

Our Ref: StudentLet/Mar2021

02 March 2021

Dear Student

Following the latest Government announcement, I would like to provide you with an update of how the College will re-open to our students. We have been advised that we can resume in-person teaching and learning for students who are studying practical or practice-based (including creative arts) subjects and require specialist equipment and facilities from 8 March 2021. The Government have stated that we should not ask students to return if their course can reasonably be continued online therefore will continue to provide remote learning for all parts of your course except the practical elements.

The College have decided on a staggered return to ensure the safety of our students. Plans are now in place for the practical elements of your course. You will find more details on these plans on Schoology and from tutors. It is important that for those aspects of your teaching that continue to be delivered remotely that you remain engaged with online lessons as well as when you are expected to be onsite.

Of course, the College will still ensure all Government guidelines are adhered to while you are onsite. It is important to know that within the new announcement, students must wear face coverings within a classroom or practical environment as well as in all communal areas, unless exempt for medical reasons. I would appreciate it if you could comply with this request to ensure we keep all students and staff as safe as possible. Could I also please encourage you to refresh yourself on our COVID information on the website including the student protocol and other important information you need to be aware of while attending College.

Asymptomatic testing remains a key element within the Government's approach to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 and support the re-opening of schools and colleges. **Testing remains voluntary but is strongly encouraged.** The College has worked to establish two Asymptomatic Test Sites (ATS) that have provided on site testing to staff approved to work on site and the small number of students who have attended College. From 08 March 2021, the Government guidance for LFD testing is to move towards home testing for students.

Following the recent Prime Minister announcement and accompanying Department for Education guidance, the College is working to transition students towards home testing with a view this will be starting from 15 March 2021. In readiness for this, you will be provided with the opportunity to undertake three lateral flow tests under the supervision of staff in the ATS. Following these three tests, students will then be provided with home testing kits. Students will complete these at home and will need to upload the results of their test to the NHS track and trace system. Full details will be provided when tests are issued.

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The results from at home testing must be treated in the following way:

- Positive result - self- isolate immediately and take a PCR test, following the current public health guidance. Inform the College through the normal contact tracing process.
- Negative result – there is no need to self-isolate, attend College as normal.
- Void - take another LFD test. If you receive two void results in a row you should book a PCR test.

The College is developing a plan for the return of students from 08 March 2021 to provide opportunities for on-site testing. Further details will follow on this as well as the mechanism to issue home test kits.

The government will review, by the end of the Easter holidays, the options for timing of the return of remaining students. This review will take account of the latest data and will be a key part of the wider roadmap steps. Further information will follow as soon as the guidance is available.

We are really looking forward to seeing you return to College in some capacity and hopefully some normality will resume very soon.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alison Maynard', written in a cursive style.

**Alison Maynard**  
Deputy Principal