

3<sup>rd</sup> June 2021

Dear new starter 2021

This communication outlines our plans for course delivery from September 2021. We are committed to providing you with clear and timely information and will ensure that you know about any planned or possible changes by keeping you informed if circumstances change.

Over the last few weeks we have spent a great deal of time scenario planning for all eventualities. We have developed plans A, B and C to ensure that we have measures/options in place to navigate any potential risks which may come into place as a result of Covid.

We are pleased to inform you that it is our plan from September to open the school to resemble much more of what it looked like pre-Covid. We are expecting all students to commence studies on-site in Leeds from 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021 (Verve) or 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021 (CertHE, BA & DaCE) by following our plan A.

**Plan A:** We will return to a model of face to face teaching with larger cohorts and more contact hours where appropriate. We recognise that there have been some innovations as a result of the online practice, so will take forward some of the best opportunities from this into appropriate aspects of the curriculum. Meetings and some aspects of academic support may stay on virtual platforms as this has worked more effectively as an added resource, to support our in-house provision. We will still need to navigate and be responsive to the given guidelines at the time to ensure safety and security are maintained.

In a very exceptional circumstance were the UK Government to impose extended conditions due to covid we would consider in the first instance adopting:

**Plan B:** Given that we will have to monitor the data surrounding Covid and all new strain variants we may be forced into a situation where we have to revert to smaller class 'bubbles', with more restrictions imposed and combine a mixture of in-house teaching and online hybrid activities. At this time we will advise students on their options to study from term time address in Leeds. NSCD would provide a mixture of online and in-house face to face classes so studying from further afield would not be possible. NSCD has excellent facilities for online remote access through Zoom and our virtual learning environment (NSCD-Moodle). Our student services team have excellent systems in place to support students during this process with additional resources.

**Plan C:** In the worst case scenario where the government enforces another major lockdown, we know that we can revert, if necessary, to online learning by taking the very best aspects of what we have learned and experienced. NSCD will advise students with as much notice as possible around travel and

choices to study from Leeds or where possible further afield (from non-term time address). As with Plan B we have excellent procedures and processes in place to move learning online and offer the very best student support.

### **Our commitment in all scenarios (Plan A, B or C)**

Plan A is our most considered option for delivery, with other plans to secure the very best routes for you to meet your learning outcomes and progress readily to the next stage of your development if needed. At this stage it is unlikely that we will need to consider Plan C.

You will be taught by a mix of in-house staff and guest tutors and we will not only respond to the changes around us, we will participate in leading the change and creating graduates that can help to shape the dance communities of the future. Adversity offers us an opportunity to explore our creativity together.

Staff continue to work tirelessly, interrogating and developing their own practice to ensure that we can ensure our learning model is stronger still in the new academic year. You will still receive the highest level of training and education in all aspects of the curriculum and be provided with the tools to support:

- training, developing and maintaining your physical body
- exploration of making and performing work
- performance opportunities in a range of settings, including theatre practice
- interrogating all aspects of your creative dance practice

### **Further Updates**

Prior to the start of the 2021 academic year we will provide an update on the course delivery plan, based on information at that time, as well as the safety measures that we will have in place. This update will be posted on the [New Starters 2021 Entry](#) web page for you to access from the start of September.

Overseas students should monitor travel arrangements and restrictions to the UK and follow information as suggested.

NSCD will provide links to the UK government website and further information related to covid on our website over the coming months: <https://www.nscd.ac.uk/blog/coronavirus-covid-19-faqs/>

At present we have had no updates around the use of lateral flow tests for September and beyond, but we will include this in future communication. We expect that as a nation we will still be following all guidelines around hygiene, with some degree of social distancing and wearing masks.

We hope that you will feel reassured by this communication and we look forward to welcoming you to the NSCD community in September.

I feel excited about the possibilities for teaching and learning through Plan A and this has only been possible as a result of everything we have worked together to achieve over the last 12 months.

Yours sincerely



Darren Carr  
Vice Principal and Director of Studies