

6 July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

What a week! In fact, what a year it has been.

It would be easy to simply remember the 2019/20 academic year as being “the one where Covid struck”. What the last seven days has reminded me, however, is that there is so much more for us all to reflect on. Each of our colleges has done something over the last week to celebrate and mark achievement. This wasn’t just achievement in the academic sense of the word, but it was about who had achieved in making our community proud.

As horrible and as difficult as the last few months have been, it is that sense of pride and community that I hope will be the legacy of everything we have been through. So, for the last note of this year, I just wanted to say thank you to every member of our community; our students, our staff, our parents and our partners. The support and feedback we have received has been incredible and has helped us face some very challenging times.

It has also been great to see more and more students come through our doors again. It has brought home how much we have missed the daily interactions with you all.

Which brings me on to the Department for Education’s announcement this week about their plans for September onwards. Given that there were over 100 documents, pieces of guidance and clarifications about the reopening of schools and colleges in June, I don’t want to dwell on the specifics at this time. By the time we get to September I am sure things will have evolved and changed and we will keep you informed.

The principles and intentions that it sets out are, however, important. They are the framework against which we will develop our own thinking and approach. It states that for Sixth Form Colleges we must:

- provide a full programme of study from your normal term start date in September 2020
- make sure that individual learners are undertaking their full study programme, and that it is of a sufficient standard

One Sixth Form College, Scrivener Drive, Ipswich IP8 3SU. 01473 556600.

www.suffolkone.ac.uk

One Sixth Form College is a member of the South West Ipswich and South Suffolk (SWISS) partnership

- decide the appropriate mix of face to face and remote delivery - post-16 learners are more likely to undertake self-directed study but may still need additional support
- assess the gaps in learners' knowledge and skills early in the autumn term, focusing on the most important content and prioritise this to help learners to catch up
- put in place additional support for vulnerable and disadvantaged young people, including identifying if they need support to access any remote delivery
- identify and put in place plans to manage any safeguarding concerns
- develop remote education so that it is integrated into planning:
 - Remote education may need to be an essential component of delivery for some pupils, alongside classroom teaching, or in the case of a local lockdown. You are therefore expected to plan to ensure anyone who needs to stay at home for some of the time is given the support they need to make good progress. Where a class, group or small number of learners need to self-isolate, or there is a local lockdown requiring learners to remain at home, we expect you to have the capacity to offer immediate remote education.
 - Onsite learning can also continue to be complemented by high-quality remote learning if it meets learners' needs.

While planning is progressing, just be assured that we have a dedicated team of people who are working to ensure that our staff and students can thrive in a safe environment. In addition, we also have robust planning in place for blended learning which can be scaled according to need, and we are now looking at how we can manage the differing nuances and needs of our various subject areas.

Students will be able to access their timetables for the 2020/21 academic year on their Dashboard page by moving the date forward. However, the timetable remains provisional and subject to change until the end of WC 28.08.20, following the new Y12 intake.

Recently Ofqual published in a consultation that the summer examination period may be moved back two weeks which will mean that these are likely to conclude in the second week of July (16.07.21). At this point we have no further information, but please be advised of this and make any summer holiday plans around this information until the dates are confirmed.

Finally, I am delighted to inform you that that we have promoted three outstanding colleagues to enhance our leadership team.

One Sixth Form College, Scrivener Drive, Ipswich IP8 3SU. 01473 556600.

www.suffolkone.ac.uk

One Sixth Form College is a member of the South West Ipswich and South Suffolk (SWISS) partnership

Georgina Chittock-Nash will be taking on a new role leading the aspect of our student experience as Vice Principal for Students. She will be ensuring that our students get a wrap-around support, are encouraged and, on occasions, pushed to achieve their very best.

Jake Robson will become our Vice Principal Curriculum – ensuring that every aspect of teaching and learning our students receive is as excellent as we have expected it to be.

Rob Bamford will take on a new role as Vice Principal for Quality – a new role ensuring that our quality and our processes and procedures are of the highest order, ensuring that every aspect of the learning experience for our students is as Outstanding as I know it is.

I have never been more proud of the community we have created. Thank you for being part of it.

Kind regards

Dr Nikos Savvas
Chief Executive Suffolk Academies Trust

George Chittock-Nash
Assistant Principal

One Sixth Form College, Scrivener Drive, Ipswich IP8 3SU. 01473 556600.

www.suffolkone.ac.uk

One Sixth Form College is a member of the South West Ipswich and South Suffolk (SWISS) partnership