

A safe and welcoming start to your studies in Hereford

Firstly we would like to thank you all for your patience as we have worked with our partners at Hereford College of Arts and Herefordshire Council to welcome you to start your studies in September 2020. We know this will have been a very difficult and uncertain time and we are grateful for your continued interest in joining our community.

Construction of our new building at No. 1 Station Approach is progressing again after a period when the site was closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The interior is nearly finished but there is still work to do to complete the roof, the external brick walls, the building systems that will make everything work and the landscaped and parking areas at the front. Whilst we had hoped to make up the lost time, it has recently become clear that we will not be in a position to open the building until 2nd January 2021.

We know this will be a disappointment but working with our partners, we are able to provide a safe and comfortable temporary home for you from the start of term on 21 September 2020 until No. 1 Station Approach is finished and ready to open its doors.

As a first phase, we are securing 20 rooms at a student residence at Gardner Hall which is located on the main HCA campus at College Road. All rooms are single with en-suite showers and the building has all the facilities you would expect including a reliable Wi-Fi connection, shared kitchen and common room and laundry facilities.

Rooms will be allocated first to those who already hold confirmed bookings with us and then offered to others in the date order of your application. Once all the rooms are allocated, you will be placed on a priority list for additional accommodation offers as we finalise arrangements. We are working on securing additional capacity and will update you further as soon as can and in any case by no later than 10 July 2020.

Gardner Hall will be prepared for when you arrive in line with all the latest Government guidance and with managed access, social distancing measures, hand washing and sanitising stations and enhanced cleaning regimes. We will provide a detailed information and guidance booklet well in advance of your arrival so you will know exactly what to expect.

While we are absolutely confident Gardner Hall will make a comfortable home for the first weeks of your studies with HCA, it does not have the brand new and purpose built facilities that will be available at No. 1 Station Approach. With the support of our partners, we are able to offer you a rental discount of 50% from the start of your tenancy until you are able to move into No. 1 Station Approach in January 2021. The rent (on the same inclusive basis) during this period will be £71.00 per week for all rooms.

Our permanent management team will be on-site from the start of the Autumn Term and available to help you move and settle into your accommodation. They will still be running a full programme of social activities depending on your interests. To smooth your move across before the start of the January 2021 term, we will arrange for your belongings to be stored over the holiday period and transferred to your new room at no cost to you if you wish. So far as we can, we will give you your first choice of room at Station Approach and make it easy for you to share a flat with your new friends.

Cityheart Living will strive to ensure that you receive the same high standard of service from the management team whilst in the temporary accommodation.

For those who have already completed your booking with us but decide that you do not wish to take up this offer, then you will be able to cancel your tenancy agreement and have a full refund of the deposit you have paid.

As an alternative, if you prefer to make your own temporary arrangements, for example staying locally with friends or family, we can defer the start of your tenancy agreement until 2nd January 2021 with a reduced period of 27 weeks. You will of course be welcome to join social activities as the programme is developed and be fully involved in the move to No. 1 Station Approach.

We appreciate this situation is not what any of us would have wanted but we hope you will relish the opportunity to be part of establishing No. 1 Station Approach as the new home for students at Hereford College of Arts and to be able to start your studies with confidence and on time in September 2020.

We hope that all students who join us in the temporary accommodation will be able to make the opening of No.1 Station Approach even more special in 2021 as we look for ideas for an opening celebration. More updates on this will be available once you are settled in during September.

Please feel free to contact us and we can share more details with you as the arrangements are finalised over the next few weeks.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming you to Hereford and to building a thriving new community at No. 1 Station Approach.

Contact Details

Please contact Siân Evans or Kathryn Brimfield at Cityheart Living for more information:

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