26/02/21

Dear parent/carer,

We want to provide you with an update on our plans to re-open college from Monday 8th March.

The Government is proposing a revised asymptomatic testing programme for all 16- 18-year-old students using lateral flow devices (LFDs). This programme can be summarised as follows:

**Students -** 3 tests on return to college for all students at ‘Asymptomatic Testing Sites’ (ATS) on each college campus over the three weeks until Easter, then twice weekly testing at home after Easter.

**Staff –** to undertake twice weekly home testing from 5th March.

While testing does remain voluntary (it is not mandatory for your young person to be tested in order to return to college), it does, however, represent a key part of the Government’s overall approach to ensure the success of the staged approach to lifting lockdown restrictions.

Next week we will be sharing more detail on when your young person will first return to college from the week beginning 8th March.

Personalised invitations will be sent to 16-18-year-old students to attend a test slot between 8th and 12th March, along with their class cohort. This email invitation will be sent to students’ college email address i.e. studentnumber@escg.ac.uk

Your young person will receive the notification email with the time to attend on the following schedule:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Day and date you will attend college first**  | **You will receive your email on or before**  |
| Monday 8th March  | Tuesday 2nd March  |
| Tuesday 9th March  | Wednesday 3rd March  |
| Wednesday 10th March  | Thursday 4th March  |
| Thursday 11th March  | Friday 5th March  |
| Friday 12th March  | Friday 5th March  |

**Note:** Arrangements for our SEND students will be different and will be communicated directly with you after scheduled parents forums next week.

Please *do not* contact the college about start dates until you have received your email. If you don’t receive an email on or before Tuesday 2nd March then it means your child’s first day in college will be later in the week and online learning will continue, following current timetables.

Students will be supported to undertake the test in each Testing Site on each campus and results will be available within 30 minutes of taking it.

Students with a positive test result will need to self-isolate in line with the [guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance) for households with possible coronavirus infection.

Those with a negative test result will continue to their re-orientation session unless they have individually been advised otherwise by NHS Test and Trace or Public Health professionals (for example as a close contact).

These sessions will support your young person to be welcomed back and will take approximately two hours to cover:

* An overview of their timetable for the period up until Easter, including information on how grades will be calculated or assessments held

* A recap of expected behaviours and ways we require students and staff to work to in order to keep everyone safe, including the mandatory use of face coverings, social distancing and increased hygiene measures

* Some initial catch up sessions focused on National Careers Week, internet and e-safety
* The launch of a college wide virtual work experience and employability programme which will occur in late April

Rest assured we are doing everything we can to prepare for the reopening of our campuses and really look forward to welcoming your young person to college in the week of 8th March in as safe a way as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Conroy

CEO and Principal