

SK College Group



St Helens College



Dear Parent/Carer,

As we reach the end of the autumn term and the close of 2021, I write to thank you for the support you have provided to your son and/or daughter in keeping them focussed on their studies and on track to achieving their goals.

We recognise that this has been a difficult term for many of our new students, as adjusting back to face-to-face delivery in new social groups and new surroundings can be challenging. However, it's great to see their positive attitude and commitment to succeeding in their studies.

Christmas Closure

The last day of term is **Tuesday 21st December 2021**. All classes will finish at their normal time, so please encourage your son and/or daughter to attend all their lessons timetabled on Monday and Tuesday of next week.

January 2022 Reopening

The College will reopen to all students from **Wednesday 5th January 2022**. We will continue to offer all teaching on a face-to-face basis as per current Government guidance.

We will be monitoring all Government announcements over the Christmas holiday. Please check our Covid-19 website pages via the below links or social media channels, for any changes that may come about as a result of any further Government announcements.

www.sthelens.ac.uk/covid-19

www.knowsleycollege.ac.uk/covid-19

We Are Here to Help

Coming back to College after the Christmas holidays can sometimes feel challenging. Please encourage your son and/or daughter to speak to their teachers or progress coaches through Microsoft Teams, if they have any doubts about returning in the New Year.

Financial Assistance

Just a reminder that the College has various bursary support funds to assist our students with financial hardship. If your household has experienced a change in financial circumstances, please contact our Student Bursary Team; financialsupport@sthelens.ac.uk / kccfinancialsupport@knowsleycollege.ac.uk, as we may be able to offer some assistance via our student bursaries to help with the cost of coming to College.

A New Year Treat

As a welcome back treat in January, we will be issuing vouchers to all students for a **free** hot drink at any of the College's catering outlets.

Staying Safe

The safety of our students and staff remains our principal concern. As per current Government guidance, a few precautions will therefore remain in place to help prevent the spread of Covid-19:

- **Face Coverings**

Face coverings are mandatory in all communal areas (corridors, social spaces, and College catering outlets), unless you are exempt. The College does have a small supply of face coverings and will continue to issue them in reception areas; however, we would strongly encourage all students to obtain their own. Face coverings are also mandatory on College buses and public transport.

- **Testing**

All staff and students in colleges are being asked to complete a Lateral Flow Test (LFT) the **day or morning before they return to college**. Test kits are available for all students to collect from reception desks and libraries at all campuses. Please encourage your son and/or daughter to take a test before returning to College in January.

Get Vaccinated...Get Boosted

Vaccines remain the best defence against Covid-19, helping to protect you and your family from severe illness. All eligible students and staff are therefore encouraged to take up the offer of the vaccine, including boosters.

It just remains for me to thank you again for your continued support and to wish you a peaceful holiday.

Yours faithfully

Simon Pierce
Principal

CEO/Principal: Simon Pierce BSc, MBA

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