

Tuesday 13th October 2020

Dear students and parents

I trust this email finds you all well. Following a safe and very successful enrolment in early September we have now had four weeks of teaching and will break for half term in just under two weeks' time. The beginning of the autumn term has been fantastic, with all the college community responding very well to the new arrangements and adhering to our safety guidelines. We continue to review and adapt our practices to make sure the college is as COVID-secure as possible and thank you for your support in remembering the four most important elements of this: social distancing, face coverings, hand washing and self-isolating if you have symptoms.

Blended learning

Our alternate week arrangements with 1A and Transition attending one week and 2A students the next have settled in very quickly. In this way we can ensure year group bubbles and reduce the number of students at any one time in social areas and on transport to college. It is clear that this approach has minimised the impact of the three separate individual positive cases we have had amongst our student population so far. In distance learning weeks teachers have used a range of different techniques to deliver content and engage learners, all based around our Collyer's Online platform of Microsoft SharePoint and Teams.

I can now confirm that the arrangements for teaching and learning will remain the same until Christmas. Keeping students and staff safe is our number one priority and the national and indeed regional picture of infection rates is much more challenging now than it was back in September. Following discussions with other sixth form colleges in the region and within our own college community we have decided to continue with our 50/50 blended learning until the end of the autumn term. This approach is in common with the majority of local sixth form colleges.

From after half term we will move to a system for distance learning that registers all lessons at their timetabled time, including tutorial. Whilst post-16 learners thrive on independent learning and many subjects involve coursework or portfolio work, this regular timetable will help learners structure their time when offsite and enhance engagement. As with onsite weeks, an absence email will be sent out to parents each Monday if needed. For all subjects therefore between 75-100% of lessons will be delivered live. In onsite weeks all lessons will be delivered live. In distance learning weeks a minimum of two live lessons will take place, with two workshops in the remaining periods. The alternate weeks will be as follows:

Dates	Attending at college	Distance learning
2/11 – 6/11	1A and Transition	2A
9/11 – 13/11	2A	1A and Transition
16/11 – 20/11	1A and Transition	2A
23/11 – 27/11	2A	1A and Transition
30/11 – 4/12	1A and Transition	2A
7/12 – 11/12	2A	1A and Transition
14/12 – 17/12	1A and Transition	2A
Christmas		

College events

If you have a prospective Collyer's student in your family then you will know that we have already moved our Open Evening online like all other schools and colleges. It will take place on Wednesday 11th November as planned and all information will be posted to the college website soon. We look forward to seeing you there.

All other main events this term will also move online – such as the upcoming parents evening and our prize giving event. Further updates will be provided in due course to explain how to access these events.

Advice on keeping safe

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 have placed our updated FAQ and Risk Assessment for the remainder of autumn term until Christmas. Do please take the time to read these as they provide more detail about the arrangements for safety onsite.

I wish you all well for the last two weeks of this first half term and hope you are able to relax and recharge over the half term break.

Kind regards

Dan Lodge
Principal