

4 March 2021

**Update for students, parents and carers: Return to college plans**

Dear students, parents and carers

I know you will be as pleased as we are that we may begin return to some normality. Students will be able to start to return to campus learning from next week. As the country has a roadmap out of lockdown, so do we. We have put detailed plans in place to make sure that our return to campus learning is as safe as possible.

Our first two weeks will be a complex timetable of Covid testing and return to campus lessons. Thank you for bearing with us while we have worked through the plan to get it right.

Students will start to return to campus from 8 March, but we will have a staggered start. Full information about return dates for different groups of students and detailed FAQs are on our website and we have texted and emailed the link to all students. I urge you to read this information carefully.

Importantly, we are taking part in the national mass testing programme. This means that our younger students will take their first few tests at college to get comfortable with the process, before being given home test kits to do twice-weekly at home. Adult students and all staff will be given home test kits with full instructions.

This is just one way of keeping everyone on campus as safe as possible. By testing regularly, people who have asymptomatic Covid can self isolate to stop spreading the virus unknowingly.

All students must also wear a mask – properly – at college unless you are exempt. We will be enforcing this strongly and I ask for your compliance. Students who do not will be told to go home.

Colleges are exempt from the current social contact restrictions to enable everyone to get back to classroom learning. That said, I ask you to respect appropriate distancing while on campus. Please also be aware that when you leave college, you must follow the national guidelines which mean that you must not gather or walk in groups.

My staff team and I are very much looking forward to welcoming you back to campus. We have a busy few months ahead of us and I know that you will continue to show the dedication to your learning that you need to succeed in your courses and qualifications this year.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Gerry McDonald'.

**Gerry McDonald**  
Group Principal & CEO

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