Date: 31st December 2020

Dear Learners, Parents/Carers,

Ref: Covid Update

Thank you to everyone who has kept in touch over the Christmas period, I’m hoping everyone had a safe and happy Christmas.

I’m writing today to confirm the position regarding the college re-opening in January 2021 after many announcements by the Government, the Department of Health and the Department of Education in the last few days.

The latest news from the Government regarding Covid 19 and the changes the college needs to make to follow the new guidance is going to take a few days to organise. The college needs to implement next week the training of all staff to ensure clear systems and controls to enable testing of staff and learners as part of our ongoing measures to keep us all safe. The testing process will quickly identify anyone in the college community who may have Covid 19 and may not be displaying symptoms.

**I am reopening the college on 4th January for staff only** to accommodate the additional training requirements. Learners will remain at home and the staff will deliver remote learning as per timetables that have already been issued from Tuesday 5th January 2021. On Monday 4th, it is intended to deliver all learners their tablets so remote learning can commence. HUBs will communicate the access details first thing on Tuesday so everyone has the information they need.

**On site learning will commence from Monday 11th January 2021 as per learners’ timetables’** subject to no changes from the Government next week.

Doncaster remains in Tier 3 and we do not have any confirmed cases of Covid 19 in the college at this time. The area is surrounded by other Tier 3 & 4 areas and we are reminded of not traveling into higher areas and to try and reduce the risk of sharing the virus and to stay at home where we can.

Thank you to everyone who has completed their consent for testing or advised of their decision to opt out. For anyone who has not already returned their consent can I request that this is sent to me as a matter of urgency so planning for testing can be completed. We can then start to release the timetable for testing of learners from next week.

All Learners are required to complete a pre-return declaration by 3pm Sunday 10th January to confirm learners are well and fit to return to college on their return date week commencing 11th January. Thank you to everyone who have already returned this, but it needs to be completed within 24 hrs before the return to college site date. This should be emailed to [mel@theridgecollege.co.uk](mailto:mel@theridgecollege.co.uk) and in the event of any technical issues, a call should be made to me so I can confirm transport arrangements for week commencing 11th January 2021 This action is being taken to safeguard the college and keep everyone safe.

I will continue to monitor situations that impact the college and email and text will continue to be used to communicate information to you to ensure everyone has the latest information as quickly as possible. My letters to the college community will also continue to be released to you via the website and email as events dictate.

The HUB staff will continue to communicate on our return from the 4th January day to day news to keep you informed of developments in the HUBs, if you have any queries please contact your HUB lead, or Mel at any time.

Melanie Atkin, Head of College - 07950389874

The college offices will remain closed to visitors. Reception is open for any general queries by calling 01302 897445 from 4th January 2021 8.30 am.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support as we strive to meet the new guidance. Please continue to work together to stay safe and I hope that during the next few months we start to see the benefits of all our efforts this last year.

Best wishes for 2021.

 Mel

Melanie Atkin

Head of College

Director