

# THE SHEFFIELD COLLEGE, SHEFFIELD

MEMBERS OF SHEFFIELD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



## UK BUSINESS HEROES RECOGNISING BUSINESSES. ONE STORY AT A TIME

### Supporting students and the wider community during lockdown

The Sheffield College is an anchor institution in the city, welcoming around 15,000 students a year. It is proud of its staff who have gone above and beyond before, during and after lockdown.

In March 2020, the College took decisive action at the start of the Coronavirus pandemic and was the first FE college in England to announce the move to remote teaching and working.

All parts of the organisation pulled together to enable college life to continue, albeit remotely, supporting a diverse community including 16 to 18 year olds, adult learners and apprentices.

The collective efforts of staff meant that they got technology arrangements up and running for remote working and learning for both staff and students. They also delivered laptops to those who did not have technology at home.

Students who received financial support and free meals were able to continue to receive those payments.

A plan was put in place to support their most vulnerable learners, including daily contact by telephone or online. Students in their Inclusion Faculty were also provided with offline resources where virtual learning was not possible.

Our City Campus nursery stayed open to support frontline key workers' children.

Meanwhile, some staff volunteered to help the NHS, from making personal protective equipment and teddy bears for children in hospital, to delivering urgent medical supplies by motorbike and running or walking 5k to fundraise.

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The Sheffield College is proud to share some individual Business Heroes stories too:

- Nick Hart, an award-winning teacher and a Learning and Development Coach for Engineering and Construction, used the College's 3D printers to create face shield frames for frontline staff at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals. He was one of the many volunteers across the country who helped to address the national shortage of personal protective equipment.
- A Sheffield College team leader has been transporting vital medical samples around the city during the coronavirus crisis to support the NHS. By day, Annette Parker's job is Team Leader for the Prince's Trust Team Programme at the College's Peaks Campus. By night, she volunteers out of hours with Whiteknights Yorkshire Blood Bikes, which provides a free out-of-hours transportation service to the NHS and hospices across Yorkshire.

As Yorkshire's only female 'blood biker', Annette helps to save lives by transporting urgent medical supplies and test samples by motorbike. During the lockdown, the Whiteknights supported the new open air Phlebotomy Unit based at the FlyDSA Sheffield Arena, which meant that vulnerable patients do not have to go into hospital sites.

During the lockdown period Sheffield College supported students with assessments, allowing a small number to return to campus during the summer - where they needed to do so to complete their qualification - and reopened in September 2020, with safety measures in place as it adopts a blended learning approach.

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RECOGNISING BUSINESSES.  
ONE STORY AT A TIME

Supporting  
students  
and the  
wider  
community  
during  
lockdown

*“Sheffield College responded above and beyond to the NHS’s call for PPE. Whilst protecting staff and students they also helped our frontline workers. Their recognition as heroes is well deserved.”*

**Matt Jackson**  
President, Sheffield Chamber of Commerce

*“It’s great to receive this recognition, thanks to the fantastic efforts of staff supporting students and the community during the pandemic. I am proud to be part of The Sheffield College community.”*

**Angela Foulkes**  
Chief Executive and Principal, The Sheffield College