

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021,

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you and the whole family are well? It has certainly been a testing few months since the start of 2021 and the third national lockdown. Firstly, I would like to thank you for your support in keeping the young people of the UTC learning during this time. It has taken a big effort from all the students and teachers to make sure that we have remained productive and focused on our goals and aspirations. The role of parents to have been a vital element of support throughout this process, thank you.

As you will be aware, Boris Johnson has now announced that schools will be able to begin the process of reopening to all students from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. We are delighted to be able to start welcoming students back on site and take the first few steps of a return to normality. As you can imagine the return to school is going to take some significant readjustments for all involved hence, we are laying out the following timetable for our planned return:

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March** – Staff INSET (students will be set work remotely via TEAMS to complete during this time)

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March** – Year 11 and Year 13 induction day including first test and trace (Year 10 and 12 to work remotely)

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March** – Year 10 and 12 induction day including first test and trace (Year 11 and 13 to work remotely)

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March** – Students taught remotely

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March** – Year 11 and 13 Only return to lessons and 2<sup>nd</sup> Test and trace

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March** – Year 10 and 12 Only return to lessons and 2<sup>nd</sup> Test and trace

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup>** – All students return to ongoing lessons in full

| Day              | Year 10   | Year 11   | Year 12   | Year 13   |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|
| <b>Monday</b>    | Remote learning                                 | Test and Trace and Induction in UTC 9am to 11pm | Remote learning   | Test and Trace and Induction in UTC 1 pm to 3pm                           |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | Test and Trace and Induction in UTC 9am to 11pm | Remote learning                                 | Test and Trace and Induction in UTC 1 pm to 3pm                           | Remote learning   |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | Remote learning                                 | Remote learning                                 | Remote learning   | Remote learning   |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | Remote learning                                 | Test and Trace and lessons 8:50am to 3:50pm     | Remote learning   | Test and Trace and lessons 8:50am to 3:50pm (as per individual timetable) |
| <b>Friday</b>    | Test and Trace and lessons 8:50am to 3:50pm     | Remote learning                                 | Test and Trace and lessons 8:50am to 3:50pm (as per individual timetable) | Remote learning   |

This schedule will allow students to settle back in and to get to grips with their routines prior to the full student body return on the 15<sup>th</sup> March. Further details of these days will be provided in due course.

**Keeping our students safe remains our top priority and, as such, this means the prioritising of following the Covid safety measures. These will include;**

- Wearing a mask at all times in the building, including lessons. The main exception will be during lunch time whilst eating (Students must attend prepared with a suitable face covering, they may be refused entry to the building without)
- Following the one-way system within the building
- Using hand-sanitizer at regular intervals, including every time you move from one space to another
- Making sure that you do not gather in large groups (6 at most)
- Keeping a safe distance from others, 2m where possible
- Moving home swiftly when lessons have ended for the day
- **Year 12 will have a later lunch at 13:20, to ensure smaller numbers of students at social times**

It is imperative that no students attend the UTC if they are experiencing symptoms of Covid. The main symptoms are;

- High Temperature
- New continuous and persistent cough
- Loss of taste or smell

Please contact the NHS direct on 111 to seek advice and guidance should symptoms present themselves.

In line with government guidance, all schools are required to operate Test and Trace and as such, we will be administering three tests at the UTC in the first two weeks of our return, spaced at intervals of 3 to 5 days. Following this, we will be issuing home tests twice weekly and will be asking parents and students to report positive and neutral test results to us. We will require consent for testing from all parents of students in key stage 4, we will be informing you of the process in the near future.

This return to the building has allowed us the opportunity to start to make plans for the Internal Examination series that will take place this summer. We are still awaiting further confirmation of details but student performance in these exams will be a significant part of the grade awarding mechanism for schools this summer and therefore it is imperative that students prepare diligently, in a way akin to the GCSE, BTEC and A-level examinations as normal. We anticipate that our students will be sitting a series of modified exam papers during the weeks beginning 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021. These papers will cover the content that students have covered during their studies and reflect a fair sample of the content. Full details of each paper will be provided in due course. Students in Year 10 and 12 will sit their end of year exams as planned in June, whilst it is not anticipated that these exams will be used for the awarding of grades, they are non the less extremely important.

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To support our assessment process we will also be holding virtual parents' evening for students in their final examinations year. Year 11 will take place on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March and Year 13 on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March. This will allow staff the opportunity to provide high quality feedback to students ahead of the Internal Examination series. Our students in Year 10 and 12 will have parents' evening towards the end of the summer term.

We will continue to keep you updated with the latest information and details regarding the reopening of the UTC. Please do check our website for the latest updates at [www.southbank-utc.co.uk](http://www.southbank-utc.co.uk) . If you have any questions please email [info@southbank-utc.co.uk](mailto:info@southbank-utc.co.uk) .

Stay Safe

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Austin Sheppard".

Austin Sheppard

Principal