

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

This is the first weekly update of the year and I would like to award our Star of the Week to all of the students who have learnt our new routines so quickly and followed all the new rules. Also to everyone involved in transports for working with our new arrival and departure guidelines. Well Done!

As part of our planning this year we have to consider how we will manage any situations that develop with the Covid-19 pandemic. We are all following advice from NHS test and trace and as a college we are supported and following the advice of Public Health England.

However we also know that there are currently more cases of Covid-19 in the community. This means that we will probably always have someone who has been told to isolate or who may need to have a test. We have considered contingency measures if we have multiple staff members isolating or unavailable for work. Our aim is to always deliver education safely; to do this this we need a core number of staff onsite. Below is a summary of our contingency plan:

Green State

Initially we will make an assessment of whether we have enough staff on a daily basis. We will try and work with known agency and cover staff in the first instance to maintain normal learning on site. This is our Green state

Orange State

If staff numbers become close to the minimum we will let you all know that we are going into an orange state. We will reduce extra activities, suspend respite bookings and consider and implement a part time attendance. We hope this would be limited to short periods. It will probably be by reducing the number of days on site. We will let you know individually as soon as possible what your attendance pattern would be in an orange state so that you can plan for your support on days you need to stay at home.

Red State

If staffing levels continue to fall we would declare a Red state where we revert to only having students onsite who are residential, who would be safer at college than at home or have parents and carers who are key workers. Before we do this we will carry out, with your help, a risk assessment of who would be safer staying at college, we will also include your local authority and social care if they support you.

In all cases we will try and provide support for home learning, and we will ensure that any changes will not last longer than necessary as staff return to work.

We will update this message each week with an assessment of our current state and try and look forward one week to give as much notice as we can. If you have any questions please let us know. We will contact you all in the coming weeks with more details of how this planning might affect you personally

We have also added a document to the news page giving the latest advice about what to do if you have worries about Covid-19

William Taylor

Principal