



Richmond upon Thames College

Dear Student/Apprentice

On Monday 4th January 2021 the Prime Minister announced another national lockdown which means that schools and colleges are once again being asked to close for all but vulnerable students and children of key worker parents.

We realise that this news will be concerning to you. You will of course be worried about your learning, your end of year results and your next steps. However, Richmond upon Thames College is well prepared to support you through lockdown, as we once again move to remote teaching and learning.

Throughout this academic year most of you will have already had experience of learning remotely, as for many of our students some parts of their programme of learning have been delivered online in order to support COVID-secure measures on the college site. For the time being, and until the lockdown restrictions that are now in place are reviewed, all learning will be conducted remotely for the vast majority of students.

Please note that all timetabled lessons will be taught 'live' via Microsoft Teams for at least the first part of the lesson. In some cases the entire lesson will be delivered live, while in other cases live content will be followed by the setting of work to be completed during the remainder of the timetabled lesson. Attendance at remote lessons will be recorded in the same way as would normally be the case for on-site lessons. Your lecturers/tutors will be in touch very soon to make clear the arrangements and expectations relating to your lessons. Online resources and reading materials will be provided and, where possible, we will conduct online assessments and tests and perform practical sessions virtually too. Where this is not possible we will send you appropriate materials as an alternative. Your lecturers and tutors will be in regular contact and we encourage you to make use of all the resources we have made available to keep you in contact with your lecturer/tutor and your class.

If you are someone who still needs to come into college for face to face learning, College staff will be in touch with you and will work with you to understand where you need to go and when.

If you need IT equipment you must talk to your lecturer/tutor. If we can provide you with equipment we will arrange for this to get to you.

If you receive free school meals while at college, we will be in touch with you to arrange how we can continue to provide you with financial support for meals at home.

Exams

In the Prime Minister's announcement he alluded to disruption to this summer's GCSE and A Level exams and we are waiting for an update on this. As soon as we know more, we will of course inform you of arrangements.

At present BTEC exams, scheduled for the first few weeks of January, are going ahead and you should aim to attend these where possible. Please be reassured that strict COVID-secure measures will be in place for all exams on site. Please also remember that these exams are repeated in the summer should this be required.

Apprentices

For those apprentices who attend college, online learning will be delivered by tutors. For those apprentices who have tutors who attend in the workplace, tutors will be in contact to arrange an online service and support as required. Should further support be required please contact your tutor or apprenticeships@rutc.ac.uk

Attachments

Please find as attachments to this email:

- *Remote Learning During College Closure – A Guide for Students*: This gives further guidance on how to access remote learning and sets out the College's expectations of you when engaging in remote learning
- *Wellbeing Support Services During College Closure*

We will keep in touch with further updates.

Kind regards

Jason Jones
Deputy Principal/CEO, Curriculum & Quality