

11 October 2021

Dear Students and Parents,

Information on HSDC response to Covid-19

The College is aware of the increase in positive Covid cases in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight across all age groups since the beginning of September.

I thought it would be helpful to let you know what the College is doing to support you with the continuation of your studies at HSDC at this time and remind you what you can do too.

Wherever possible the College will continue to deliver onsite, face to face lessons. We are actively monitoring the number of cases in individual classes, in line with Government guidance. To control infection levels, we will continue to encourage all our students to:

- take up the opportunity to get a Covid-19 vaccination
- continue to use the Lateral Flow Tests every 3 to 5 days. If you have run out, you can collect some more from Reception at your campus
- remember to regularly wash hands
- consider wearing a facemask in crowded places
- where possible, continue to maintain a social distance

We will only consider asking learners to remote learn if individual classes have infection rates that suggest there is a specific transmission issue within that class.

Please do not attend College if you have any symptoms of Covid-19. The main symptoms are

- **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

At this time of year there are many illnesses and bugs circulating, so it is important that, if you have any of these symptoms you:

- Stay at home
- Report your absence to the College [HERE](#)
- Book yourself get a PCR test to check if you have Covid-19.
- If you test positive, please do not return to College until you have self-isolated for 10 days after the day your symptoms started
- If you test negative, please do not return to College until your symptoms have passed.

If a member of your family, household resident, or close contact tests positive for Covid-19 you are advised to book yourself a PCR test. You do not need to self-isolate while you are waiting for the result.

If a member of your family, household resident, or close contact tests positive for Covid-19 you do not need to self-isolate if you meet one of the following:

- You are fully vaccinated (this means that you received your second dose of the vaccine more than 14 days ago)
- You are under 18 years and 6 months
- You are taking part or have taken part in a Covid vaccine trial
- You are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

More information on what households should do can be found [HERE](#).

We are delighted that we have been able to start the new academic year with a full return to College for students and we will continue to ensure that everything possible will be done to ensure the safety of students whilst following Government guidelines.

Yours sincerely,



Mike Gaston
Principal and Chief Executive

