

4th January 2022

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

I hope that you have managed to make the most of the opportunity for some rest and family time over the festive period.

I am writing to confirm the latest Covid related guidance for colleges. Please take the time to read this carefully so that we can all return to College as smoothly as possible.

We are all looking forward to welcoming students back to College from tomorrow, Wednesday 5th January. Students should follow their usual timetables and are reminded to check google classroom for notifications from teachers each day before they leave home. This will ensure they are aware of changes to their schedule due to staff absences.

Covid 19 Reminders and Updates

- 1) **All students are required to complete a lateral flow test at home the evening before or morning before your first day back.** Testing kits were provided at the end of term - more can be collected from local pharmacies if needed.

If you do not have access to a test at home you can take one at College by doing the following

- complete [this google form](#)
- please arrive at least 45 minutes before your first lesson

- 2) **Masks must now be worn throughout the College including in classrooms.** The government will review this instruction towards the end of the month.

The very small number of students who are medically exempt have already been issued with an exemption pass.

Everyone else will be expected to wear a mask to support us in keeping as many staff and students as possible in College and learning.

We need everyone's cooperation on this so **Students, please support us and do the right thing - wear your mask properly, all the time.**

The College is a place of work and we expect all members to act with professional courtesy to others to keep everyone as safe as we can. So thank you in advance for doing the right thing.

- 3) **If you test positive** please notify us by email to attendance@connell.ac.uk. The latest guidelines allow you to return to College **on the 8th day after you test positive provided that you have received negative lateral flow tests 24 hours apart on day 6 and 7 after your initial positive test AND that you have no temperature.** If you have tested positive during the holidays and will not be able to

return on your first timetabled day please notify us by email to attendance@connell.ac.uk.

If you are a close contact of someone who has tested positive you will be given guidance by 'test and trace' - typically this involves taking a PCR test and completing further daily lateral flow tests. **Please note that all guidance is subject to change and it is your responsibility to follow the instructions you are given by the NHS.** If you're unsure about something please ring or email us so we can try to help.

Instructions regarding isolation depend on your age and vaccination status. So always check the latest guidance and how it applies to you carefully.

Please notify your teachers if you need to isolate so that they can agree with you on the best way of working during your period of isolation. This may involve attending lessons virtually as per your timetable if you are well enough to do so.

4) Exams - all January exams will proceed as normal.

Please do not attend for an exam if

- you have symptoms that might be covid-19
- you have been told to isolate

In either of these cases call the College as soon as possible or email info@connell.ac.uk if it is out of hours and mark your email as URGENT

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Emma Soper
Head of College