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Principal:  
Revd Prof PJ McCormack MBE

All College Students

By email

30 Nov 2020

Dear Student,

I pray that you and your family are managing to stay safe and well during this coronavirus pandemic. You have been in all our thoughts and prayers.

As you will know the Government has been issuing further guidance on the ending of the second lockdown and the reintroduction of a tiered approach to controlling the spread of Covid-19. It was announced last week that London will be placed into Tier 2, whereas large areas of England will be placed into Tier 3. The speculation on whether the country will have some form of tiered restrictions until Easter is an indication of how uncertain the situation is at the moment.

It is against this background of uncertainty that I and the Heads of Departments have taken the decision, after speaking with students reps, **to continue with our current posture of delivering our various educational programmes and pathways digitally into the New Year and start of semester 2.** We will, of course, continue to monitor carefully the situation and advice from the Government and Public Health England but feel that this approach is consistent with the guidance and our ability to maintain a Covid secure environment at our main College site. It also, I believe, provides continuity and assurance to our whole student body and indeed our staff.

The encouraging news of various vaccines offers genuine reason to hope that the country will be able to move beyond lockdowns and tiered restrictions. If, as has been discussed by Government ministers, the planned immunisation programme is implemented in the manner outlined, we could see a significant change by spring 2021. If it is possible and the guidance allows, it would be wonderful if we could see some physical delivery at our main Croydon site in spring. This, however, is a long way off and we must plan to continue to deliver our educational offer digitally until the situation changes materially.

May the Lord, who is Father, Son and Spirit richly bless you all.

Philip McCormack  
Principal