



4 March 2021

Dear Student

The government has announced that classroom learning will return for all students from March. We're glad to hear this and hope you are too.

If you have been learning remotely, thank you for your hard work and your perseverance in these difficult times. Here is some information to help you understand the guidance relevant to you as all students return to classroom learning.

### **Return Dates and Times**

Check your school or college website, letters or emails for details of when you should return. Check too for any changes to the times that you start and finish.

### **Who Can Return?**

All young people who have been at home during lockdown will return. **Do not** go to school or college if you:

- have [symptoms](#) or live in a household with someone who has symptoms
- have tested positive, even if you do not have symptoms
- live in a household with someone who has tested positive, even if that person does not have symptoms
- are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19)
- are required to self-isolate for travel-related reasons

If you live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, you can return to class. If you are regarded as clinically extremely vulnerable yourself, the evidence and guidance has changed recently. Check out the latest [Guidance on shielding and protecting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable from COVID-19 - GOV.UK](#)

### **Returning to the Classroom Safely**

Coronavirus infection rates in Surrey have fallen in recent weeks, but the risk of transmission is still significant and pressure on our NHS remains high. The health risk of coronavirus to the vast majority of young people remains low. Measures including one-way systems, bubbles, sanitation and ventilation will continue to be in place in schools and colleges.

You will be offered regular rapid-results tests for coronavirus by your school or college when all students return. Rapid testing is a new tool in schools and colleges to help spot

people who might be carrying the virus without showing symptoms. A negative test result does not necessarily mean someone is not carrying coronavirus. It's important to continue to follow the guidelines and wash your hands regularly, socially distance and wear a face covering where necessary.

If you develop COVID-19 symptoms, book a free test at [gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](https://gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test) or call 119. Do not use your school or college testing service to get tested. Rapid lateral flow device testing from schools and colleges must only be used for students without symptoms.

### **Staying Safe Outside of Class**

When you're outside of school or college, you must follow the current government guidance. From the 8<sup>th</sup> of March, you will be able to meet outdoors with one other person outside. You mustn't meet more than one person, even if you are in a bubble at school or college *inside your* school and college environment. Walk or cycle to school or college if you are able. Remember "*Hands – Face – Space*" when out and about or travelling.

### **Adjusting to College again**

You may be worried about the progress you'll be able to make this year, or how your progress might be assessed. And if you have lost motivation or become less productive, that's okay. Schools and colleges are aware of the disruptions all the changes have caused. They will adapt learning to support everybody.

It's completely normal to be a bit anxious about returning. It's important to talk to people you trust if you're worried. Your school or college may offer support services and counselling. Here are some other sources of support and advice you can use.

Scan the QR code or go to: <https://cyauk.com/2021/02/24/support-for-students-in6th-form-college/>



We will continue to support you in your education and make sure that you can progress towards a successful and enjoyable future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Iles'.

**Julie Iles O.B.E.**  
**Cabinet Member for All-Age Learning**  
**Surrey County Councillor**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Liz Mills'.

**Liz Mills**  
**Director of Education**  
**Surrey County Council**