

Hello and "Happy New Year" everyone,

We hope that you have all had a very enjoyable and safe Christmas.

Please note that all college sites will be open and running as normal from tomorrow - Wednesday 5th Jan 2022.

Students are expected return to their full and normal timetable this week. Every study day is vitally important and we are all fully committed to ensuring that our students not only enjoy their first week back, but that they meet or exceed their full potential.

Just a few reminders / key points to note before we return to college this week:

Support is always available to all students and Apprentices who may have questions or some anxiety about how current Covid guidelines will be put into practice; or about anything else. We have a range of in house and external support services, friendship groups and resources available to help. It is perfectly normal to have worries and questions, we are here to support and never to judge.

Students and staff should take a lateral flow test either the night before you return to college or in the morning before you arrive.

Home testing continues for students and staff is very important. By us all working together and supporting each other in this way, we help to keep our college and local community as safe as possible. Testing should be carried out at least twice a week. Results should be reported to the NHS <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result> as well as via college please using covid_app_results@wigan-leigh.ac.uk

Home testing kits are available from teachers/assessors, via the NHS website and most chemists. If any student is struggling to get, or to do, a lateral flow test they should speak to a teacher or any of the Head of Studies team who will be more than happy to help.

Students should continue to independently (if able) contact the college absence line number as shown on the back of all Student ID cards, to report any positive cases, absences or isolation.

Face Coverings

From 4 January the Government recommends that face coverings should be worn by students and staff when moving around the premises, in corridors and communal areas and in classrooms or workshops. Face coverings do not need to be worn by staff or students when outdoors on the premises. This does not apply in situations where wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example during sports lessons and physical activity.

Track and Trace

Track and trace continues to be undertaken nationally and individuals will be contacted directly by test and trace who provide the relevant advice. Please do let your department or Head of Studies team know of any positive cases as soon as possible.

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Leigh College
Sale Way
Leigh Sports Village
Leigh WN7 4JY

Principal
Anna Dawe, LLB (Hons), LLM, PGCE

Chair of the Governing Board
Ann Harrison



Daily testing for contacts of COVID-19 was introduced during the Christmas period. This means that all adults who are fully vaccinated and children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 should take a lateral flow device (LFD) test every day for 7 days instead of self-isolating. Daily testing by close contacts will help to slow the spread of COVID-19.

The guidance has also been updated in relation to isolation for those who have positive tests. The guidance now states that you can leave self-isolation if you get two consecutive negative results from day 6, at least 24 hours apart. Please ensure that you follow the specific guidance provided to you from Track and Trace. This update is outlined at the following links:

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/self-isolation-for-covid-19-cases-reduced-from-10-to-7-days-following-negative-lfd-tests?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIpqp4qgQ9QIVROrtCh2X0ABJEAAAYASAAEgKA9PD_BwE
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

Please note that should it become necessary to teach some lessons on line, students would be advised by Teams and through their department. Support would be given for those facing digital poverty and in terms of any training and help required for all.

Link to most up-to-date information from NHS and Public Health England

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Thank you for taking the time to read this communication, for all your continuous help and for the wonderful messages we continue to receive. Your support not only lifts our spirits and helps us to drive our culture of kindness, ambition and respect but it also reminds us, as these last few years have so many times, that together we are stronger. We look forward to the term ahead, hopefully without too many interruptions, and seeing what more our students can achieve.

Kind regards,

Maxine Mealey
Assistant Principal

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