Our ref: SCR/EJO

December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I write to you at the end of a very challenging term for everyone. When students start back to college in January the government has requested that students should be tested before they return to face to face teaching. As this is a government requirement, in order for this to happen we will need a staggered start for students.

**Start of term – January 2022**

The current Government guidance is that we should be testing students, who have consent to be tested, before they start back in January 2022. The following has been arranged:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **Testing Date** | **Testing Time** | **Start of College Date** |
| 7 | Tuesday 4 January | 8.00am – 12.30pm | Wednesday 5 January at 8.40am |
| 11 | Tuesday 4 January | 1.00pm – 3.00pm | Wednesday 5 January at 8.40am |
| 8 | Wednesday 5 January  | 9.30am – 2.30pm | Thursday 6 January at 8.40am |
| 9 | Wednesday 5 January  | 9.30am – 2.30pm | Thursday 6 January at 8.40am |
| 10 | Wednesday 5 January  | 9.30am – 2.30pm | Thursday 6 January at 8.40am |

If you have consented for your child to be tested in college, they should arrive between the times above. If you have not consented but would now like your child to be tested, consent forms are available on our college website. Your child will not have to wear uniform to come for the test but they MUST have a face covering (unless exempt). They should arrive via the college decking area. Once they have had the test, they will be able to leave. Parents/carers are responsible for getting their child to college and back home safely. We will contact you ONLY if your child’s test comes back positive and this will be done within one hour of your child taking the test in college. We ask that a second test be carried out 3-5 days later at home using the home testing kits given to students.

**In summary:**

**• All year 11 will start at 8.40am on Wednesday 5 January 2022.**

**• All year 7 will start at 8.40am on Wednesday 5 January 2022.**

**• All years 8, 9 and 10 will start at 8.40am on Thursday 6 January 2022.**

Remote learning will be available on Tuesday 4 January for all year groups and on Wednesday 5 January for years 8, 9 and 10. The remote learning will follow your child’s normal timetabled lessons; however, break will be from 10.30am-11.10am.

For those students who will be coming into college for a Covid-19 test, there will not be an expectation to catch up with any part of a remote learning session missed. We do encourage all students to engage with the remote learning.

We have over 1,300 students at Unity College from September 2021. The most rapid and effective way to communicate with parents/carers is via our college website www.unity-college.com. It is essential that parents/carers and students check the website regularly for any updates/news.

Yours faithfully



S Cryer (Mrs)

Headteacher