**Frequently Asked Questions for Students with EHCPs and SEND**

**Returning to College from 8 March 2021**

The College is getting ready to welcome your son/daughter back to learning on campus. Please see the most frequently asked questions which will hopefully give you the confidence and reassurance which you need to prepare your young person for a safe, supportive and successful return.

**Will College be safe?**

A thorough risk assessment has been completed for every curriculum area. The support and inclusion needs of all young people who have SEND and/or and an EHCP have been discussed as part of this process. Where necessary, a **‘Return to College Plan’** will be completed with the young person and/or their parent carer.

Some of the additional measures which have been put in place to keep your son or daughter safe are:

* Student desks will be spaced to minimise transmission
* Students will be encouraged to follow social distancing guidance during breaks and at lunchtimes
* Students will be able to buy food at college but will not be able to sit in the cafeteria. Where appropriate, they will be supported to return to their classroom
* Students will receive their Free College Meal on campus
* Increased handwashing and hand sanitisers available in all areas and corridors
* Additional cleaning of high contact areas such as door handles
* Classroom doors and windows will be kept open where practicable

**Have staff had the vaccine?**

Teachers and support staff in General Further Education Colleges do not fall into one of the priority groups for the vaccine. However, the college recognises that as our teams support young people with SEND, it is working closely with Public Health England to prioritise this group of staff for the vaccine. As the Therapy Team are categorised as health professionals, they have all been offered and/or received the vaccine.

**Are staff being regularly tested for Covid-19?**

Yes. Staff who have remained on campus during lockdown have been able to take a Covid test twice a week. The College will continue to follow government guidance regarding testing but will ensure that there are measures in place for staff to access regular testing. Please visit the Coronavirus information pages for more details <https://www.escg.ac.uk/coronavirus-information>

**Will my son/daughter be expected to have a test on campus?**.

Please visit the Coronavirus information pages for the latest details about testing <https://www.escg.ac.uk/coronavirus-information>. We will be talking to our parent carers about the best available approaches to support their young people to have a test at college or at home. We will keep you updated with our progress.

**What happens if my son/daughter is not able to take a test on campus?**

We will have an empathetic approach to COVID testing on students who may find this distressing and will work with our young people and their families on an individual basis. Please be assured that we will manage this sensitively and will work with you so that, together, we get this right for your son/daughter. Getting right for your young person might be ‘no testing’.

**Will staff and students be wearing a face covering?**

Yes. It is now mandatory for staff and students to wear face coverings on college premises. This is now a government requirement until the end of March at the earliest. We will work with students and staff who are not required to wear a face covering and have a medical form of exemption and will be seeking confirmation of this from our parents of under eighteens.

**What happens if my son/daughter is not able to wear a face covering?**

We will continue to support young people who are not able to wear a face covering due to a medical need, high anxiety caused by Autism and/or other learning disability, etc. However, where possible, we will work with and encourage students to wear a face covering for their own safety as well as preparation for life. Please be assured that we will manage this sensitively.

**Will staff be wearing PPE?**

Yes. Staff teams who support young people with SEND have been supplied with a visor, face masks, gloves and aprons. These will typically be worn when supporting young people who require practical support with eating or medication and/or personal or intimate care.

**Should someone who has been shielding go back to College?**

People who are clinically extremely vulnerable have been advised to remain at home until 31 March 2021. However, if you would like your son/daughter to return to college, we will work with you to make this transition as safe as possible and a member of staff will complete a ‘**Return to College Plan’** with you. If you have any concerns about this, please speak to the Learning Support Manager at College and/or your GP.

**What is a Return to College Plan?**

The aim of the plan is to consider the individual inclusion and support needs of the young people to enable a safe transition back onto campus. This will involve a discussion between the student, parent carer and staff member from college. If you think that your son/daughter should have a Return to College Plan and you have not been contacted by the College by Friday 5 March, please contact Learning Support. Details at the end of this guidance.

**How can I prepare my young person for returning to College?**

If your young person is following an Inclusive Learning Programme[[1]](#footnote-1), the teaching team will

contact you about returning to College. They will be able to talk to you about how to get your son or daughter ready for the new term. This might include:

* A social story
* A visual timetable
* Information about the staff team and who is in their class
* Photographs of the classroom
* A get together on Zoom
* Transition visits to the campus and classroom
* A supported (phased) return to keep class sizes small and demand low

**Will my young person’s needs be met at College?**

College follows the law and guidance about meeting the needs of young people with SEND and will do its best to meet the educational, therapeutic and medical needs as outlined in your son or daughter’s EHCP. However, there might be a period of adjustment in the first few weeks whilst the staff teams focus on welcoming and supporting a safe return to College.

**What will happen if I don’t want my son/daughter to return to College yet?**

Our teaching and support teams will work with you to make the best choice for your young person. If your son/daughter is going to remain at home, we will discuss how we can best support their learning whilst maintaining a connection with college.

**What will happen if my son or daughter cannot follow the new health and safety measures?**

The College will continue to take a very supportive approach to welcoming all of its young people back to learning. Your son/daughter will be supported to make a successful transition back to learning on campus. We will contact you if we need to discuss any aspect of your son/daughter’s timetable and/or additional strategies which we might need to explore to enable them to adapt to their new routine.

**Stay in touch and contact your son or daughter’s teaching team if you have any additional questions. Alternatively, you can contact Learning Support at:**

**Eastbourne**
**Email:** Eastbourne.ALS@escg.ac.uk

**Hastings**
**Email:**Hastings.ALS@escg.ac.uk

**Lewes**
**Email:** Lewes.ALS@escg.ac.uk

1. **Inclusive Learning Programmes** include Supported Education, Foundation Learning, General Foundation, Project SEARCH, Supported Internships, Steps, Oak, Orchard, Birch and Branching Out. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)