

Our Ref: ParentLett/Mar2021

01 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Following the latest Government announcement, I would like to provide you with an update of how the College will re-open to our students. The College have decided on a staggered return to ensure not all students return at once, we are reviewing how this will work and once plans have been put in place we will inform your son/daughter of their timetable commitments via Schoology, Advantage and their tutors. It is important that if aspects of your son/daughters teaching continues to be delivered remotely, that they continue to attend all online lessons as well as when they are expected to be onsite.

Of course, the College will still ensure all Government guidelines are adhered to while your son/daughter is 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 ask your son/daughter to comply with this request to ensure we keep all students and staff as safe as possible. Could I also please encourage that your son/daughter refreshes themselves on our COVID information on the website to refresh themselves on the student protocol and other important information they 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 extremely well 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 PM 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, your son/daughter 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 with the assistance of parents/ carers 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 has confirmed its approach to enable the College to award qualifications in 2020/21. The qualification level detail is still to be provided by awarding bodies. This will be shared once available. The type of qualification being studied will be important in determining the methods used, important information to note so far is:

- GCSE and A-level qualifications will use teacher assessment to issue grades this year. The Government has confirmed that teachers will be able to use a range of evidence, including mock exam results, coursework or other work completed as part of a student's course to arrive at their judgements.
- The approach taken for qualifications outside of GCSE and A-level will vary. These qualifications will be allocated to one of three groups. Group one will be for qualifications deemed most like GCSE and A-levels will use teacher assessed grades. Group two qualifications are those used for direct entry to employment and demonstrate occupational competence, these will require assessment to take place in a COVID-secure way. Qualifications that are placed in group three allow for exams to take place in a COVID-secure way. However, if this is not possible, alternative assessment including teacher assessed grades can be used.
- Teachers will have until 18 June 2021 to submit their students' grades to allow as much teaching time as possible. It is important that students continue to learn and complete assessments as these will count towards the grade they are awarded this academic year.
- A-level results will be published on 10 August 2021 and GCSE on 12 August 2021.

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

Yours sincerely



**Alison Maynard**  
Deputy Principal