

29th January 2021

COVID-19 update for parents / carers

Dear parents/carers,

The UK Government has instructed schools and Colleges to remain closed until 8th March at the earliest as part of the national lockdown. This means that most students will continue to learn online and only those students who are vulnerable, children of key workers, or Apprentices completing assessments will be able to come into the College for the time being. We will receive two weeks' notice of re-opening and will of course, share this with you at that point.

Mass Testing

You may also be aware that testing of students and staff without coronavirus symptoms is now being rolled out in schools/colleges across the country using Lateral Flow Tests. This supports the already protective measures we have set out in our risk assessment, which is available on the College website.

It is our intention to start the testing process with those students who are invited into the College from 3rd February 2021 onwards. **No other students can attend.**

Through regular testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help keep our College open as safely as possible.

The test is entirely voluntary. However, if students wish to participate, the current Department for Education guidelines state that students over 16 years of age can provide informed consent. Students can therefore complete a consent form to participate in the testing themselves. However, they must first discuss participation with their parent/carer if they are under the age of 18. We would therefore encourage all parents/carers to discuss the option of participating in the testing process with their child and would welcome your support in this programme. Those students who participate will be required to complete an online consent form prior to their test, which will also cover all subsequent tests.

The consent form for participation in tests can be found [here](#). All students who wish to participate are encouraged to complete this form before your child is due to attend College. This consent form can be completed by **all** students, not just those who are invited in between 3rd February and the 8th March.

Students who choose not to participate in the rapid-result tests will still be required to follow national guidelines and must self-isolate for 10 days if they present with symptoms of coronavirus, test positive for coronavirus, or are identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive.

Information explaining how students' personal data will be used during the process can be found [here](#).

Exams, Assessment and Progression

We appreciate that parents/ carers will have concerns regarding their child's progress whilst not in the College, particularly those who are studying practical programmes. Our intention is to focus on practical work when we can return to the College, so I would ask that you encourage your child to complete all the work set by their tutors for their theoretical work whilst working from home. This includes GCSE English and maths for those studying those programmes. We have completed our feedback to the Government consultation on the completion of assessments for

this year and we await the final details about exams and assessments. It is safe to say that we will need all students studying and completing work to provide significant evidence until the end of the summer term to ensure all students receive the grade for their programme to support progression.

We are in the process of ordering and distributing more laptops to support students, so if your child does need a device to complete their College course, please make sure they have spoken to their tutor and requested this. Laptops are not guaranteed but we will do everything we can to support IT access.

We also know that students are concerned about the development of their practical skills – please be reassured that we will work with all students to ensure their progression and that they will have the appropriate level of skill to progress to their chosen career. Please do encourage your child to use the Colleges social media channels to access additional information regarding mental health support, careers advice and general wellbeing activities.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on ndavis@lcb.ac.uk

Thank you for your continued support through these very challenging times.
Please stay safe and healthy.

Best wishes,

Nikki Davis
Vice Principal Teaching, Learning and Quality