

South Thames Colleges Group

17th December 2020

Dear students and families

This will be our last letter before the Christmas holidays and reaches you just as London moves into Tier 3 Coronavirus restrictions: lots for us to think about.

First, we'd all like to thank you for the hard work, patience and determination you have brought to your time at College this term. It hasn't been easy for any of us, but we have worked hard with you to try to keep infection rates right down and sustain your learning. We're proud of the progress we have made, but know that there's a lot more to do as we move into 2021.

Secondly, it's very important that you understand the efforts needed by us all to keep everyone safe all through these next few weeks. Please remember all the rules about social distancing, wearing a face covering and keeping the spaces around you clear and hygienic. We urge everyone to stay careful and keep safe all through Christmas and into the new year. Please stay at home and get tested if you have symptoms.

We will still be operating a track and trace system through the next few days.

If you have a positive test result, please send an urgent e-mail to:

Covid19coronavirus@stcg.ac.uk

This e-mail address will be monitored until 23rd December and will be used to identify and break any potential routes of transmission. None of our other contact addresses will be monitored daily, so please make sure you use this one if you do need to tell us about a positive test.

Please use the NHS App on your phone to help trace any infections that may happen around you.

If you are in need of support over the Christmas period, there are resources available through our Moodle site, but we can also highlight crisis contact lines in some of our boroughs locally:

Borough	Contact number
Croydon	0800 7312864 (Option 1) 0203 228 5980
Kingston	0203 513 5183 0208 547 6171 0800 0288000
Merton	0208 254 8061 0800 2922505 0800 0288000
Richmond	0208 547 6171 0203 513 3238 0800 0288000
Sutton	0203 513 3800 0800 0288000
Wandsworth	0203 513 6631 0203 513 4644 0800 028 8000

You can also make contact with Kooth, the local on-line support service, available via this link:

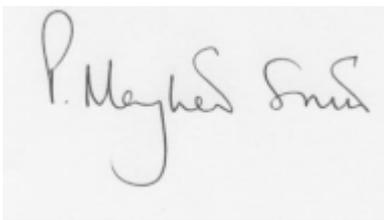
[Home - Kooth](#)

Thirdly, as we go into the new year, we are expecting to begin to offer testing on-site and will share our plans with you once we are clearer about what's involved.

Please note that most classes start on 6th January, but some students will need to attend College from 4th January for tests, assessments and other activities. When your course starts again, please make sure you are well before you come into College and let us know if you have symptoms and are staying at home.

And finally, we all wish you a very safe and happy Christmas. Take good care of yourself and we look forward very much to seeing you in 2021.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light grey background. The signature reads "P. Mayhew-Smith" in a cursive, slightly slanted script.

Peter Mayhew-Smith

Group Principal/CEO