

26 August 2020

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

We hope that you are well.

Over the summer we have been working hard to build and develop our plans for our reopening. We know how important it is to get this right, which is why we spent so much time consulting with students and staff before the break.

Following our e-mail about the approach to blended learning from September, we wanted to give you an update to clarify a couple of points and to respond to some of the feedback we have received.

We thought it would also be useful to provide some more detail on the rationale for some of our initial thinking. Some of the drivers include:

- Some students, and staff, may need to self-isolate over the coming weeks if they start to show any symptoms linked to Covid. Given that the length of time that people have to self-isolate has increased over the summer, it is important that we give students the ability to learn, and staff the ability to teach (if they are able), if they need to self-isolate.
- We have some students who live in households where there are individuals with specific health needs. While we appreciate that the guidance on shielding has changed, we also appreciate the tensions and nervousness that some people feel about returning to “normality”.
- From our extensive risk assessments, and because of the nature of our sixth form learning and our building, we recognise that there are limitations to social distancing in One.
- Because of the site, reputation and location, we have a much larger catchment area than many other schools and Sixth Form. We know that public transport was a barrier for many students and have looked at ways to adapt to this.

In addition, a sixth form college is very different to an 11-16 school. When our students return, half will be new to our community. We also offer a much broader range of courses and activities, all with some very unique learning requirements. Embedding so many new individuals into our community alongside a significant number of new health and safety measures poses some challenges.

Due to these issues and considerations, we developed a system which keeps elements of the online learning provision, that received such strong feedback at the end of last term, to run in parallel with a continuous move to more face-to-

face learning. An outline of our initial intentions was sent to you earlier this week.

From the feedback we have received, it is heartening to see that over the summer break there is a much greater confidence in returning to school full time. As such, we are focused on accelerating the move to more face-to-face time.

Subject to no local changes in the R rate and government advice, we will be moving to full face-to-face learning within four weeks. However, we will still operate some blended learning at the start of the term so that we can embed our health and safety and online learning in for our new students, and ensure that all students have the opportunity to prepare for the College being full once again.

We have really missed our students, and are really looking forward to welcoming everyone back to One as soon as possible.

Thank you for all your thoughts and feedback.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'George Chittock-Nash', written in a cursive style.

George Chittock-Nash
Vice Principal – Students