

3 January 2022

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

As students prepare to return to college after the holiday period, I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the latest government guidance in response to COVID-19, and to clarify the situation with external examinations this month.

### Face Coverings

From Tuesday 4 January, students must wear a face covering at all times whilst in college, including in lessons, unless exempt. Students may remove face coverings when in outdoor areas, when in the Quad area of the Students' Union, or when eating or drinking, but we ask that students do not remove their face coverings for longer than necessary when eating and drinking. We are also asking students to bring their own face coverings to use in college. Your teachers are not required to wear face coverings in classrooms; this should help with communication.

### COVID Testing

Students are encouraged to take a lateral flow device (LFD) test either the night before or the morning of their first day back at college. If their LFD test result is positive, they should not attend college and should immediately book a confirmatory PCR test. Students should continue to test twice weekly using LFD tests, which can be picked up at college.

### COVID Symptoms

Students should not attend college if they have any of the 3 coronavirus symptoms (a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss / change to your sense of taste or smell), even if a LFD test result is negative. They should book a PCR test as soon as possible.

### Self-isolation

Once a student's PCR test is returned and confirms that they are positive, they should:

- Isolate for a minimum of 7 full days from their positive PCR test or the onset of symptoms.
- Carry out a LFD test on day 6 and day 7 of their isolation period (at least 24 hours between tests).
- Return to college on day 8 if both LFD tests are negative.
- Continue to self-isolate if either LFD test is positive and until they have 2 consecutive negative tests or they complete 10 days of self-isolation and no longer have a raised temperature.

### External Examinations

The January exams are expected to go ahead as planned. Please read any information from Exams and check Cedar extremely carefully as the regulations are strict. This will be the only opportunity to sit the exam with preparation and revision from your teacher so punctual attendance is extremely important. We have not received guidance to suggest that a centre assessed grade will be used if a student misses an exam for any reason.

Thank you for your continued support and I wish you all a safe and happy 2022

Yours sincerely



Vicky Marks, Principal