

Dear Stakeholders (Learners, Parents/Carers, Apprentices, Employers, Staff and Directors)

As we reach the end of the first half of the Spring term, I would like to thank you all for doing your best during these challenging times. The lockdown has left the college building empty of all but a handful of learners and staff but the resilience and determination of everyone has meant that learning has continued. Attendance and engagement in remote lessons has been extremely high, which is a credit to everyone involved. We will be sending letters out to learners nominated by their Heads of Year congratulating them on their work ethic and very positive attitude to learning during the course of next week.

### Termly survey

I would like to thank you all for your responses to this terms survey, with 350 responses we now have lots of good information which will be analysed and fed back to you all early in the new term. What I can say at this stage is how overwhelmingly positive your responses have been, and I would like to thank you for the time you have taken to provide us with thoughtful suggestions for improvements.

### Half term

We have told learners (and staff) this week that half term should, where possible, be a screen free week. Details of activities that they could get involved in are on both the Digi-Briefing and Opportunities Padlets. We have a number of learners taking part in virtual work experiences both now and during the April Easter break and our learners are certainly making a name for themselves. We received this week, for example, an appreciation letter from Tesco regarding one of our Year 10s who had taken part in work experience during the October half term. I would like to encourage all learners to take advantage of all opportunities available to them, remember my saying *“don't look back on missed opportunities”* I would also like to ask parents/carers to encourage your child/ren to take part in the opportunities that are being shared with them.

### Re-opening

Looking to the next few weeks, I am expecting that after half term we will hear more about the Government's plans for the possible return to college. It would not be a good idea to speculate as to what this may look like – we just have to be ready for different possibilities. We will all need to work together to minimise the risk to everyone at LDE UTC, and to maintain learning for any learners not in college. As soon as we are able to, we will communicate what is happening. We should then also be able to confirm arrangements for the assessments which need to take place for those preparing for public exams. The college will re-open for our vulnerable and key worker learners from Monday 22 February.

### Good news stories

Despite lockdown this term has still provided us with lots of great achievements. Two of our year 13 learners have been offered places to study Maths and Psychology at Cambridge University. We have been referenced in a Gatsby research report [The Opportunity for Learning Factories in UK](#). We have also been written about in a brand-new book called Secondary Curriculum Transformed, enabling all to achieve, written by Kumari Meena Wood and Nick Haddon. The book launch is this Thursday where they will be showing a film about our college.

In the meantime, I wish everyone a good and restful half term week.

Keep safe



**Geoffrey Fowler**  
Principal & CEO