

18 May 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

### LDE UTC Newsletter

Welcome to this week's bulletin. I hope that you are all well and keeping safe.

As many of you heard in the Prime Minister's speech on Sunday 10th May, their "ambition is that secondary pupils facing exams next year will get at least some time with their teachers before the holidays." He went on to say, "And we will shortly be setting out detailed guidance on how to make it work in schools and shops and on transport."

We have since received the guidance on re-opening from the DfE, and as you may have seen this differs slightly from the PM's speech and in fact states that learners from Years 10 and 12 go back to college from the 1st June.

A number of meetings have been held in recent days and Headteachers from across Newham and indeed from across the country have shared their concerns whilst also sharing their plans for re-opening. The main message is that schools and colleges would be reopening in line with the government's request from the 1st June **OR** when they are ready to open once full risk assessments have been completed for the identified year groups.

This means that here at LDE UTC we will be working on writing a risk assessed plan to re-open the college to identified learners and staff from the week beginning 1st June, or a date close to the 1st June. We will continue to take the advice from the DfE, Baker Dearing Trust, our local authority and other school and college leaders in producing the risk assessed plan to prepare for our re-opening. We will look to minimise attendance of both learners and teachers, and repeat what I said in last week's bulletin, that we will only re-open when we are ready to open.

In the meantime, learners should continue accessing their online learning from Show My Homework (now known as SatchelOne). Our Heads of Year will continue to make contact weekly to ensure that learners are completing the work set and are coping emotionally.

It is also important to understand that the government will only make the final decision on whether to press ahead with the re-opening of schools when it reviews the latest science on 28<sup>th</sup> May, and that if the evidence does not support this decision at that time, it will be delayed.

This week (May 18<sup>th</sup> – May 24<sup>th</sup> 2020) is Mental Health Awareness week and the theme for this year is Kindness. Why 'kindness', you may ask? Well, according to the Mental Health Foundation, kindness was chosen because of its "singular ability to unlock our shared humanity. Kindness strengthens relationships, develops community and deepens solidarity" – something I know that we are all experiencing in these strange times. Kindness is also key to our mental health and wellbeing and is something that all human beings need to practise and experience in order to be decent people.

With that in mind we have shared with learners the following article from the Mental Health Foundation <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/coronavirus/random-acts-kindness> on the DigiBriefing Padlet which I hope you will all read too.

Just a reminder that next week, i.e. the week beginning Bank Holiday Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2020, is our half term holiday.

And finally, as we come to the end of the month of Ramadan, we wish Eid Mubarak to you all for the 23<sup>rd</sup> / 24<sup>th</sup> May.

Please keep safe,

Yours Sincerely,

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

**Geoffrey Fowler**  
**Principal & CEO, LDE UTC**