



1 March 2021

Dear Students and Parents

On Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 the Prime Minister announced that all schools and colleges would re-open from Monday 8 March 2021. A link to the government's roadmap is here [COVID-19 response - Spring 2021 \(summary\)](#)

The government has issued specific guidance for Further Education and Higher Education, you can access this by clicking these links [FE Operational Guidance Feb 2021](#) and [HE Operational Guidance March 2021](#).

This letter will outline the plans for the return to on campus teaching and learning from week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

### Key Points

1. All safety measures we put in place during the autumn term will continue when students return
2. Week commencing 8 March 2021 will be staggered and all students on Full Time Courses will be offered two onsite Covid-19 Lateral Flow Device tests upon returning
3. Once full-time students have undertaken two COVID-19 Lateral Flow Tests they will then proceed to home testing
4. There is greater flexibility for students on adult and higher education programmes including apprentices. We will be reviewing these courses on a case-by-case basis and ascertaining whether they can remain online or require on site face to face teaching. Any student over 19 that returns to campus will be able to access an onsite test, prior to moving to home testing
5. All students will receive a further communication prior to the 8 March 2021, from their Head of Faculty / Department, that specifies the date of return for their course if this is applicable
6. All students will have the opportunity to undertake a COVID-19 Lateral Flow Test during their first day / evening on campus
7. All students will need to complete a consent form to be tested on-site. The consent form will be issued to all students along with the Inspire Education Group Privacy Notice. These documents will be available through the onsite system we are developing and you will be able to access this from the student intranet later this week.



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### **If you have symptoms**

IMPORTANT - If you have COVID symptoms you must not attend college. The testing programme at college is for people without symptoms. If you develop symptoms at any time (including a high temperature; a new continuous cough; or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste) you must immediately self-isolate and book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

### **Remember - Positive Case reporting process**

All students are required to report a positive COVID-19 test result to their college. This will enable us to undertake internal track and trace processes and notify close contacts to self-isolate.

IMPORTANT – Students must notify college if:

- You have COVID symptoms
- You have been contacted by NHS Track and Trace and told to self-isolate, e.g. because a member of your household has had a positive test
- You have had a positive test result external to the college testing process

On confirmation of a positive test result taken externally to the college, students should immediately inform their relevant college by email.

Stamford College – [safeguarding@stamford.ac.uk](mailto:safeguarding@stamford.ac.uk)

Peterborough College – [safeguarding@peterborough.ac.uk](mailto:safeguarding@peterborough.ac.uk)

Please ensure you state your name, course and leave a contact telephone number.

The college will then initiate the track and trace process and notify individuals who are identified as a close contact.

Notified individuals will have to self-isolate for 10 days.

### **Blended Delivery Model – return to pre-lockdown timetables**

From Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March we will return to our pre-lockdown delivery and the majority of further education students will have a blended timetable with a mix of online / remote learning and face to face tuition on campus. Our adult students on further education courses, apprentices and our higher education students will return on a phased basis according to the need for practical and specialist resources and assessments.



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Colleges require and have a greater degree of flexibility than schools in terms of study programme delivery. This reflects our larger student cohorts, the nature of practical workshop space, more complex campuses with different types of students on different courses and the fact the vast majority of our students must use shared student transport to get to college. We have also been using online learning very effectively for some time now and we were able to continue to deliver all of our teaching programmes throughout lockdown periods.

All students will receive a further communication from their Head of Faculty / Department detailing the exact date that they are to return. Students should only attend college when they are specifically asked to do so, as we will still be operating reduced numbers and bubbles on campus.

### **Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) Students**

Students who are CEV (i.e. those with a letter from the NHS or their GP confirming this) are advised to study from home and not to come into college at this time. If you have recently been added to the CEV list please contact your Achievement Support Leader, Student Advisor or Course Tutor to let them know. You will continue your studies remotely at this time. The government will review this guidance after Easter.

### **Asymptotic Testing – Lateral Flow Devices**

No doubt you will have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow devices'.

Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. By testing we will help to reduce the spread in school and college settings through asymptomatic transmission. We are therefore strongly encouraging those returning to college to be tested. Testing is an additional measure to control the spread of COVID-19 but it is not replacing the need for social distancing, hand hygiene and face coverings.

Please ensure you read the separate communication regarding Asymptomatic Testing using Lateral Flow Devices.

### **Systems of Control – Campus Health and Safety Rules**

All students are reminded of the following:

- Face coverings (and visors if you wish) are to be worn indoors at all times by staff and students (unless you are working on your own / independently away from others)
- Follow social distancing protocols – 2 metre distance where possible, 1 metre within classrooms and workshops



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- Regularly wash your hands and use hand sanitizer
- Follow directional signage around campus
- Do not cross geographical bubbles where in operation
- No large groups mixing
- Ventilation is important – open windows when you can

### **Assessment and Examinations**

The government has recently released guidance on how qualifications will be awarded. Further information will be released in the coming days from individual awarding organisations. We will send a separate detailed communication about this prior to Easter. For now, all students should continue to actively engage in online learning, attend on site classes when scheduled and ensure they are up to date with all their work and assessments.

### **Students with IT requirements – Remote Learning**

If you require technical support, please email [ITservices@ieg.ac.uk](mailto:ITservices@ieg.ac.uk) or contact us via the following telephone numbers:

Stamford Students – 01780 484346

Peterborough Students – 01733 762211

If we are unable to answer your call, please provide your name and contact telephone number, and one of our technicians will call back to help you. If you need to borrow a Chromebook please contact us via the above details and we will make the necessary arrangements to get a device to you as quickly as possible.

### **College Transport**

College Transport will resume from Monday 8 March 2021 and students will be able to use transport to attend college. All students should ensure they wear their face covering and practice social distancing when on public and college transport.

### **Finally**

Thank you for your hard work and dedication to your studies. As a college, we are doing all that we can to protect our students and staff, your health and safety remain our absolute priority. We are committed to ensuring we do all we can to enable all our students to progress to their next step.



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We look forward to welcoming you back to college over the coming weeks.

Best Wishes

Rachel Nicholls  
Inspire Education Group Deputy CEO &  
Peterborough College Principal

Janet Meenaghan  
Inspire Education Group CEO &  
Stamford College Principal



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