

31 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to give a further update regarding College opening for the new term following the announcements made yesterday, 30th December 2020, by the Secretary of State for Education.

For the week commencing **4th January 2021**, all College campuses will be open for face-to-face delivery for **vulnerable students and those students of all ages who are due to take external assessments and exams in January 2021**. This will include a number of students following BTEC type qualifications in Health and Social Care and Criminology and some adult provision.

All other students including apprentices will be accessing remote learning as planned.

From **11th January 2021**, all other students taking exams in the year 2021, will attend College for face-to-face delivery following their normal timetable. This will include predominately all Entry level, Levels 1 and 2, and Level 3 second year students studying vocational provision, apprenticeships taking exams and end point assessments and second year A-level students.

From 18th January 2021, all students will attend college for face-to-face delivery.

This is in accordance with government guidance regarding a staggered return and prioritising students who have exams for their main programme this academic year. In a post-16 setting, you will appreciate this is the majority of students across a range of levels, even if on a two-year programme of study.

Students will be contacted by email or Google Classroom to confirm details. All apprentices will be contacted via email by the Apprenticeship office on 4th January to ensure they are aware of the situation.

We continue to plan for the introduction of testing as early as possible using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests.' Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to remain in college safely. I stress, the test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it, when available.

I attach a pdf version of the consent form for you to read and discuss. We are arranging for this form to be completed electronically by the student at the time of testing.

We will be using the first week of term to set up and trial the testing process with an initial priority for all staff and subsequently for students attending College who are identified as needing to self-isolate due to being in close proximity with someone from the College who has tested positive.

To this effect, may we please request that your son/daughter continues to register online with the College if they receive notification that they have tested positive for the virus and are self-isolating as advised by NHS and Public Health England.

Until then, may I take this opportunity to wish you a Happy New Year.

Kind regards,



Mike Gaston
Principal and Chief Executive

NHS Test and Trace consent form for COVID-19 testing

This common consent form has been designed for use by parents and guardians of pupils and under 16s, pupils and students over 16 and staff. Underlined sections should be read as applicable and completed as follows:

- **For pupils and students younger than 16 years** - this form must be completed by the parent or legal guardian. Please complete one consent form for each child you wish to enrol.
- **Pupils and students over 16** can complete this form themselves, having discussed participation with their parent / guardian if under 18.
- **Staff** will complete this form themselves.

1. I have had the opportunity to consider the information provided by the school/college about the testing, ask questions and have had these answered satisfactorily, based on the information presented in the letter dated [DD/MM/YYYY].
2. In the case of under 16s, I have discussed the testing with my child and my child is happy to participate. If on the day of testing they do not wish to take part, then they will not be made to do so and consent can be withdrawn at any time ahead of the test.
3. I consent to having / my child having a nose and throat swab for a lateral flow test.
4. I consent that my / my child's sample(s) will be tested for the presence of COVID-19.
5. I understand that if my child / my result(s) are negative on the lateral flow test I will not be contacted by the school/college except where they/you are a close contact of a confirmed positive.
6. If the lateral flow test indicates the presence of COVID-19, I consent to my child having / having a nose and throat swab for confirmatory PCR testing, which shall be sent the same day to an NHS Test & Trace laboratory.
7. I consent that I / they will need to self-isolate following a positive lateral flow test result, until the results of the confirmatory PCR have been received.
8. I agree that if my / my child's test results are confirmed to be positive from this PCR test, I will report this to the school / college and I understand that I/ my child will be required to self-isolate following public health advice.
9. I consent that if a close contact of my child tests positive but I / my child has tested negative, I / they will continue to attend school / college but will be tested every day at school / college for 7 days.

Name of pupil/student/staff to be tested (print)	
Year group (if applicable)	
Name of parent or guardian if under 16 (print)	
Signature	
Date	
Relationship to child if under 16	