

## Return to College from 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Summary of contents:

- 1) All students need to complete and submit the consent form we have sent you.
- 2) All students will be tested in college three times over the next two weeks - on Monday 8<sup>th</sup>, Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March
- 3) There will be no lessons on these days.
- 4) Students will be sent instruction on how to make an appointment slot for their test. It will be the same for all three days.
- 5) Face-to-face lessons will restart in college on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March.
- 6) Changes have been made to the timetable for Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> and Friday 19<sup>th</sup> March
- 7) All students will be asked to self-test at home, twice a week from 22<sup>nd</sup> March

COVID restrictions remain in place in college. All students must wear masks and observe social distance.

You MUST NOT attend college if you think you might have symptoms. If you do have symptoms, you must not use this testing centre as an alternative to using an official testing centre.

### 1) Completing consent forms

For the testing process to be effective, we need as many students as possible to participate. You will not be able to do so unless we have your completed consent form. This has been emailed out to you several times in recent weeks. Please complete and return. See FAQ below for what happens for students who do not give permission.

### 2) Three days of testing & suspension of classes

Organising the mass return of 1600 staff and students is incredibly challenging. Tests need to be spread out, with 3-5 day gaps between tests. At TRC, the situation is complicated by the fact that not all students are in at all times. This is why we have decided that everyone should be tested on the same days.

Students can choose a time to be tested. We will prioritise those who travel on college buses, all of whom will be tested between 9:00 and 9:30am on all three days. Testing will take place between 8:45am and 4:00pm in the Sports Hall at the back of college. Ideally, students should walk or get a lift to the testing centre, avoiding public transport. You will be directed and guided through the process by staff. The whole process should take no more than 30 minutes, including queueing/waiting time.

We do not have the capacity for students to wait in college for your test result. However, you should avoid any social contact until your result is confirmed. You should not take public transport until a negative test has been confirmed.

Students will be sent instructions on how to register for the testing service on their smart phone. This is a time-consuming process at first and will add to the time it takes to test on

Monday 8<sup>th</sup>. Results come back to students via the app within 45 minutes of the test being completed.

Because our testing centre will be run by our staff, there will be no lessons on these days. College will only be open for testing. No other services will be available.

### 3) Appointments

Students must attend at your appointed times and not come earlier or later in order to meet up with friends. This will cause delays in the testing process.

### 4) Full re-opening of college from Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March

All lessons for all years will move back into college from Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March. This will be a week 1. All COVID restrictions will remain in place. Students will be asked to wear masks in lessons, in line with government guidance. We will be adding additional breaks to lessons to allow you to get fresh air more frequently.

Because of the disruption caused by the three days lost to testing, we need to make some changes to the timetable so that all blocks are seen twice in the fortnight. The revised timetable for the next two weeks now looks like this.

Week	Day	AM	PM	
<b>1</b>	08/03/21	Mass testing all day		
	09/03/21	E block – no change	B block – no change	
	10/03/21	D block – no change	F block – no change	
	11/03/21	Mass testing all day		
	12/03/21	C block – no change		
<b>2</b>	15/03/21	A block – no change	C block – no change	
	16/03/21	Mass testing all day		
	17/03/21	D block – no change	F block – no change	
	18/03/21	E block – no change	Change to B block	F block PM lesson changed to B block lesson
	19/03/21	Change to A block		D block AM lesson changed to A block lesson

Lessons return to normal from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

### 5) Student self-testing from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March

In order to keep college safe, all students will be asked to self-test twice a week from home from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. You will be provided with the equipment and training to do this. We will update you further as details emerge.

Apologies again for so much information. If you have any further questions, please read the FAQ below before contacting me on [joel.wirth@thomroth.ac.uk](mailto:joel.wirth@thomroth.ac.uk) if you have any further questions.

Stay safe,

**Joel Wirth**  
Head of College

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **1) What if I don't give consent to testing?**

You will be allowed to return to lessons as normal on the 9<sup>th</sup> March. However, not giving consent should be uncommon. It is crucial that we all play our part in reducing the risk of spreading the virus and keeping each other safe.

### **2) How do I get to college?**

You should avoid public transport. You should walk if you can or get a lift from someone in your bubble if possible. If you travel on public transport, you should take all necessary precautions.

### **3) What if I test positive?**

If you test positive you will need to book in for another test at an official testing centre. This will confirm the diagnosis. If the second test is positive, you will need to inform college and self-isolate for 10 days. If it is negative, you will need to provide college with evidence of this. You will then be allowed to return to lessons.

### **4) What if I don't have a smartphone?**

Staff will be on hand to support you to register.

### **5) Who will be doing the testing?**

Staff from the college will be conducting the tests. You will see many familiar, masked faces.

### **6) When am I expected to wear a face mask?**

In line with government guidelines face masks will be worn in college at all times, this means in social areas and classrooms. Food and drink will be available from the canteen at break and lunch times, where facemasks should only be removed for eating and drinking. If you go outside, you may remove your face mask but you must maintain a 2m social distance from others when doing so.