

Dear student,

I write to update you on the arrangements for the final week of term and for when you return to College in January 2021.

Christmas Closure

We have been advised by the Government to stop all face-to-face teaching on **Thursday 17th December**. Therefore, this will now be the last day of term; please do not come into College on Friday 18th December, as we will be closed to students on that day.

As we close for the Christmas holidays, we still want to keep all of our students and staff as safe as possible. If you test positive for COVID-19 on or before the 22nd December, please let us know immediately by calling or texting **0781 595 0186**. This will allow us to implement our contact tracing procedures.

January 2021 Reopening

The College will reopen to students on **Tuesday 5th January 2021**.

We hope to increase the amount of face-to-face learning you receive in the New Year and your teachers will be in touch with you to let you know about any changes to your timetable.

Although there is now a vaccine available to prevent COVID-19, it will take several months before we are all protected and so we must remain vigilant. The 'bubbles' for each curriculum area will stay in place in January and adults and HE students will be expected to continue to maintain 2 metre social distancing. All students must wear face coverings in corridors or social spaces unless they are carrying an approved exemption card.

When you return in January, you may notice some changes that will enable you to move around the College more safely and where applicable, stay within your bubble.

COVID-19 Testing

From January 2021, we intend to offer many of our students the opportunity to take a quick response COVID-19 test on site at the College.

It is not compulsory for you to take a test, but we would encourage you to do so, as this will enable us to identify students without symptoms who could pass on the virus to other students or their teachers.

I will write to you again in January confirming our plans for testing.

I would like to thank you for your help in keeping everyone safe this term. I appreciate how frustrating it has been for you with the restrictions that we have in place; however, they are helping us to prevent the spread of the virus.

We look forward to seeing you in January. Please stay safe over the holidays and remember that if you are careful, you will also be protecting your family and friends.

Yours faithfully,

Simon Pierce
Principal

CEO/Principal: Simon Pierce BSc, MBA

Main Campus, Huyton, L36 3SD. IAMTech, Princess Drive, L14 9ND.



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