



South Thames Colleges Group

31st January 2020

Dear students and families

We hope you are enjoying a happy and safe Christmas holiday. It's been a challenging year for us all and we know how much you deserve a good break right now.

I'm writing today to let you know about our plans for reopening in January. As you may know, rates of Coronavirus infection in south-west London are rising rapidly and many organisations like ours are having to take action to help stop the transmission of this illness while also trying to keep our students learning.

Government guidance was released to us on 30th December and we are implementing the requirements set out for us there. Your return to on-site study will be managed like this:

- If you have exams or assessments during the week beginning 4th January, these will go ahead as planned and you should attend College
- If you are vulnerable student, you will attend College again from 6th January
- If you have exams coming up during 2021, you will receive some on-line learning on 6th, 7th and 8th January and may return to College from 11th January. The details will be confirmed by your course tutor via your College email
- If you do not have exams in 2021, you will receive on-line learning from 6th January and should return from 18th January, although we will review this and let you know. The specific detail related to your programme of study will be confirmed by your course tutor via your College email

Some courses may now change to have more on-line learning. The details of these will be communicated to you by your course teams. We will make sure you can access any on-line learning successfully.

We will also be offering rapid lateral flow testing facilities on-site from 11th January and you will be offered the opportunity to have a rapid test. This will require your agreement and you will not be asked to take a test if you do not want to.

The lateral flow test is different to the PCR test and **should not be taken if you have any have COVID symptoms [loss of taste or smell, high temperature, prolonged cough]**. If you have COVID 19 symptoms you should self-isolate and ensure you get a PCR test immediately.

I have also attached a reminder about our safety measures so that you can check again what's required of you as you plan your return to College.

We look forward very much to working with you over the coming weeks to protect your learning and keep you safe.

And we'd all like to wish you a very happy new year; best wishes for 2021!

Yours,

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 and CEO



South Thames Colleges Group

Control measures for Coronavirus Winter/Spring 2021

Infection rates for Coronavirus have risen significantly in south-west London over recent weeks and we are continuing to work with you to keep transmission within our Colleges as low as we possibly can. We are going to need your help to make sure you and everyone around you are safe.

We are asking you to do certain things because we don't want anyone to become infected with Coronavirus at College. Some staff and some students are vulnerable and we want them to be safe at College.

So, we're asking you to do these things:

1. Do not come to College if you have Coronavirus symptoms; get a test if you have these symptoms
2. Do not come to College if you have had a positive test for Coronavirus
3. Self-isolate if you are asked to do so
4. When you come to College, please avoid travelling during the morning rush-hour if you can. We have changed our timetables to help you do that
5. When you arrive at College, we will check your temperature. If it is high, we will ask you to wait a little while, then check it again. If it is still high, we will ask you to go home
6. When you're in College, please try to maintain a two metre distance from other people wherever possible
7. Outside classrooms and workshops, we expect you to wear a face covering at all times unless you have a confirmed medical or social reason for not wearing one
8. In some classrooms and workshops, you may be asked to wear a face covering
9. Please be very hygienic. Wash your hands or sanitise them regularly, put waste in the bins and catch your coughs and sneezes
10. Please help College staff to keep everyone safe; if they ask you to do something, it is for a good reason and we know you will want to help us keep Coronavirus under control

We expect to be offering quick-result tests in our Colleges from 11th January and will make this service available to you if you wish to use it.

We want everyone to stay safe and well. Please play your part and help us make this a healthy, happy start to 2021.