

Dear student,

I hope this email finds you safe and well. As you'll know, we have entered a period of greater national restrictions. I know that living with these restrictions is difficult for all of you – do look after yourselves, and remember we are here to support you through these challenging times.

Coming onto Queen Mary campuses and using University facilities

As I explained in my email earlier in the week, these new restrictions do not fundamentally change our way of operating. Please do continue to come to our campuses to engage in in-person educational activities, undertake research or use our study spaces, if you are able to. All of these facilities remain fully open. If you can't, or prefer not to, travel to our campuses you can follow your course online.

Travelling to our campuses

Students are free to travel to and from our campuses for educational purposes or to undertake research: please do continue to travel to our campuses as you have been so far. I should draw your attention to the [Government's guidelines](#) about not travelling from your term-time address to your permanent home during this period of extra restrictions. This does not of course affect you if you are a commuter student. The Government has committed that all students who want to will be able to travel home at the end of term.

Face covering policy

There is no change to our [face covering policy](#). Please do remember to wear a face covering when moving around in one of our buildings. If you are outside, sat down in a study space, or you are sat down taking part in an educational activity, face coverings can be taken off, unless a member of staff advises otherwise.

Study spaces

All our study spaces remain open. Face coverings do not have to be worn whilst you are sat down studying. The new guidance prohibits in-person group study, so I must ask you to please study on your own for this four week period. Remember though you can get together for group study over Microsoft Teams, or any other online platform.

Catering outlets

University-run catering outlets – the Curve, Mucci's and the café in the graduate centre - remain open. As our catering facilities contain designated study spaces you can buy something to eat and drink and consume it in these spaces whilst you are studying, or reading for educational or research purposes. The Students' Union-run Ground Café will remain open on the same basis. The Nucleus Café and Griff Inn on our Whitechapel campus are open for take-away, although the Griff Inn is not currently selling alcohol. Unfortunately, Drapers Bar and the Shield Café are closed at the moment, although the space in the Shield is open as study space. The Village Shop on the Mile End campus remains open, as are the Students' Union Hub and the BLSA buildings.

Social activity and sport

We are moving as much as possible of our [social activity online](#): this calendar is updated frequently so do keep checking it. Our student-led clubs and societies continue to offer opportunities to meet other students and participate in activities online. You can view all the clubs and societies and their events [here](#).

Unfortunately, the new government guidelines for this period mean that Qmotion has had to temporarily close and amateur sport is prohibited. Remember though you can meet one other person who is not from your household for a walk or to go for a run. You can also meet for educational activities outside (weather permitting!), or in our marquees. I know the Students' Union has been in touch about the [effect of the new restrictions](#) on their facilities and activities.

Looking after yourselves

It is difficult living with these new restrictions. Remember there is [support there for you](#) – do reach out for help if you need it. Also please continue to stay safe, on and off our campuses. Please look after yourselves and look out for each other, and continue to follow our [Covid Code](#) and the [latest government guidelines](#). Please note Michelle Donelan, Minister of State for Universities, [wrote to students earlier this week](#) outlining the new restrictions.

I will write to you again next week. In the meantime, please do look after yourselves and each other and stay safe.

Best wishes,

Colin

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