

23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021

Dear students and parents

We were delighted to welcome back students onsite during the last two weeks and take a major step towards a return to more normal arrangements at the college. Since Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March we have conducted almost 4,000 Covid tests, with 95% of students consenting to testing and only 1 positive case discovered due to testing onsite at the college. We are hugely grateful to the team of staff for their hard work and professionalism in setting up and running this major operation. Students have as always been a credit to Collyer's and despite some initial nerves being back onsite a strong community spirit has prevailed.

When I last wrote, I explained that we would reopen initially with the same 50/50 blended learning arrangement as before Christmas. This is due to the Sports Hall being used for testing. All of our community have taken great reassurance in the low infection rates and phased return to normal arrangements. Students and staff have been pleased to see extra social and catering areas that have been installed during lockdown – a large new canopy built in Denne Quad and the Duckering Hall converted into the Duckering Café. Mass testing onsite will finish just before the Easter holidays and we will then be able to reconvert the Sports Hall back into a large social area for students to ensure we have enough space for social distancing.

I am very pleased to confirm therefore that **we will return to 100% onsite teaching and learning from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April when summer term starts.**

With over 2,000 students onsite at once, it is vital that everyone observes the extra arrangements we have planned for keeping our community safe. Government guidance is still very clear that we need to ensure social distancing and separate year groups wherever possible. For these reasons we are introducing a new staggered break system for the summer term and have split indoor / covered social and catering areas as follows:

#### 1A and Transition students

Break time	Social areas	Catering area
Early 10.30 – 10.50	Sports Hall	Canteen

#### 2A students

Break time	Social areas	Catering area
Late 11.00 – 11.20	Canopy Alcove Undercroft	Duckering Café

It is expected that all students follow the arrangements detailed above. We also continue to ask all students to do their best not to arrive onsite until their first lesson and leave after their last lesson each day. This will reduce numbers onsite. Similarly, where students do not have a lesson in Period 4 (12.15 to 13.20) they should try to eat lunch then. Finally, we have updated the Covid Risk Assessment and FAQs on the college website which can be found [here](#).

As I write almost a year to the day that the country originally went into lockdown for the first time, I know you will all join me in reflecting on what has been a very challenging year. I am grateful to everyone in our community for their tremendous resilience and flexibility during these times and am confident that we are now well on the way to brighter times ahead. I wish

everyone a restful Easter break and will write again once term starts with a full update about Collyer's and an exciting future.

Kind regards

Dan Lodge  
Principal