

21 May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing further to my letter dated 7 May 2020 to update you on our plans for phased broadening of access to College campuses from 8 June 2020.

As you will appreciate there are many viewpoints on whether schools and colleges should be fully reopening, particularly around the health and safety and well-being of students and staff, including maintaining social distancing.

However, we also recognise that a prolonged closure could itself cause real harm to some students. Experiences during lockdown will have varied massively and although the majority of students have engaged extremely well in learning online, for a small number, this has been more challenging for various reasons.

We therefore are intending to phase in some face to face delivery through June with a priority for students needing practical assessments to successfully gain a qualification or indeed in some cases a 'license to practice'.

In addition, we are seeking to ensure that progressing students have some face to face contact before the end of term.

Our outline phased opening is as follows:

Dates	Priority
1 <sup>st</sup> June – 5 <sup>th</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff only, where required</li> </ul>
8 <sup>th</sup> June -20 <sup>th</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students who need assessments to have a license to practice</li> <li>Other vocational students who need vocational practical assessment to progress to next level</li> <li>Identified students not engaging in online learning</li> <li>Other vulnerable students continuing to access the College</li> </ul>
20 <sup>th</sup> June – 8 <sup>th</sup> July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A timetabled class to ensure face to face sessions for all progressing students with either a subject teacher or tutor</li> </ul>

Please note that this is an outline only and that on each campus there may be some local variance to the dates above, depending on courses offered and student need.

We will be writing to students individually from 1st June, inviting them to attend College with instructions on specific days, campus, times and room. Please be assured that online learning will



Mike Gaston, Principal & CEO

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continue and that if you would rather your son or daughter didn't attend, we will of course respect that decision.

To introduce greater access to the College sites we must ensure a safe environment as far as possible. This will include one-way walking systems around College sites, continued closure of social spaces and refectories for now, regular deep cleans, PPE and reducing class sizes to keep within recommended guidelines. That will mean for us groups of approximately six in our classrooms. We will also be utilising marked outdoor classrooms where appropriate for tutorials.

Where staff and students wish to wear face masks, we fully support that stance but please note that we will only supply PPE where we believe it is essential for delivery. This might be a workshop or studio where the two-metre social distancing recommendation may be more problematic.

We would ask that as many students as possible avoid or minimise use of public transport and consider cycling or walking or driving if need be. We understand that some students will find it difficult to not use public transport and so will timetable our provision to avoid daily commuter rush hours.

I'm sure you will appreciate that changing scenarios and updated advice will require our planning to be regularly reviewed and we aim to be agile and flexible and adjust as we go through the period of recovery.

Our priority is the success of our present and future students and believe it is right we take any safe opportunity to introduce a little normality and communicate a positive future for all our students despite the challenges we have all faced over the last few months.

Yours sincerely

**Mike Gaston**  
**Principal & CEO**



