



26<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Learner, Parent or guardian,

I hope you are all keeping safe and well in these challenging times.

I am writing to keep you updated on the developments here at Liberty since this term began.

As you know, we had a bit of a setback when NHS Test and Trace instructed the whole staff team to isolate due to a staff member testing positive for Covid-19, but fortunately, we dealt with this swiftly enough to prevent the virus spreading to anyone else here at Liberty.

### **COVID-19 Symptoms**

If you, or anyone in your household or support bubble has symptoms of Covid-19, please do not attend Liberty.

**If you or anyone in your household or support bubble tests positive for Covid-19, you must self-isolate in accordance with government guidance.**

**Please also let us know immediately on 01843 446 906, or on 07946 032 122 if it is out of working hours.**

### **Face to Face Learning**

All learners have been invited to attend Liberty this term in line with government guidance which states that all vulnerable children should be offered face to face provision.

As you know, Liberty Training moved to a system of one day face to face delivery and one day remote delivery last term due to the reduction in staff and learner numbers as a result of sickness and self-isolation. This blended learning model will continue until at least half term (starting 15<sup>th</sup> February) as per current lockdown guidance. This may change if the government extend the current lockdown.

We will continue to offer face to face learning on Wednesdays and Thursdays for learners who wish to attend, with increased safety measures in place. We will continue with our Covid secure safety measures, with staff and learners wearing face coverings (unless exempt), 2 metre social distancing where possible, learners staying in 'bubbles' and increased cleaning measures in place. We will continue to complete risk assessments and make alterations to ensure that Liberty is as safe as possible for all.

**Please speak to your tutor in the first instance to discuss face to face learning.**

Head Office - Paragon House, Albert Street, Ramsgate, CT11 9HD Tel: 01843 446906 Web: [www.libertygrouppltd.co.uk](http://www.libertygrouppltd.co.uk)



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## **Remote Learning**

Liberty staff have prepared alternative lesson plans so that remote lessons can take place on a full timetable throughout this lockdown. We are able to provide video lessons, pre-recorded videos and distance learning, in addition to individual support via telephone, video conferencing, social media and email. This is all set up through your Teams/Office 365 account, and can be accessed through a mobile phone, tablet or computer.

Learners can access full time remote learning, or one day remote and one day face to face. Your tutor will make the arrangements with you.

Please remember that we will only be able to mark you as "**Attended**" if you attend the online sessions, engage in the subject, and complete the work set. Learners who are in receipt of a bursary will only be paid on the basis of all these elements are being met.

All Learners who do not attend online sessions without prior notice to their Tutor (e.g. illness or appointment) will be marked as "**Unauthorised Absence**".

Our full Remote Education Offer can be viewed on our website: [Remote-Education-Offer-January-2021.pdf \(libertygrouppltd.co.uk\)](https://www.libertygrouppltd.co.uk/Remote-Education-Offer-January-2021.pdf)

## **Emotional Wellbeing**

I know that the lockdowns and restrictions have been tough on everyone and can be particularly difficult for our learners.

If you are finding things hard, know that you are not alone, and remember, you can speak to your tutor or TA for support.

We also have qualified counsellors that can offer support to our learners over the telephone, so please get in touch if this is something you would benefit from.

There is some really good information on the following websites:

[Coronavirus and your wellbeing | Mind, the mental health charity - help for mental health problems](#)

[Every Mind Matters | One You \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

## **Covid Test Centre**

Our test centre has been open two days a week since 6<sup>th</sup> January, and I'm happy to say it is running safely and efficiently.

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You can find more information about the test centre, including frequently asked questions, on our website. I apologise that some of the information in these documents is out of date- it has been sent to us by the Department For Education and we have not received an update.

On 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021, Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson released a statement that all education personnel should be tested twice weekly. Liberty will open the test centre on Mondays from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021 to facilitate additional staff testing.

In the same statement, Mr Williamson advised that NHS Test and Trace and PHE have advised that, *“in light of the higher prevalence and rates of transmission of the new variant, further evaluation work is required to understand the impact of daily contact testing, instead of self-isolation for those who have been in contact with a case, to make sure it is achieving its aim of breaking chains of transmission and reducing cases of the virus in the community.”*

This means that the new procedure of testing someone daily for 7 days after they have been in contact with a confirmed case of Covid-19 will be stopped, and the original procedure of self-isolating for 10 days will continue instead.

### **Covid-19 Symptom Free Test Sites**

KCC has now opened test centres around the county for those with no symptoms of Covid-19. They are advising that everyone go for a test every 2 weeks because 1 in 3 people with COVID-19 have no symptoms, so regular testing will make sure you are not unknowingly spreading the virus.

In Thanet, there is a test site at the old Terminal Building in Ramsgate Port, and at The Centre in Birchington.

More information can be found here: [Symptom-free testing - Kent County Council](#)

### **Support for Disadvantaged Learners**

You may have seen in the media that the government is setting up schemes to provide better internet access and laptops to disadvantaged children. There is also support available for free school meals for those who are entitled to it.

We are trying to find out how we, as a specialist college, may be able to access this support. I will send more information if we are able to access this funding.

**Michelle Smith**  
**Director**

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