

18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

### End of Term Letter to all Parents and Carers

This term has presented us with many challenges, but we have grown even stronger together as a college community. We have seen lots of festive cheer this week with our Christmas Dinner on Wednesday and last week with Christmas Jumper Day. We have been overwhelmed with kind donations to our festive hamper drive and are pleased to report that 18 Hampers have been distributed to some of our families most in need. It has certainly been one of the most demanding yet rewarding terms we have had since LDE UTC opened its doors. There are so many high points, here are just a few:

- 4 of our Year 13 learners were crowned National Winners of the Operation Innovation competition (read more on our [website](#)) and received the Principal's Award.
- 3 of our Year 11 learners won the Jack Petchey Outstanding Award
- 2 Year 13 learners had interviews for Cambridge University.
- £100's of pounds in the form of Amazon vouchers, have been awarded to our learners during the celebration assemblies to reward them for their fantastic work via the sector points system.
- Year 11 have had Spotlight on Careers sessions delivered by our partners Skanska and our friends at Ramboll
- Two live [Virtual Open Evenings](#), which were incredibly well attended and received.
- A positive apprenticeships Ofsted report
- More employer engagement activities including Rolls Royce, Fujitsu, Brompton Bikes
- A visit and very positive feedback from the Under-Secretary of State, Baroness Berridge

We would like to thank all our learners and staff for the part that they have played in this most difficult of terms.

### Covid-19 Update

As you may be aware, the Department for Education wants schools and colleges to continue to contact trace close contacts of learners at the start of the Christmas holiday. If your child is tested positive for Covid-19 and were on site within 48 hours of developing symptoms, you must inform the college so that the necessary contacts are notified and advised to isolate following government guidelines. To report a positive case, please email [covid@ldeutc.co.uk](mailto:covid@ldeutc.co.uk), which will be checked daily until Wednesday 23 December. After this date, please follow advice from NHS Test and Trace regarding contact tracing. We would like to reassure parents / carers, that we have had very few confirmed cases of Covid-19 since our return in September (compared to other schools locally) and we are pleased to report that none have resulted in any outbreaks at the college. This is evidence that our Covid-19 plans are working well, and our college community is following the plan fastidiously.

### Covid-19 Mass Testing

We have also sent information out regarding Newham's programme of mass testing of learners in Years 11 – 13. Learners were issued with tests on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December and should carry these out on Thurs 31 December, Fri 01 January or Saturday 02 January and drop them off at the designated drop off points on those days. This remains optional but we would urge our learners to carry out the tests.

The government announced yesterday (following the closure of the college) that they intend to implement Covid 19 Testing in secondary schools and colleges in the New Year. We have already been in talks with our partner, the University of East London. We are delighted to confirm that we have arranged testing for our learners on site on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January from 2.40pm and Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January from 12.50pm. Our staff have already taken the opportunity to be tested and have done so for the last two weeks.

### Staggered Start

The DfE announced yesterday that learners will have a staggered start to the new term. Learners in **Years 9, 10 and 12 (Level 3)** will learn **remotely** from home from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January for this first week. It is of paramount importance, that learners access their live lessons in order to make a focused start to the new term. Learners who are due to have public examinations in 2021 (**Year 11, Year 12 Level 2, Year 13**) will return to college on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January** as planned.

Specific groups and critical worker children will be provided with on-site learning. Please make contact with your child's Head of Year if this provision is essential.

We recognise that it is an important time for our Year 11, 12 Level 2 and 13 Learners to embed their learning in preparation for their mock examinations. For Years 11 / 12s Level 2 these begin on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January and for Year 13, these begin on Monday 22 February. We hope that learners will be able to balance their revision with much needed rest and family time over the festive period and return to college refreshed and ready for the term ahead.

Lastly, we would like to wish you all the very best for the festive season and hope you have a restful break.

Yours sincerely,



**Geoffrey Fowler**  
Principal & CEO