

Update to arrangements for On-site Learning from May 17th

Dear All,

I am writing to you following the government announcements this week, on the move to step three of the roadmap out of lockdown from May 17th. We are delighted with the way in which you continue to work with us to help protect the college and wider community. The levels of cooperation and understanding over mask wearing, following one-way systems and observing social distancing are a real credit to the whole student body.

There are a number of important areas in which we are asking for your continued cooperation:

Face Coverings:

Indoor communal and circulation areas including, LRC, study centres and canteen areas.

All staff and students are expected to continue to wear face coverings, apart from those who are exempt. The latest national guidance indicates that adults in education settings must continue to wear face coverings in these areas, where social distancing is more difficult or there is a higher level of mixing and turn over. We are taking the view that because of the age range of our students and the local context in Leicester we will ask all members of the college community, both staff and students, to adopt this practice.

Classrooms

The routine wearing of face coverings by students will no longer be required once settled in class but we understand that many students and staff will want to continue to keep face coverings on while they build confidence. We are asking that all in the college community respect this and work cooperatively to ensure everyone feels comfortable whilst on-site. This may mean that for some classes, at certain times, or for certain activities, the teacher will ask students to keep face coverings on. If this causes particular issues for you please talk them over with your teacher so that a suitable compromise can be found, such as adjusting seating positions within the room.

The mindset we are encouraging is that, if in doubt about how others around you feel, start with a face covering on and adapt once the feelings of others around you are better understood, and try to be respectful and sensitive. Remember that you should not touch the front of your face covering during use or when handling it. It is recommended that all students bring at least two face coverings with them so that they can be swapped if they become damp. Used face coverings should be placed in a sealed plastic bag.

Lateral Flow Testing:

We are strongly encouraging all staff and students to keep up with twice weekly home lateral flow testing as this will help reduce the spread of COVID-19 both at college and in the community, by alerting those who have COVID-19 but who aren't showing symptoms. This is an important part of keeping all the college community as well as families and others you have contact with safe. This testing is for students and staff who **do not** have any of the symptoms of COVID-19. If you have any symptoms you must not come on-site, you should follow the guidelines to self-isolate and book a test via the normal NHS Test and Trace services.

Home testing kits are available to pick up between 10:00am and 1:00pm (from the G Building at University Road and from the LRC at Regent Road). You will be given packs of tests and an instruction leaflet to explain how to carry out the test. If you are under 18 years old, the tests should be done with adult supervision. You should aim to do two tests each week with a space of 3-4 days between tests.

Testing at college is still on offer in a limited way should you prefer to use this. Testing is available 12:00-1:00pm in the G Building on the University Road campus. Please book using this link: [Mass Lateral flow Test Booking WQE](#).

You must report the result, whether positive or negative, to the NHS Test & Trace self-report website: <https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>.

You **must also let the College know** your result each time you carry out a test at home; please use this [online form](#).

University of Leicester :

Please respect the measures that have been put in place on the University of Leicester campus to ensure Covid safety. You must not to use any of the university catering facilities as planned occupancy levels and restricted seating are based on use by university staff and students. This means it is particularly important that you do not use these areas.

Thank you for helping us keep the entire local and WQE College community safe. As always, your health and wellbeing are our top priority and we are here to support and advise.

Kind regards

Andrew