

Dear student,

I hope this email finds you safe and well, and you are enjoying the opportunity to meet up with some friends and family, albeit outside at the moment (remember: you can now meet up with up to 6 people from different households outside, and you can also take part in outdoor sport).

This is a short update following the Government announcement yesterday regarding further easing of Covid-19 restrictions from next Monday, April 12.

Although there was no public announcement yesterday about in-person education for students on non-practical courses, we have heard from Government that we are not allowed to resume in-person teaching for those of you on non-practical courses on 12 April. We do not as yet have a date when in-person teaching for students on non-practical courses can resume.

This is very disappointing news, which seems to de-prioritise the education and welfare of university students across England, and is at odds with the Government's stated commitment to prioritise education in the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions. I, along with other Vice-Chancellors, have argued very strongly for Covid secure in-person on-campus education for all our students to resume at the same time as secondary schools and further education, and at the very latest on 12 April alongside the opening of non-essential shops, hairdressers, nail bars, tattoo parlours, gyms and outdoor hospitality. We will continue to make the case directly to Government and through other avenues available to us that higher education and university student welfare should always be the number one priority, in-line with the rest of the education sector, in these key government policy decisions.

Much as we cannot resume in-person on-campus teaching for all students, you can return to our campuses if you would like to should you feel that your wellbeing would be better served by being here. There is a range of [social](#) and [sporting](#) activities on offer. Do come and get involved! I know many of you will be facing assessments soon: please do look after yourselves as you study, it is really important to take breaks, meet up with friends and exercise if you can. More facilities on our campuses are opening up next week, in line with Government guidelines, including Qmotion, the Students' Union's Building on the Whitechapel campus and the Griff Inn. Ground Café and the Curve are of course already open.

### **Keeping safe on and off our campuses**

I am very glad to tell you that we continue to have very few cases of Covid-19 in our communities, and across London cases are levelling off. It is of course important that we all continue to keep safe on and off our campuses. If you are on our campuses please follow our [Covid Code](#), and [book a Covid-19 test](#) at one of our centres twice a week.

On 29 March, the Government reintroduced the requirement for a confirmatory PCR test. So, in the very unlikely event you get a positive test from one of our Covid-19 lateral flow tests, please do [book an NHS PCR test](#) to confirm the diagnosis.

Do please take care of yourselves and your friends and family. I will write to you again soon.

Best wishes,

Colin

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