Enterprise Scotland** (**YES**): Digital skills training for young people, supported by **Accenture**, free for senior school and college students.

Government & Wider Society

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE & SUPPORT

- Governments' COVID-19 links:
  - Scottish Government, including publications
  - Ready Scotland hub for all information, including on volunteering
  - **Find Business Support**
  - UK Government.

- **Scottish Government**:
  - Emergency Coronavirus (Scotland) Bill introduced on 31 March; received Royal Assent on 6 April
  - Connecting Scotland (7 May), a £5m programme offering ~9,000 vulnerable, digitally excluded people a device with a mobile internet data package; participants will receive training and support from a 'digital champion' for six months
  - Announced (24 March) that due to COVID-19 it 'has had to change its data gathering and release practices' to focus on priority analysis.

- **Scottish Parliament**: Coronavirus and education website with information about relevant Parliament business.

- **NHS Education for Scotland**: Developing COVID-19 educational and induction resources for all health and social care staff, available via its Turas Learn platform.

POLICY & FUTURES

- **Royal Society of Edinburgh**: Post-COVID-19 Futures Commission involving leaders from across society, to identify and help address some immediate policy implications and challenges.

EARLY LEARNING & CHILDCARE (ELC)

- **Scottish Government**:
  - Announced (19 March) that funding for contractual payments to private and third sector statutory ELC providers will continue
  - Removed (30 March) the statutory duty on local authorities to provide 1,140 hours of ELC from August 2020, so they can focus on their coronavirus response
  - Advice to all registered childminders (1 April) to 'cease all provision besides emergency childcare for key worker families and vulnerable children'.

THIRD SECTOR & COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

- **Scottish Government**: No One Left Behind Digital Scotland: COVID 19, a national digital emergency response team coordinated by **Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO)**, aiming 'to find, equip, train and support' households who lack access to the internet at home due to poverty.

Government & Wider Society

- Community and third sector organisations:
- **SCVO**
- **Scottish Community Development Centre**.

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

- **Scottish Government**: *Supporting vulnerable children and young people – data intelligence report* (24 April) on the impact of the outbreak in the initial weeks of lockdown.

- **Enquire**: **REACH** website has information for young people with additional support needs.

- **Scottish Youth Parliament** and **Children's Parliament**: Mind Yer Time, new website developed by and for children and young people on how to avoid unhealthy use of screens and social media.

- **Young Scot**: Website of information and advice for young people.

- **Young Scot**, **Scottish Youth Parliament** and **YouthLink Scotland**: *LockdownLowdown – what young people in Scotland are thinking about COVID-19*, findings of an online survey in April.

FUNDING

- **National Lottery Community Fund**: Announced (3 April) it remains open to all applications, but will prioritise COVID-19 related applications over the next six months.