

Dear student,

I hope this email finds you well. If you are back on our campuses, welcome back! If not, we hope to see you soon.

In-person educational activities and student support

I know how important in-person activities are for you. These activities are up and running and I have asked all Schools and Institutes to provide as many of these as possible. Do speak to your School or Institute if you have any questions about these activities. All the student support you expect is in place as well – again, if you have any questions or concerns, speak to your School or Institute, the [Student Enquiry Centre](#) or the [Residential Support team](#) if you are in residences.

Self-isolation

It is important that anyone experiencing symptoms of Covid-19 [gets tested and self-isolates](#). You may have seen in the media reports of different approaches to self-isolation and lockdowns in universities across the UK, and I wanted to outline our approach. Where a student or staff member has symptoms or has a positive test result, they should self-isolate with their household. In student residences, this means one flat will self-isolate; it does not mean that we need to ‘lock down’ the entire residence. If your household on our campuses has to self-isolate please be reassured that we will provide full support to you and your flatmates, including helping you with shopping, welfare support and extra cleaning, all managed by our Housing and Residential Services team. If you have any questions just contact the [Residential Support team](#).

Going home for a weekend or for Christmas

You may also have seen media reports that students might not be allowed home for Christmas. This is scaremongering. We will advise you to follow whatever local restrictions are in place at the time.

Keeping safe

It is really important that everyone keeps safe and closely follows the [Covid Code](#). I cannot emphasise enough how important it is for your safety, and everyone’s safety, that you follow our Covid Code and wider Government guidelines. Please also remember there are now tough new penalties for those not abiding by national face covering regulations or meeting in groups larger than six. Please do take note of the national regulations and abide by them, on and off our campuses and in your accommodation.

Test and trace is an important part of containing the virus. If you haven’t yet done so, please [download the NHS app](#) and scan QR codes in our leisure outlets and elsewhere, and please also follow our local procedures.

Concerns or enquiries

There are many staff available to help, in person and online, if you do have any questions or concerns. You can contact your School or Institute, residential support services if you are in our student residences or the [Student Enquiry Centre](#). In addition, we are setting up an enquiry line for any Covid-19 related concerns that you or anyone else may have. Details will be on the website shortly.

Finally, to finish on an uplifting note: Thursday sees the start of Black History Month, which is an opportunity to celebrate the contributions of Black people to the successes of the UK over many generations. I know many of our staff and students have been working very hard on a series of activities throughout October. You will hear more from Sheila Gupta (our Vice-Principal for People, Culture and Inclusion) and many others over the coming weeks. I am extremely excited and proud that Queen Mary is playing our part in celebrating Black History Month 2020.

I hope you are enjoying the start of term. Please do look after yourselves and stay safe. I will write again next week.

Best wishes,

Colin

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