



We're Reopening!

25th February 2021

Dear Parents,

On Monday (22 February), the UK Government announced that schools can reopen from 8 March.

I'm delighted to confirm that we will be welcoming students back from Monday 29 March ready to re-join face-to-face lessons from Monday 12 April.

The reopening of schools is part of the UK Government's plan to cautiously ease restrictions across England and provide a route back to a more normal way of life in the coming weeks.

Please find details of our plans to safely manage returning to campus. We remain committed to providing the best possible care so that our school community feels safe and confident about living and learning with us. [Our pledge](#) can be viewed here, along with a [short video](#) about how we are managing the arrival process.

For all programmes of study, we encourage all students to return to campus.

Returning to Campus by Programme of Study

To all students finishing GCSE and A level courses this year

The assessments taking place this coming term will be the main indicator of final grades. Therefore, we encourage all students to return to campus and resume face-to-face lessons, as we believe this is the most effective way for teachers to assess grades and address gaps in students' knowledge and understanding prior to their final assessments.

In addition, examination boards will be sampling the evidence used to determine students' grades. Schools can allow students to sit assessments online if there are significant extenuating circumstances which prevent them taking them face-to-face. However, if the examination board finds that students have completed assessments online but could have travelled to complete them face-to-face this could put grades at risk.



For students who are unable to travel to join us in the UK, we will be offering streamed live lessons. We would reiterate at this point that we are unable to fully replicate either face to face teaching experience or the experience of wider college life for those students who are joining us online.

To all IB Students

The IB have confirmed that a combination of coursework, assessed and marked by the IB, and teacher predicted grades, submitted by the College, will form the basis of the final grade the IB will award. In order to continue supporting our students with their studies and with the university admissions process, we would encourage all IB students to return to the College after the Spring break.

To all students studying Academic English, AS, IB1, GCSE 10 and UFP

We encourage all students to return to campus and resume face-to-face lessons. Doing so will enable teachers to provide the best possible support and will enable students to make the most rapid progress. We are confident that a full term of face-to-face lessons would be invaluable at this time. It means students can prepare to take the most effective actions during the summer break before continuing their studies with us in September 2021.

For students who are unable to travel to join us in the UK, we will be offering streamed live lessons. We would reiterate at this point that we are unable to fully replicate either face-to-face teaching experience or the experience of wider college life for those students who are joining us online.

Latest Travel Guidance

As international travel restrictions remain in place, we advise students and their families to review the [latest travel guidance both in the UK](#) and in their home countries before making any travel plans.

Before your child leaves home

All students travelling to the UK must:

- **take a coronavirus (COVID-19) test and get a negative result** during the 3 days before travel



- [book and pay for a travel test package](#), which will include two COVID-19 tests to be taken on or before day 2 and on or after day 8 of quarantine
- **complete a [passenger locator form](#)** with details of where your child will quarantine when they arrive and the travel test package booking reference number
- check **visa documentation** (if required). If you have any questions, please contact the student services team.

Arriving in the UK

Quarantine period

All travellers arriving in the UK are required by law to isolate for 10 days. Students will be required to quarantine in their room on arrival for 10 days (or less under the UK Government's "Test to Release" scheme).

Airport transfers

Private transfers are available from all UK airports to our campus via our preferred partners. All the companies we work with have comprehensive COVID-19 prevention practices in place, cars are fully sanitised between journeys and their drivers will be wearing masks during the journey.

Quarantine and testing on campus

Testing Kits

Testing kits booked prior to arrival will be delivered to the address provided on the test booking form. We advise providing the school address, so that your child's testing kits can be safely received and stored. Students will need to visit the college nurse on days 2 and 8 of the quarantine period so we can provide testing assistance. Students in independent accommodation will need to make their own testing arrangements in line with government regulations.

Test to Release

Students living within our accommodation who have opted into the "Test to Release" scheme, when completing their Passenger Locator Form, will be tested on campus by our nursing team on day 5 after their arrival. Students will only be able to leave quarantine upon receipt of a negative test result. We will not be offering "Test to Release" for students living in independent accommodation.



Testing Positive on Campus

Any students who test positive at any stage of their testing will be required to self-isolate for 10 days after their test result has been received in line with government guidance. All students quarantining will be taken good care of and will have meals delivered to them and medical services made available to them. If well enough, they will be able to access online learning.

Next steps

Please confirm your child's return to campus so that we can make the necessary arrangements. In the meantime, if you have any questions about your child resuming their face-to-face studies, please contact student services.

Best wishes,

Craig Wilson
Executive Principal, CATS Colleges