

LETTER TO STUDENTS AND PARENTS

23 May 2020

Dear Student and Parent

You will no doubt be aware of statements from the Prime Minister and the government that schools and colleges should plan to reopen from 1 June. New College Stamford has assessed all of the government guidance, together with information from Public Health England, our trades unions and college sector specialists.

The key aspects of our reopening plans are:

- The health and safety of our students and staff is absolutely paramount. We will only reopen when we feel it is safe to do so
- Our preferred option is for students and staff to learn and work remotely wherever possible
- We are targeting Monday 15 June as a potential reopening date, but only for a few students
- The vast majority of students will not need to return to the college site this academic year
- We will reopen on a very small scale to start with, focusing on students who need to complete practical assessments to achieve their qualifications, those whose parents are key workers, vulnerable learners, and those who need one-to-one support
- We expect no more than 5% of students and staff to be in college at any one time during June and July
- We will strictly manage social distancing, hygiene and protective actions, minimising social contact and risk
- We will encourage students to walk or cycle to college where they can, or get a lift to college with family or friends from their own households
- We will liaise with our student transport companies about adopting social distancing and safety measures on college transport. We will determine capacity on every route, and this will not be exceeded
- We will have a senior manager on site every day along with safeguarding support and first aid cover.

We have put together a detailed Phased Reopening Framework, Risk Assessment and Action Plan. These will inform every aspect of reopening.

Reopening arrangements

Because there is a lot of preparation needed to make our buildings safe, instigate social distancing measures and prioritise which students need our support to achieve this year, **we will not invite any students into college buildings until 15 June at the earliest. Your**

lecturers will contact you individually to let you know if you need to return before September, how this will work and what special arrangements will be in place.

Please do not turn up to College unless your lecturer or support worker has contacted you to invite you to return and explained in detail the specific arrangements we will have in place to keep you safe.

In the meantime, we hope that you are able to continue learning remotely and maintain regular contact with your lecturers and support staff about next steps, whether that is continuation on your current course or progression to the next level, an apprenticeship, higher education or employment.

Qualifications and Assessment Update

We are making excellent progress in providing centre assessment grades for students on our A Level, GCSE, functional skills and some vocational programmes.

However, we know that many students taking vocational and technical courses, and who would have been expecting to finish their qualification this year, are yet to hear how their qualification will be assessed. Yesterday the government published the full guidance on 'Exceptional arrangements for awarding vocational and technical qualifications in 2020' - you can find a copy here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2020>.

The guidance confirms that some vocational and technical qualifications will follow a similar approach to A Levels/GCSEs, but those programmes which provide an industry-related 'licence to practise' and/or require practical assessments (examples include construction and hairdressing) will need be our priority for reopening in June/July. For a minority of practical qualifications there will be no option but to delay assessment until later in the year.

We will work with teaching teams and notify students about how summer assessment will be managed in each individual case. We can confirm, however, that we expect the vast majority of assessments to be completed without the need for students to return to College before summer.

Wellbeing

It is important than you continue to look after your mental health and wellbeing, as well as your physical health. The student portal contains lots of information on wellbeing, welfare and general information on physical, mental and spiritual health. You can access the student portal by clicking this link: <https://sites.google.com/stamford.ac.uk/ncs-student-launchpad>.

Finally, please continue to keep yourselves safe and comply with the government restrictions. This continues to be a difficult and challenging time, but we can get through it by supporting each other and those in our communities who need it.

We will continue to update you via our website, emails and social media.

Best wishes
Janet