

12 February 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students

### Reopening of DLD College London

I realise that many parents and students have questions around the reopening of schools in the UK and what this will entail for us at DLD College London. I want to assure you that DLD College has developed a comprehensive plan for safe re-opening. I will write again to outline our approach as soon as we have a clear date for re-opening from the UK Government, but you can be assured that we will put the necessary arrangements in place to support the well-being and safety of all of our students and staff. We continue to test all staff working onsite twice weekly and we will test all students and teachers again before face-to-face lessons recommence.

The provisional date for schools to restart their face-to-face lessons is from Monday 8 March 2021 or soon after. This is not yet confirmed by the Government but is appearing increasingly likely. There is a growing sense of optimism because the number of cases in the UK is now falling and very good progress has been made with COVID-19 vaccinations: over 13 million people have now received a vaccination, which is almost a quarter of the UK adult population. This is likely to result in a continued fall in cases, especially as the most vulnerable people in the UK have been vaccinated first.

### Summer Exams

The UK Government has completed its period of consultation over the alternative arrangements to be put in place for the A-level, BTEC, GCSE and IGCSE exams this summer. We will hear their decision at the end of February. Until then, **we must assume it will involve some form of examination that must be sat in College**. Therefore, I would advise that Year 11 (GCSE and IGCSE) students and Year 13 (A-level and BTEC) students need to be in the UK as soon as possible after face-to-face lessons resume. This will ensure that they are ready to participate in onsite exams/controlled assessments and onsite practical work (e.g. music, art drama science, media etc.). I shall write to you as soon as we know the details of this. In the meantime, we shall continue to deliver all of our lessons and internal exams remotely using Microsoft Teams and Canvas (Virtual DLD).

### Blended Learning

When school reopening dates are announced by the UK Government, some students might not be able to return to DLD immediately. We will support a blended approach to learning, with some students in class and others attending online, for a reasonable length of time. However, I want to stress that your child's best possible learning environment is in College with our teaching staff and their peers and that we hope to see all students back with us before the end of the year. The need for our young adults to reconnect and decompress with their peers after this period of lockdown should not be underestimated.

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## Communicating your Plans

Initially, I would encourage families to be in regular touch with their Personal Tutors, sharing their plans on returning to the UK. We can begin to build a picture of how this might look and feel in the building and naturally support our planning for a full return to College. There will be some cases where families might need to discuss their situation with their Director of Studies (DoS) or Tom Hadcroft (Senior Vice Principal) personally; I ask you to email them directly before Monday 8 March 2021, should your child need to remain in your home country for an extended period of time.

It will be important to also share any concerns you have for your son's or daughter's readiness to return, such as any underlying health concerns or general feelings towards being back in College. We were impressed by their resilience and enthusiasm back in September. If there is any way that we can support and ease them back to College once again, we would appreciate confidential lines of communication with Personal Tutors, their Director of Studies, Head of Lower School or Tom Hadcroft and our safeguarding team.

## Returning from Overseas

All returning boarders, even those returning from red-listed countries, can self-isolate in the boarding house at DLD, where they will be tested according to Government requirements. Any independent living students must quarantine at their address or, if returning from a [red-listed country](#), they will have to quarantine in a Government approved hotel at their own expense. Independent living students who wish to do so, can switch to boarding at DLD for the remainder of this year's academic studies. Please contact us for further details by emailing [alisa.cernavska@dld.org](mailto:alisa.cernavska@dld.org) All those returning to the UK will need to complete a 'Passenger Locator Form' ([link here](#)) before arriving and have a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours before travelling.

I am grateful to you all for the support you continue to give DLD and myself during this pandemic; I know it hasn't been easy, especially for those of you with young families and dependents, but even though we are apart, we continue to be together and I hope my weekly newsletter 'From the Principal' supports that. Over the lockdown, I have seen excellent examples of innovative and collaborative practice and colleagues are working hard to provide your children with an enriching online experience – the feedback we have had has been overwhelmingly positive. I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful and restful half term holiday and for our friends and family who are celebrating, a very Happy New Year.

Best wishes

Irfan



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Principal

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