

## 2020 Christmas Message from the Principal

Dear Parent/Carer,

I write to inform you that we have been advised by the Government to stop all face-to-face teaching on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and this will now be the last day of term for all students. The College will reopen to students on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

As we close for the Christmas holidays, we remain committed to keeping our students and staff as safe as possible. If your son/ daughter tests positive for COVID-19 on or before the 22<sup>nd</sup> December, please let us know immediately by calling or texting **0781 595 0186** so that we can implement our test and trace procedures.

Although there is now a vaccine available to protect against COVID-19, it will take several months before we are all protected and we must remain vigilant. The 'bubbles' for each curriculum area will stay in place in January and students will be expected to remain in their designated zones. All students must wear face coverings in corridors or social spaces, unless they are carrying a College approved exemption card and I would request that you continue to encourage your son/daughter to adhere to these rules.

From January, we intend to offer many of our students the opportunity to take a COVID-19 test on site, at the College. This will not be compulsory and more information will follow in the New Year.

As we prepare for a well-earned break, we have been reflecting on the last 12 months and our '2020 Highlights', which can be found on our website, provides just a small sample of some of the great things our students and staff have achieved. Our students continue to demonstrate their hard work, dedication, compassion, and community spirit. The pandemic has brought about new challenges, but it has also provided many opportunities for our students to shine.

The resilience and determination that our students have demonstrated since the start of the new year academic year has been outstanding and many have adapted well to on-line learning and studying from home. Whilst this has been successful, it is not a method that suits all students and, as such, we will be looking to introduce more face-to-face teaching, in the safest way possible way in the new year.

Providing individualised, wrap around care and support for students is a priority for us and this includes emotional and financial support where needed. If you feel that your

son/daughter would benefit from receiving additional support from our Safeguarding and Wellbeing team, or if you wish to discuss your eligibility for financial assistance to help with the costs of coming to college, please contact our enquiries team at [enquire@sthelens.ac.uk](mailto:enquire@sthelens.ac.uk) or call 01744 733766.

We remain committed to ensuring that your son/daughter can achieve their full potential and I am grateful for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Simon Pierce  
Principal & CEO



CEO/Principal: Simon Pierce BSc, MBA

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