

Dear students and parents

I trust this email finds you all keeping safe and well and that you are all looking forward to the start of teaching next week. Everyone at Collyer's is delighted to be welcoming back students after such a long period of time away.

I am writing today to all of our students and parents, both new to the college and those continuing with their studies, to confirm final arrangements for our safe reopening on Monday 14th September. Over the last two weeks we have had a very successful enrolment of new first year students and the college will be full as usual from the start of the academic year – testament to the high regard the college is held in across the region for its outstanding results and excellent education. The enrolment process allowed us to test all of the safety measures that we have implemented with smaller numbers of staff and students on site each day and we have carefully considered further adaptations from when teaching starts – for example extra signage, more social space and additional one way systems in certain buildings.

We are fully ready to resume teaching as planned from Monday 14th September in a blended 50/50 model with year groups attending on site in alternate weeks:

Dates	Attending at college	Distance learning
14/9 – 18/9	1A and Transition	2A
21/9 – 25/9	2A	1A and Transition
28/9 – 2/10	1A and Transition	2A
5/10 – 9/10	2A	1A and Transition
12/10 – 16/10	1A and Transition	2A
19/10 – 23/10	2A	1A and Transition
26/10 – 30/10	Half term	

It is of course our aim that once it is safe to do so we will welcome more students on site at the same time, being careful to follow the latest government guidance and protect everyone within the college community.

Advice on keeping safe

It is important that everyone in our college community adheres to our latest guidance to ensure the safety of others. Following an update to government guidance on face coverings, we decided to require all students, staff and visitors to wear face coverings (e.g. masks or visors) in all corridors and communal areas, both inside and outside from 1st September. All students are asked therefore to remember to bring a mask with them each day and wear it as soon as they enter the college campus. Face coverings are not required in lessons, but students and staff may continue to wear them if they prefer.

The most important steps to keeping safe that all our college community should remember are:

Keep your distance	Observe the 1m+ rule.
Wear a mask	In all corridors and communal areas, both inside and outside, and as soon as you enter the college site.
Wash hands regularly	Use the hand sanitiser stations at the entrance to each building and each classroom and carry your own hand sanitiser with you at all times.
Don't come to college if you have symptoms	If you have symptoms of COVID-19 however mild, self-isolate for at least 10 days from when your symptoms started. You should arrange to have a test to see if you have COVID-19 – go to testing to arrange.

Further information on keeping safe on site and when travelling to college will be communicated regularly through several different ways, including the weekly bulletin, tutorial emails and sessions, teacher updates in lessons, signage around the estate and staff monitoring the estate each day.

On the '[Latest updates](#)' section of our college website we will always have our latest FAQs and Risk Assessment posted publicly. Do please take the time to read these as they provide more detail about the arrangements for safe reopening.

Finally, please ensure that you read the [essential guide](#) to reopening that includes information on Ready To Learn, timetables, financial support, attendance and more detailed safety advice.

Looking ahead

At the moment we have planned for the first half term to be delivering in a blended 50/50 model. This is the most common approach across colleges where year groups are much larger than in schools and there is a wider range of specialist courses that require particular equipment or classrooms. The latest government guidance for colleges still requires that we keep year groups separate, but we are looking at ways in which we could bring both year groups in on site at the same time in 'bubbles'. We will only do this when we are sure it is safe to do so and will update all students and parents when we take the decision to adjust arrangements.

Finally, after nearly half a year of disrupted studies we are delighted to be welcoming you all as Collyerians from next week.

Kind regards

Dan Lodge
Principal