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## South Thames Colleges Group

8<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear students and families

We are now approaching the end of what has undoubtedly been one of the most challenging years anyone can remember. Thank you for your hard work, and your great patience and care in sticking to our safety rules. We're enormously proud of our staff and students for their work together over the past months.

We are not yet through the Coronavirus crisis. We are very pleased that the programme of vaccinations starts today and hope that you will feel able to support this campaign. We will be sharing Public Health information as it becomes available.

For now, it is essential that you continue to keep yourself safe, paying close attention to the space around you and your own measures, such as wearing your face-covering, keeping your hands clean and wiping down areas in College that you have used. Please make sure you know the restrictions in your area and you stick to them carefully. They are set out here:

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): guidance and support - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

We also have some helpful advice about how best to stay safe during the Christmas holiday, making sure your household is protected as best possible from the risk of infection, set out here:

[Germ Defence](#)

The week beginning December 14<sup>th</sup> will be a tutorial and consolidation week, with some changes to timetables and a focus on your progress so far this year. Our Colleges will close at 1.00 on 18<sup>th</sup> December and teaching will restart from 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

It is very important that you do not attend College if you are unwell and seek a test as soon as you can. During the holiday period, the Colleges will be closed. If you have a positive test result, you must follow the guidance from the track and trace system and enter your test result into the NHS App. You should also notify the College from 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 when staff have returned.

During the holiday period, if you need extra help and support, please use the welfare links through the College's Moodle site. You can also use the NHS's services to help support you: available here:

[Home - Kooth](#)

Thank you so much for coming to study with us. Please stay safe and take care of those around you.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. Mayhew-Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and a long, sweeping underline.

Peter Mayhew-Smith  
Group Principal/CEO