

8th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that you managed to have a safe and enjoyable festive season and I hope this letter finds you and those around you well. Since I last wrote to you, the Government has moved to its next stage in their efforts to combat COVID-19. In line with Government guidelines, the College is required to close to the majority of students and is asking students to work from home with the exception of vulnerable learners and the children of critical workers. It is expected that this closure period will be in place until February half-term.

To best support our students, whilst remaining in line with Government guidance, we will be keeping our Nuneaton and Wigston campuses open throughout the weeks to offer access to students in the vulnerable and critical workers groups. We will also be offering welfare services for all students with bookable appointments, information will be sent out on this shortly. Our Hinckley campus will be open for one day per week initially, to enable students to access relevant welfare services and to collect resources and materials that they will need for their courses.

In summary from the 11th January:

- **All students' timetables will run as normal. Tutors will be delivering sessions remotely and students will be able to access online.**
- **For students who are vulnerable, have an EHCP, or do not have access to suitable IT equipment, their timetables will run as normal and they will be able to come in to College to access their sessions. College staff will contact all students in these categories over the coming days to establish if they can safely work from home.**
- **Welfare services will be offered on site at Nuneaton and Wigston throughout the week and at Hinckley one day per week. This service will be available for all students via a bookable system or drop in.**
- **For students in our Inspire provision, classes will continue but with a revised timetable. Teachers have contacted parents and students with details.**

We will continue to follow advice and monitor this situation closely while ensuring that we remain the cornerstone of the community during these uncertain times. Please be assured that the College has put robust plans in place to ensure that the vast majority of curriculum and business functions can continue during this enforced closure. Our students remain our top priority, and therefore, we would encourage you to support them in continuing to access learning and keeping up to date with learning as best as possible following the guidance and advice issued previously and available on the our College website.

Contd/...

Wigston Campus

Blaby Road
South Wigston
Leicestershire
LE18 4PH

Nuneaton Campus

Hinckley Road
Nuneaton
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CV11 6BH

Hinckley Campus

Lower Bond Street
Hinckley
Leicestershire
LE10 1QU

Harrowbrook Campus

Harrowbrook Industrial Estate
Nuffield Road
Hinckley
LE10 3DT

MIRA Technology Institute

MIRA Technology Park
1 Eastern Avenue
Nuneaton
CV10 0UX

You may well have seen in the news that Government have also announced that examinations will work differently this year, including how we will assess students on vocational qualifications. The College is working with Government and awarding bodies to address how we fairly assess student work to ensure our students are not disadvantaged as a result of the national position. We anticipate that there may well be an impact on the development of vocational skills where our students require access to on site equipment, and we are preparing now to support students to catch up when they return to campus.

The College is continuing to develop and implement mass testing for COVID-19 and testing on our campuses will be available shortly. Along with the other protective measures we are taking, testing will allow us to take further measures to help students and staff to remain in College. Students will receive a letter in due course providing them with more information about the testing programme in our College including how they undergo, and provide consent for testing.

It is absolutely essential that if students, or anyone they live with, develops any of the symptoms of COVID-19 (including a continuous cough, temperature or fever, loss/change in taste or smell) they do not attend College and self-isolate in accordance with the Government's guidance and be tested as soon as possible. It is vital that you inform us that they have symptoms and the outcome of the test they have.

May we take this opportunity to thank you for your support and reassure you that we are continuing to work to ensure that we strike the right balance of providing an excellent learning experience whilst also keeping everyone as safe as possible. We recognise that this is not the start to the New Year that anyone had hoped for, or expected. Please be assured that we will maintain the quality and consistency of our delivery throughout the coming weeks and will ensure students are not disadvantaged as a result of this recent lockdown.

Yours faithfully



Tom Hamilton-Dick
Deputy Principal – Curriculum & Innovation

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