

24 February 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students

Confirmed Reopening of DLD College London

On Monday 22 February 2021, the UK Government announced [detailed plans](#) for the easing of the UK wide Covid-19 lockdown. The Government's timetable consists of four stages, with the first stage beginning on Monday 8 March 2021.

This announcement has been made amidst the successful roll out of the UK's Covid-19 vaccination programme. With one third of the UK's adult population having received at least their first vaccination dose, we are now seeing a sustained fall in new Covid-19 cases, reduced hospital admissions due to Covid-19, and a sharp decrease in the rate of Covid-19 transmission across the UK.

As part of the first stage of the plan, the UK Government has announced that all UK schools and colleges will reopen from Monday 8 March, allowing students to return to face-to-face learning. For a period, secondary school students and older will wear face masks/coverings in class.

Following this announcement, we are delighted to confirm that we will be **resuming face-to-face learning from Tuesday 9 March 2021** for all of our students already in the UK. Students who are currently abroad and studying remotely will be able to continue learning online, but are expected to return to DLD in time to start the Summer Term on Monday 12 April, unless they come from a country on the UK Government's [red-list](#) of travel ban countries.

Covid-19 Testing and Safety Plans

We fully support the UK Government's cautious and data-led approach to reopening. I want to assure you that we will continue to operate as a safe and secure campus, with stringent Covid-19 prevention measures in place for the foreseeable future. The use of hand sanitiser, social distancing and the wearing of face masks/coverings in College will be mandatory. Regular Lateral Flow Testing will also take place for all students and staff when we return to College on Monday 8 March. This latest announcement does represent light at the end of the tunnel, and we look forward to welcoming our students back to experience the high-quality teaching and learning, pastoral care and boarding for which we are renowned.

Returning from Overseas

We encourage students to return to College before the end of the Spring Term and we ask that you contact your Personal Tutor regarding this with your travel plans. 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 next month. 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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Boarding Fees

For students who are currently abroad and returning to board at DLD during the Spring Term, fees for boarding will only be payable from the date of arrival during this term. For those issued with annual invoices, credit notes will be issued for accommodation for any period where the room was not occupied during the Spring Term 2021.

Quarantine

We encourage students who can do so to return to College as soon as possible so that they can complete the 10-day quarantine period required by law in our boarding accommodation, enjoy the Easter celebration here in the UK, and begin face-to-face learning as soon as possible. Whilst quarantining in College boarding, returning students will be able to access lessons and extra-curricular activities online, and all meals and amenities will be provided.

Pre-Arrival Requirements

Before departing their home country, returning students will need to complete a [passenger locator form](#) and have proof of a negative Covid-19 result from a [UK Government approved test](#) to travel to the UK from abroad.

At the time of writing, you will also be required to order a travel test package for a Covid-19 Testing Kit at a cost of £210 before you travel. This requires all international travellers to submit Covid-19 tests on Day 2 and Day 8 of the 10-day quarantine. This is a UK Government run scheme and DLD College London are unable to order this for you. The Covid-19 Test kit part of the travel test pack can be [ordered here](#).

Online Learning

From the start of the Summer Term, we will only be offering online learning to students living in a red-list country, or to those facing exceptional circumstances. All other students must attend face-to-face lessons.

Action for students unable to return

Students who are not in a red-list country, but who are unable to return to College for exceptional reasons must contact their Director of Studies directly to discuss their situation.

I am grateful to you all for the support you continue to give DLD and myself during this challenging time; I know it has not 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. The end is now in sight and I hope that we can all continue to adhere to the Covid-19 safety measures currently in place, so that we can return to normality when Government restrictions are lifted in June.

Yours sincerely,



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