



2nd March 2021

College re-opening plans from Monday 8th March

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

I do hope this letter find you and your family safe and well. This letter is to set out our plans for your return to fulltime education. I apologise in advance for its length, but please read it carefully to ensure you are clear on our expectations of you. Only by working together and **you** following the guidance and rules can we achieve minimal disruption to your education.

As you will know the Prime Minister announced on 22nd February that all schools and further education colleges should return for onsite teaching from Monday 8th March. The government has also strongly recommended all students in secondary schools and colleges undertake asymptomatic testing on site to support the return to education. The government is doing this because as many as one in three people who contract the virus show no symptoms (they are asymptomatic), so could be spreading the disease unknowingly. Asymptomatic testing using a Lateral Flow test (LFD), will help to identify positive cases more quickly and break the chains of transmission. Those who test positive will self-isolate, helping to reduce transmission of the virus.

To continue to support minimal disruption to your education we would expect all students to undertake this testing and with their signed consent, to complete **three LFD tests on site**, with each of these tests conducted 3-5 days apart. All students need to complete the first test **before** they can join any face-to-face teaching. Once we have completed the on-site three tests, students will be given home testing kits which need to be completed twice weekly and the results uploaded to a given App. I will provide further details on this nearer the time.

We have therefore created a staggered return to full face-to-face teaching to enable us to complete the testing.

It is highly important that all staff and students also continue to follow the system of control measures used since last September:

1. Contact is minimised with individuals who are unwell with coronavirus or its symptoms.
2. Hand cleaning takes place more regularly than usual.
3. Ensure good respiratory hygiene and promote the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
4. Continue the enhanced cleaning of the site, especially frequently touched surfaces.

5. Minimise the contacts and mixing between people and that social distancing is maintained, continue to use the one-way system, face coverings must be worn, unless exempt in all corridors/social spaces.

FACE COVERINGS in CLASS: In addition, the government has introduced all students, unless exempt, will be expected to wear a face covering in class. This is a new measure and temporary until Easter, when the government will review this.

It is also highly important for all students to know that a negative antigen LFD result **should not** be read as a means to relax or ignore social distancing or other virus prevention measures intended to reduce transmission – **This is an additional tool to help reduce risk.**

The asymptomatic testing programme **does not replace** the Government's current testing policy for those with symptoms. If you have symptoms, you should continue to book a test at your local test centre and follow the self-isolation rules.

I have also provided the link to a Department for Education Frequently Asked Questions around Asymptomatic testing in schools and colleges document for your information:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Xry-uIC-zbBNJUZXPaifrflYVYvGuEt/view>

Plan for Asymptomatic testing of students week commencing 8th March

- Testing on site Mon 8th – Wed 10th March
- Remote education to continue for Mon 8th-Wed 10th March.
- No on-site lessons Monday 8th, Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th March.
- All students to be offered a test
- All students to complete the consent form
- All students to book their tests using our online booking system

Plan for return to Full Education from Thursday 11th March

- **Thursday 11th March and Friday 12th March : ONLY** Upper 6th on-site for face-to-face teaching following timetable. NO Lower 6th on-site
- **Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th March: ONLY** Lower 6th on site for face-to-face teaching following timetable. NO Upper 6th on-site
- **Wednesday 17th March: ALL STUDENTS Able to Return following their timetable.**

PLEASE CONTINUE to FOLLOW these IMPORTANT RULES WHEN ON SITE:

The main rule: Either you will be class or in an independent study area. There must be no congregating on the college site at any time. You must socially distance wherever possible at all times.

Therefore:

- Use the sanitisers at the entry and exit to every building and on entry to each classroom.
- Maintain social distancing from your teachers at all times.
- Follow the new one-way system for each building and for around site, see attached guide.
- **DO NOT USE THE MAIN RECEPTION to get to another BUILDING: YOU MUST USE OUTSIDE WALKWAYS**

- Only arrive in time for your very first lesson of the day
- If you arrive early you must be off site or in an independent learning area, such as the library, IT suites or the learning bays set out in the main hall.
- Do not arrive on College site and expect to socialise in small groups as you have done previously.
- No morning breaks will be in the Lower study Area, Upper Study Area or Refectory.
- You must remain in your classroom for a morning break on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.
- Morning breaks on Monday and Friday must be taken immediately outside the building you are in or outside the building you are moving to.
- Please leave the College site at the end of each day after your final lesson OR use an independent study area.

LUNCH

- The three places to get food for lunch: The main refectory, the sandwich shop in St Joseph's Court and the new Concession shop downstairs in the Lower Study Area will all be open, from approximately 11.30 – 2pm but can only accommodate a small number of students socially distanced at any one time.
- When you are not eating lunch in a designated area you must either be outside or in a lunch time classroom.

STUDENT QUERIES

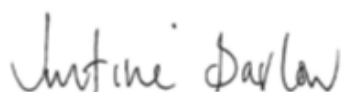
- Please use your College email to communicate with your **Achievement Tutor** as much as you can and they will either answer your queries or be able to set up 1-1 appointments with the person you need to see.

It is imperative that you follow our guidance completely. Any student who does not, is in breach of our Behaviour Policy and could risk their place at College.

We are looking forward to you coming back to College and have worked very hard since the Prime Ministers announcement to put plans and measures in place so that staff and students can be kept safe, whilst also focusing on what we do best - which is to deliver a full and high-quality education. We now need to focus on looking ahead, and to continue to provide you with outstanding teaching, learning and support.

I hope this letter has answered your immediate questions, but if you have any further questions or concerns please contact us via enquires@notredamecoll.ac.uk

Yours sincerely



Mrs J Barlow
PRINCIPAL

