



31st December 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

You will probably have seen or read the latest news stories yesterday (30th December) about schools and colleges being asked to implement a phased start to the Spring term, and being invited to set up a mass Covid testing programme for learners and staff. I am writing to update you with the changes for start dates in January.

We will follow the government guidance on how to phase the start of term, which is intended to ensure effective education can continue but also reduce the spread of the virus as students and staff return after Christmas. This means the following:

Phased start to term: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/school-contingency-plans-to-be-implemented-as-cases-rise>

On Monday 4 January:

ONLY the following groups **should attend** college as planned, **ALL OTHER STUDENTS SHOULD STAY AT HOME and ACCESS REMOTE LEARNING.**

- ALL students with an exam/controlled assessment week beginning 4th January AND ALL students who are due to take exams and/or controlled assessment in January 2021
- ALL vulnerable young people
- ALL students of critical workers
- ALL students who are not able to access remote learning for any reason.

On Monday 4 January NO OTHER STUDENT should be in College and will be expected to access remote learning as per their normal timetable until their start date.

On Monday 11th January:

- ALL UPPER SIXTH RETURN to COLLEGE as per your normal timetable
- PLUS, ALL students who started back on the 4th January as in the above list.
- ALL other students should continue with remote learning.

On Monday 18th January:

- ALL STUDENTS RETURN as per normal timetable.

If you are unsure about whether or not you / your child falls into one of these categories, please contact us on enquiries@notredamecoll.ac.uk for confirmation.

We will provide remote education for any student who has been requested to stay at home week beginning the 4th January.

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS WHO HAVE TO ACCESS REMOTE LEARNING IN JANUARY:

- It is expected that any student who will be accessing remote learning must follow their timetable as normal.
- Attendance on remote learning lessons is expected to be 100% and attendance will be tracked closely.

Mass testing programme

We are positive about the potential for the mass testing of learners and staff in colleges, as a way of reducing the spread of the virus and enabling fewer learners and staff to have to self-isolate. You can read more about how the government expects this programme to work [here](#). [Mass testing in schools: Your questions answered - Education in the media \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)

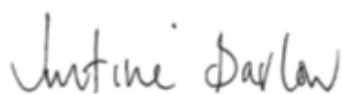
Setting up this programme in colleges is an incredibly complex operation. We have been sent some information about how it should work already, but more detailed guidance is expected to be produced by the government over the Christmas holiday period.

We will not, therefore, be in position to have this programme up and running as soon as the Spring term starts. At the start of term, we will review what the expectations are, what support is available from the government or other agencies, and what we can realistically deliver.

We will let you know more about our plans as soon as we can in January. In the meantime, from the start of next term, we will continue to implement the safety measures we have been using in the Autumn term.

Thank you for your patience and continued support.

Yours sincerely



Mrs J Barlow
PRINCIPAL