

June 2020

## Reopening of schools and colleges

I hope you and your family are well and coping with the challenges we are currently facing.

As you know, the government recently announced its aim to partially reopen schools and colleges. This is to enable students and apprentices to have some contact time with teachers, take part in practical training and assessments, and complete the parts of their qualification which cannot be replicated at home.

The safety and wellbeing of our students, apprentices and staff is at the forefront of any decision we take, and this includes the date when we will reopen our campus. We have been preparing for some time now to ensure that when we reopen, we can do so safely, and in adherence with all public health guidance and social distancing protocols.

We are now in a position to plan to invite some students to return to the College for a short period of time to complete their course. This will probably happen at some stage during June 2020.

We will only be inviting a relatively small number of students to attend College and do not plan to run a full timetable on site. Remote learning will remain in place alongside this to ensure that all our students can complete their studies online.

## Which students will attend College?

Generally, we will be inviting students who are unable to engage in remote learning from home or who need to complete the practical units in their course on site. We will inform this group and their parents/carers by email or phone, confirming the date they will return and the additional procedures they will need to follow on campus. While we will be encouraging

students to attend College if invited, those who are unable to attend due to their personal circumstances will still be able to study remotely.

Students who are not invited to attend College on campus will also continue to complete their studies remotely.

We recognise that we may need to adapt our plans if government and Public Health England advice changes, and we will be preparing to do this if necessary. Our objective, as always, will be to continue to provide the best possible teaching, learning and social experience for all our students. We will review this regularly and will only open if:

- All Government guidance can be met, in full
- Individuals, College areas and work tasks have been risk assessed and appropriate mitigation measures are in place
- Full consultation has taken place
- The Principal, supported by the Executive Leadership Team and the College Board, authorises the action.

Links to the latest government guidance on COVID-19 in relation to educational settings can be accessed below:

[Actions for education and childcare settings to prepare for wider opening from 1 June 2020](#)  
[Supporting guidance on protective measures which should be implemented in education settings](#)

[\[Guidance for parents and carers\]](#)

For further information, or to speak to a member of staff, please visit [www.southwark.ac.uk/coronavirus](http://www.southwark.ac.uk/coronavirus).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support during this time.

Kind regards

Annette Cast  
Principal, Southwark College

