

5th November 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

[Second National Lockdown from Thursday 5th November](#)

I hope that you had a good and restful half term. As you will be aware, the government have announced a second lockdown from Thursday, 5th November to Wednesday, 2nd December. It was also announced that schools and colleges will remain open during this lockdown. We have only received limited guidance from the government to date, but I wanted to reassure you that we will keep you fully updated should any changes be required.

Most learners who were originally identified as clinically extremely vulnerable were able to attend college from September. However further guidance issued on 04 November 2020 now states that those learners whose doctors have confirmed they are still clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend the college while this level of lockdown is in place. We already have appropriate arrangements for learners to be able to continue their education at home, but parents must ensure that the college is notified as soon as possible if their child is clinically extremely vulnerable.

We appreciate that the lockdown will be unsettling for everyone, but we will retain a structured and consistent approach that will focus on the health and well-being of everyone in our college community. Please note that attendance is compulsory for all learners. The Local Authority has confirmed that poor attendance will be actioned in accordance with LDE UTC's Attendance Policy.

Face Coverings

The way our learners have responded to the wearing of face coverings has been exceptionally good. The wearing of face coverings when moving around the college site and in indoor communal areas is critical in providing a safe environment for learners and staff. This is a measure that we expect all learners to adhere to unless there are clear medical grounds for exemption. If you have previously contacted the college regarding this matter, there is no further need to do so again. It is imperative this step is followed, and the face covering is worn correctly during these times.

We would be very grateful if you could ensure that your child arrives to college with a face covering every day and has a spare with them. It is particularly important they check before leaving the house that they have their face covering, especially on a day when they are wearing their sports kit, as often they can store them in a blazer or trouser pocket, which they are unlikely to be wearing that day. Please ensure that single use face coverings are disposed of appropriately on your child's return home from college and that they have a clean one every day.

Sports

We will be able to continue providing weekly sports sessions for learners in Years 9 -11 as per the rota already in place. These sessions have proved invaluable in maintaining the mental and physical wellbeing of our learners. As these activities are run under strict, Covid safe measures, we will continue to offer this provision unless future guidance prevents us from doing so.

I want to emphasise to you that the college day will remain the same for all learners unless our risk assessment or government guidance directs us to act differently. Attendance, behaviour and attitudes to learning have been exceptional from our learners and we will endeavour to continue to provide support for them through this difficult time. We are incredibly lucky at LDE UTC to have an extensive pastoral/ emotional response team so if there are any concerns, please ensure that you contact the year team so that we can respond accordingly.

Our resilience and togetherness provide us with the strength to overcome the difficulties we face, and I would like to thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Geoffrey Fowler'.

Geoffrey Fowler
Principal & CEO