

Tuesday 5th January

Dear students and parents

I am sure you have all heard the news of the announcement by the Prime Minister last night of the closure of all schools and colleges from today until February half term. This is the correct decision given the regional infection rates and national forecasts. We now have some clarity about the next six weeks and a huge amount of reassurance I am sure for students, parents and staff, even though it is very sad that we have to return to the kind of lockdown we experienced last spring and summer.

The college is therefore closed for all but a very small number of students (vulnerable students and children of critical workers who request access) until February half term. All teaching, learning and support will be online through Teams and SharePoint and all students must register for all their sessions following their regular timetable. You should be reassured that since March last year we have been continuously developing and improving our online delivery and due to our 50/50 blended learning approach during the autumn term, all students and staff are very experienced with online learning. Students will continue to receive an outstanding educational experience and fantastic support during the next six weeks.

Rob Hussey (Vice Principal – Curriculum) will write separately today with further guidance and details of provision during this lockdown including decisions about vocational exams in January. Andrea John (Vice Principal – Pastoral) will write tomorrow about all aspects of support for students. We will also fully update our FAQs on the college website [here](#) by the end of tomorrow, which we will continue to review as we receive any new queries.

I appreciate that yet more change, against a landscape of worrying infection rates in the region, will be a significant source of concern for everyone in our community. The usual Collyer's resilience and spirit will be in demand now more than ever. This is going to be a very challenging couple of months, but I know we will get through it and I am confident that there are better times ahead.

Take care everyone and keep safe

Dan Lodge
Principal