

Temple Moor High School Sixth Form COVID-19 Impact Statement for UCAS Applicants

Temple Moor High School Sixth Form closed to students on 22 March 2020 and opened again on 2 September 2020. There were 80 students in Year 12 at the time who all had access to some form of IT/internet. However, it transpired over the period of school closure that approximately 20% of students' access was restricted due to parents working from home. 15% students were supporting their families with childcare and home-schooling siblings.

As well as obvious technical and environmental barriers, many students cited lack of motivation and being overwhelmed by self-teaching as reasons for a decrease in motivation and ability to engage with their studies.

Students studying the EPQ reported that their preferred research methods were restricted, having an impact on their project planning and writing.

Virtual lessons were not in place during this time so students relied on emails from their teachers to navigate their way through their learning.

UCAS guidance was supported by signposts to video links, instruction manuals and advice on the UCAS website instead of the bespoke support and group work usually in place, particularly for our vulnerable learners. Our university partners provided links and videos instead of targeted support. Students have arrived back into the Sixth Form further behind with their applications than we would usually expect.

Teaching staff have been given extra time to consider their references and predicted grades in light of the lack of assessment opportunities and disruption to teaching.