

02 March 2021

Dear Student,

As you know, the Government has outlined the roadmap for the country to come out of lockdown which includes the return to college starting on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021. The key responsibility and priority for colleges in the first two weeks is to administer the lateral flow testing for all students with the aim of getting you back for face-to-face delivery as soon as possible.

**The plan that we have organised will involve you coming into College at specified times to undertake testing.** This will help you to get used to swabbing yourselves for future tests. Colleges are then asked to provide students with two rapid tests to use each week at home at 3 to 5-day intervals. The home test kits come with clear instructions for use and how to report the results. Further information regarding home testing will be provided in the coming weeks.

In addition to the testing, we will maintain the safety measures that we already have in place which include the wearing of face coverings, regular handwashing / sanitising, maximising the ventilation within classrooms and maintaining the social distance in line with our internal risk assessments.

**Students will be invited by their teacher or tutor to attend the College for a lateral flow test to be undertaken from Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021.** We will be testing between 450-600 per day at each campus and attach an overview of the plans for your information. You will be asked to undertake 3 tests on campus 3 to 5 days apart in line with the government guidelines. All students will return home following their first test. If a student has a negative test result, they will be able to resume their usual teaching timetable on campus either the next day or, in some cases, two days after their first test. You will be advised which by your teacher or tutor. This is to accommodate whole year groups having their first test as soon as possible.

Our teaching teams will be providing you with confirmation of the date and time of your tests. Due to the volume of students to be tested, we are staggering the return to face-to-face teaching with all students planned to be back in the classroom as soon as possible.

**Students who test positive following the lateral flow test will be asked to self-isolate for 10 days before returning to college in line with current government guidance.** Ideally students will be collected from the campus where they have tested positive to avoid using public transport where possible.

The testing will take place in the Sports Hall at each campus. The staff who will administer the test are fully trained and will provide support throughout the process. Please bring your college ID badge with you as you will need this to register and provide your consent to the test. Whilst it is **not**



Mike Gaston, Principal & CEO

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**compulsory** for students to undertake testing, **we do strongly encourage** it to support us in keeping our college environment as safe as possible for all staff and students.

We appreciate that some of you may be anxious about the testing process and we have therefore created a short video to show you what you can expect when you arrive for your test. You can access the video here <https://youtu.be/hhZEtlmc52w>. The Havant Student Union has also made a video about the importance of being tested and here is the link <https://youtu.be/HZVbJeVOqtk>. Our thanks to Morgan-James, Hayley, Vanora and Morgan for producing this.

We are still advised that clinically extremely vulnerable students should not attend college because the risk of exposure to the virus in the community is still high. We will make appropriate arrangements for them to be able to continue their education at home. We will make sure they can join a lesson from home using Meet (for example via a separate Chromebook or laptop) or if it is recorded it will be uploaded to Google Classroom.

We are very much looking forward to having all students back on site as soon as possible to support learning and progression over the rest of this academic year. It has been a difficult period for everyone, but we remain positive that our students at all levels will succeed and gain the qualifications they deserve and achieve their potential. I am very impressed by your continued resilience and commitment to your studies and wish you all well. The college is not the same without you.

I will be writing again very soon to explain our position and approach to 'Teacher Assessed Grading' (TAGs) following the decisions on how GCSEs, A level and vocational qualification grades will be determined in summer 2021 following the consultation decisions by Ofqual.

Until then, I look forward to seeing you back at Alton, South Downs and Havant.

Yours sincerely,



**Mike Gaston**  
**Principal and Chief Executive**

Attached: Testing Overview



Depending on your campus of study, below indicates which day of the week you will be invited in to have your COVID-19 tests. The exact time slot you will be invited in will be communicated to you directly by your teacher/tutor via Google Classroom and will remain the same for each test.

Where your course has been split into Group (A) and Group (B), which group you are in will be communicated to you by your teacher/tutor.

**Green** indicates first test

**Blue** indicates second test

**Red** indicates third test

### Alton Campus

Week Commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
01/03/21					Level 2 VFL
08/03/21	A-Level Year 2	Vocational Level 3	Level 2 VFL	A-Level Year 2	Vocational Level 3
15/03/21	Level 2 VFL	A-Level Year 2	Vocational Level 3	A-Level Year 1 (A)	A-Level Year 1 (B)
22/03/21	A-Level Year 1 (A)	A-Level Year 1 (B)		A-Level Year 1 (A)	A-Level Year 1 (B)

### Havant Campus

Week Commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
01/03/21					
08/03/21	A-Level Year 2 (A)	A-Level Year 2 (B) A-Level Year 1 (A)	A-Level Year 1 (A)	A-Level Year 1 (B) A-Level Year 2 (A)	A-Level Year 2 (A) A-Level Year 2 (B)
15/03/21	A-Level Year 2 (A) A-Level Year 1 (A)	A-Level Year 2 (B) A-Level Year 1 (B)		A-Level Year 1 (A)	A-Level Year 1 (B)

### South Downs Campus

Week Commencing	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
01/03/21					Level 1 VFL
08/03/21	Level 2	Level 1 VFL	Level 3 Year 2	Level 2	Level 1 VFL
15/03/21	Level 3 Year 2	Level 2	Level 3 Year 1 (A)	Level 3 Year 1 (B)	Level 3 Year 2
22/03/21	Level 3 Year 1 (A)	Level 3 Year 1 (B)		Level 3 Year 1 (A)	Level 3 Year 1 (B)