

Dear student,

I hope that this email finds you safe and well. I hope you are continuing to enjoy the summer, and you are looking forward to coming, or coming back, to our campuses and meeting/reconnecting with your fellow students and staff after the summer break. I speak on behalf of all our staff in saying we are very much looking forward to welcoming you onto our campuses in the next couple of weeks!

### **Preparing to come/come back to University**

If you are a new student, please do get involved with our [Welcome Week activities](#), and have a look at our [‘Get Ahead’ programme of transition support](#) as well as the Russell Group’s [Jumpstart University](#) materials. These initiatives provide great support for students entering university. If you are a returning student, it is also worth having a look as the material covers a range of skills, including study skills and time management skills, which are important for everyone.

I spoke last time about the upgrades to your physical learning environment, which include improved AV in our teaching spaces across all our campuses, new teaching rooms and PC labs in the Queens’ Building on the Mile End campus, and [upgraded study spaces](#) on the ground floor of our Mile End library. The campuses are looking great, and all the staff are looking forward to seeing you on our campuses.

### **Covid safety on our campuses**

The single most important thing we can all do to ensure Covid safety is to be fully vaccinated. It is so important that you are fully vaccinated as soon as possible. Being vaccinated limits the spread of the virus, means you are much less likely to become very unwell if you get infected with it, and means you can travel abroad\*. You will also not need to self-isolate if you identified as a close contact to someone who has Covid. We are hosting a [vaccination centre](#) on our Mile End campus, which is open 11:00-18:00 Monday to Saturday inclusive. The centre can be used by students, staff and the general public, and you can either [book via the NHS](#) or attend as a drop-in. Overseas students can also have the vaccine even if they have received a different vaccine overseas. If you have not been vaccinated, [visit the NHS website](#) as soon as possible for information on how to book an appointment, and [visit the Tower Hamlets Council website](#) for more information about drop-in centres and vaccination events in Tower Hamlets. And if you have had one jab, please make sure you get your second.

I wrote in my last email about the safety measures we have in place to maintain Covid safety. An important aspect of staying safe is to take lateral flow tests regularly each week, either in our [test centres](#) or by using a home test kit. Remember also to register the result of the tests.

In the last couple of weeks we hosted the national Health and Safety Executive (HSE), to assess the measures we have in place. We received a ringing positive endorsement from the HSE about our safety measures. I hope this reassures you: we do all need to keep vigilant, but we have everything we can in place to keep you safe.

### **Future communications**

Returning students will know that, since the beginning of the pandemic, I have been writing regularly to students with a Covid-19 update. Much as the pandemic is far from over, we are entering a new phase where our lives will hopefully not be dominated by the virus. I want to continue to write to you, with a more general update rather than purely focusing on the pandemic. I anticipate writing to

you every two to three weeks, depending on what is happening. I will write again when there is more news to share.

Best wishes,

Colin

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\* Check guidance for international travel on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk), as well as for the country you are travelling to.