

5<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear students and families

Happy new year! At South Thames Colleges Group, we all hope 2022 is a successful, healthy and fulfilling year for you. We've got lots to do together and look forward with real enthusiasm to the challenges and opportunities ahead; we all hope you're ready and excited for the year ahead.

But it does also face us with some new hurdles, again brought to us by the pandemic.

We are committed to sustaining your learning and building your success through the months ahead and will focus very firmly on supporting you fully. This will mean doing all we can to keep our Colleges open for safe and healthy face-to-face learning every day.

We will need your help to do this and we are introducing further measures in line with Government guidance to stop infections happening in our Colleges.

From Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January, when you will be returning to College, we expect you to:

- Stay away from College if you have symptoms of Covid infection, take a PCR test and let your teachers know
- Wear a face covering at all times unless you are exempt or you are eating and drinking
- Take regular lateral flow tests and report your results, at least twice a week; if you need lateral flow tests, they will be available in your College. You are expected to take a test before returning to College. If you are unsure about how best to do a lateral flow test, there is a video here to explain: [Covid 19: How to take a Lateral Flow test - YouTube](#)
- Take up the offer of a vaccine or a booster if you are eligible

If you have a positive test or have Covid symptoms, you will need to take a PCR test and self-isolate. I have attached on the next page a diagram on self-isolation and please find a link to the website setting out the requirements of this process: [Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

We are well aware of just how disruptive all of these measures are, but we ask you to respect the fact that there are many vulnerable people among our students and staff and we all must do what we can to protect everyone as well as ourselves. Please play your part.

If you have exams over the next few days, these will go ahead as planned and we wish you every success.

Please ask your tutor if have any questions, but, above all, we wish you a happy 2022 again and thank you very warmly for all you are doing to help us keep the pandemic at bay,



Peter Mayhew-Smith  
Group Principal/CEO

