

28<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear students and families

I'm writing today to thank you for the great response to the latest challenges brought to us by the pandemic.

We're doing well thanks to you and we have seen very good attendance at the BTEC and Functional Skills exams this month and everyone has worked hard to make sure learning and assessment are taking place. At the same time, we've kept infection rates in the Colleges very low and you have been an important part of a wide effort to make sure our staff and students are as safe as possible.

We'd like to continue all our efforts to keep our Colleges safe, but we will remove our expectation that everyone wears a face covering at all times. This will no longer be required, but you may continue to wear one if you choose.

However, we would like to ask you to continue with all of the other measures that we have in place, so please:

- Stay at home and take a test if you have Covid symptoms; make sure you let us know, too
- Test yourself regularly; you can pick up packs of tests at the College entrances
- Take up the offer of a vaccination or booster if you are eligible

Your teacher may ask you if you would wear a face-covering in class and we hope you'll consider any such request carefully; face-coverings really do make a difference.

We also would like to ask you to follow wider advice on face coverings outside College, including on transport to and from college. Further details can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

We are also working with you as winter turns to spring to make sure you are attending regularly and making good progress, so our course teams will be following up with support if anyone's attendance has dropped. Please let us know if there is anything we need to know or that we can do to make sure you're getting the best out of your time at College.

And, finally, most of all, we want to thank you for your effort and commitment in a difficult time. We understand how much it takes right now and are right behind you in making sure you succeed.

With thanks and best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. Mayhew-Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Peter Mayhew-Smith  
Group Principal/CEO