

21<sup>st</sup> January 2022

Dear students and families

I'm writing to you after the start of our new term across the Colleges in South Thames Colleges Group. We have had a very positive start and many students have engaged successfully in exams, with more to come over the next couple of weeks.

It is fantastic that attendance is so good, even with the ongoing COVID disruptions, and that students are participating so well with College life. Please continue to let us know if there are any challenges for you in coming to College. We are all here for you, and to work with you, to support you to achieve well and make secure progress towards your goals.

I am also writing to let you know that we are not making changes to our Coronavirus protection measures at the moment. We have managed to keep infection rates very low throughout the pandemic and are trying hard to reduce any disruption to learning while infection rates remain high in our local area.

We will continue to ask that you wear a face-covering everywhere in College and also expect that you:

- do not come to College if you have Covid symptoms, but stay at home and take a PCR test
- take up the offer of a vaccination or booster if you are eligible
- take regular lateral flow tests

We have an exciting year ahead, with the opportunity to keep all of our classes running through Winter and into the Summer, but need everyone to continue to do their best to keep us all safe. The students in our Colleges have been wonderful in their support for one another and our staff and we ask that this carries on for the time being until we are sure that we can relax our controls safely.

We all wish you well and hope you're thriving at College.

With best wishes,



**Peter Mayhew-Smith**  
Group Principal/CEO