

1 January 2021

Dear Student and Parent/Carer

I hope that this message finds you safe and well and that you have managed to enjoy some down time over the festive season. Following changes to our Covid Tier status and new guidance issued by the Secretary of State for Education on Wednesday regarding a staggered start to term, I am writing to provide an update on the arrangements for the start of the spring term at Callywith. In order to minimise the impact of Covid transmission within our college community, and between those communities that it serves, we will be returning to college in several waves and utilising a mixture of onsite delivery and the high-quality online delivery that we have developed over the past year.

## Week beginning Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

- **Monday 4th January** – INSET day as communicated before Christmas.
- **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January** – online lessons for all students on all courses, delivered via Microsoft teams following the normal timetable.
- **Scheduled exams** on site, with rooms and seats remaining the same as those allocated before Christmas. Students should leave the college campus as soon after the completion of their exam as possible. Contact your tutor if you are unsure.
- **College buses** will run as normal on Wednesday and Friday. Transport on Thursday for L2 Health and Social care students will be by arrangement with you tutor – please contact Jess Colwill for more details.

## Week beginning Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021

- **Full on-site delivery** for students in **Year 2** of A-level and Level 3 BTEC and UAL courses.
- **Full on-line delivery** for students in **Year 1** of A-level, Level 3 BTEC and UAL courses, Level 2 courses including GCSE Maths, English and Science and Level 1 Work Skills.
- **Scheduled exams** on site, with rooms and seats remaining the same as those allocated before Christmas. Contact your tutor if you are unsure.
- **College buses** will run as normal from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January.

## Week beginning Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021

- **Full on-site delivery for all students** on all courses.
- **Scheduled exams** on site, with rooms and seats remaining the same as those allocated before Christmas.

Any students with EHCPs or the children of key workers who can't work from home must contact their tutor immediately to arrange support or on-site provision. The College will continue to do all it can to minimise any disruption to the students' education and anyone finding difficulty in accessing their on-line lessons should contact their personal tutor immediately.

Any student in receipt of Free School Meals will receive payment via bank transfer for these during the period that their lessons are being delivered on-line.

### **Reducing risk of Covid transmission on return to college**

Given that staff and students will be returning to college under tier 3 restrictions, it is vital that all staff and students (excluding those with exemptions) will be expected to continue to wear face coverings on buses, in corridors and social areas including the LRCs and Refectories. We also encourage students to wear face coverings in classrooms if social distancing is not possible and to wash hands when entering all buildings and rooms using the sanitising stations provided. In addition, it is important that all staff and students continue to adhere to the one-way systems, room occupation limits and general tier 3 restrictions when leaving the campus. Can I also request that students only attend College for their timetabled days and do not attend campus on days when they are not normally timetabled, unless by agreement with their tutor for specific academic or pastoral reasons.

If any student develops symptoms or is a close contact of a confirmed positive case, it is vital that they inform the college and follow the guidance issued by PHE and NHS – they must not attend college until they have completed the appropriate period of self-isolation.

### **Asymptomatic Covid Testing**

The College is currently setting up all the facilities and protocols to provide optional testing for all students and staff as per the government guidelines. I will be writing to students and parents again at the start of next week to confirm all the arrangements for this testing and the necessary consent required. Our intention is to offer a test to all staff and students during their first few days back in college (in line with the staggered return described above) to help provide some peace of mind to any member of the college community who would like a test. This should also reduce the risks of virus transmission by asymptomatic covid positive staff or students. We have constructed a test centre and recruited a testing team to help facilitate this, but if any parents or carers would be willing to support in the administration and processing of tests, please contact [enquiry@callywith.ac.uk](mailto:enquiry@callywith.ac.uk).

I appreciate that this disruption to our planned start of year is not ideal. However, I am confident that the quality of our live, on-line teaching is so high that there will be minimal impact on the education of our students. I can assure you that we would all much rather have all students in college attending all sessions in person and making best use of our outstanding facilities. However, the changing and difficult times we are all living through mean that this minor disruption is a necessary price to pay to ensure a smooth return to study, administration of a large January exam series and creation of a mass testing facility whilst prioritising the physical and mental wellbeing of all members of our college community.

May I also take the opportunity to wish you all a happy New Year and thank you for your understanding. Let's all hope 2021 sees a return to a more predictable normal.

Jon



Dr Jonathan Grey

Principal