

# Bromley Adult Education like a challenge!

Like all other local organisations, the last year has proved challenging for your local adult education college. But there is nothing we at Bromley Adult Education like more than a challenge!

When we had to close our doors in March 2020, the majority of our tutors moved immediately to an online teaching model. Webcams were installed, online meeting accounts created, hurdles were overcome and lessons continued from the comfort of tutors' and learners' homes.

We were not able to return to our centres until the summer and we spent those months preparing for our students to come back to a safe and secure environment in September 2020. Students in classes from ESOL, IT, drawing and painting to counselling and cookery, were delighted to be back onsite with their friends and tutors. Classes were smaller but the

camaraderie, loyalty and dedication from both students and staff shone through as always. Imagine the dismay when in December 2020 we realised that we would not be able to return after the Christmas break. But we returned seamlessly to the online learning methods in which we are now all experts, and were even able to provide laptops for many students who were struggling to get online. We thank our main funding agency, the GLA, for their support with this. We were delighted to be able to support Bromley Council by enabling part of the Kentwood Centre to be used as a Rapid Test Centre for local asymptomatic residents and workers from January 2021.



From March we are also a Census Support Centre, helping anyone who needs help completing the Census 2021 (*you can complete your census until May 4th, the Support Centre will be available until then*). Throughout the pandemic we have worked with students and tutors, seeking their views, to ensure that we are providing a service that meets the needs of local residents as well as keeping everyone safe. Some quotes which have warmed our hearts include this from a student on a Spanish course: "You have always taken our views into account when discussing the agreed way forward for the class. During this whole period, you have continued to provide a supportive welcoming and an enjoyable learning environment, both online and in face to face classes."

Now that most classes are back onsite, we are looking forward to a bright future for adult education in Penge as well as Orpington. The summer term starts on 19th April 2021, with some courses online as well as onsite. Have a look at [www.baec.ac.uk](http://www.baec.ac.uk) for details. We are starting to plan for September 2021 now, so please keep an eye on the website for all the most up to date information about what is happening at the Kentwood and Poverest Centres.

