



5th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sorry to have to write to you again with details of a new lockdown. Although it feels tough to face another closure, we are in a much better position than the first time around. We are facing a light at the end of the tunnel and a vaccine on the horizon brings hope and security that this is a temporary situation.

Here is what you need to know:

- **Schools are now closed until the 15th February** (the start of the half term break)
- **Children of critical key workers and vulnerable families** can request by email to study on site. We will support students to access our online provision from the building where required.
- **BTEC exams are going ahead this month.** Please attend as planned. We have revised our risk assessments to increase social distancing and ensure adequate PPE, rooms are clean, ventilated and ready for you.
- **All year groups have access to online learning** through their google classrooms. If you have not yet had your personal email linked to your child's google classroom, please do message us by email.
- **Online learning has started as planned today.**
- **Students are expected to attend 3 live lessons per day**, except Fridays when they will attend 2 sessions.
- **All timetables are now on the websites** - <https://lifesciencesutc.co.uk/remote-learning/> and <https://thestudioliverpool.uk/remote-learning/>
- **We are waiting for guidance on Free School Meals provision;** however, we will of course ensure our families are supported. Reach out to us in confidence at student.services@lifesciencesutc.co.uk
- **Summer exams have been cancelled** – however, that does not mean we can relax and sit back till September. As we understand, alternatives to summer exams are being sought by the Department for Education. Students need to continue to engage in all work set by staff as this may become the basis of their final marks. We will of course send more information when we receive guidance from Government on their plans for this.

We are now much more experienced at delivering online provision. We have reached a level of experience in this new situation which has allowed us to create a robust model of teaching and learning. We are delivering the right frequency, quantity and quality of lessons. We are confident from assessments that students who engage with these lessons make good progress in their learning. We know that the students who keep to the routine and structure of the online

programme find the lockdown less challenging to their mental health. We are confident that our online learning programme has real academic value. This is not time filling or babysitting.

However, we do need your support. We appreciate how hard it is to ensure your children stay motivated to work towards a future that feels uncertain. We also appreciate that there are often things they would like to do more than login to their lessons, and how easy it is to fall behind. However, with your support, we can make sure your children stay on track with their education. Please help us to help them. Reach out to us if you are having technical issues which make it tricky for your child to work online. Reach out to us if you are worried about your child's motivation and need support to engage them with their learning. Attendance is checked in every lesson. We will be in touch if your child is not committing to their learning online.

We have a Principal's Surgery and a Head of Sixth Form Surgery planned for the 7th January. Zoom links will be sent to you by email. Please do come along if you have questions.

Thank you for bearing with us through all the changes in plans. Your support makes our job much easier and we genuinely appreciate that. As always, our door is still open to you (virtually) so please do get in touch by email at student.services@lifesciencesutc.co.uk or by joining our zoom session on Thursday.

Take care, stay safe,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jill Davies".

Jill Davies, Principal.