

Dear Parent/Carer

### UTC Covid-19 Update

As you are aware, the government advice in respect of Covid-19 is being constantly reviewed and updated. During this unprecedented event, we will do our best to stay in touch and let you know what steps we are taking to keep students safe, and to support their learning.

It is important that parents and carers familiarise themselves with the latest government advice which can be found on our website:

<https://academytrust.sgscol.ac.uk/news/sgs-berkeley-green-utc/covid-19-information>

1. Advice about self-isolation

Following yesterday's announcement by the Prime Minister, we will be adhering to the following guidelines:

- a. **If anybody in your household has a high temperature and/or a new, dry, persistent cough, then ALL members of the household should self-isolate. Students must not attend the UTC during the period of self-isolation.**
- b. If somebody in your household is in at 'at-risk' group, but nobody is currently displaying symptoms, the parent or carer will need to make a decision about whether or not to send the student to the UTC. You can find additional advice here:  
  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>
- c. If nobody in your household is in an 'at-risk' group then the current advice is that the young person should continue to attend the UTC as usual.
- d. If a student arrives at the UTC and has a high temperature and/or a new, dry, persistent cough, we will contact home and ask that the student is collected and does not return to the UTC for two weeks. We understand that this may cause inconvenience but we are obliged to follow official recommendations.

2. Work for students

Students who are self-isolating, or are sent home from the UTC but are not showing symptoms, are expected to continue with their studies. The table below provides details of the work they should be getting on with. Please note that this will be updated over the coming days and we will be in touch with further information.

	<b>Academic qualifications</b>	<b>Technical/vocational qualifications</b>
<b>Year 13 Students and Year 12 Students</b>	<p>Teachers will make direct contact with students by email to share work.</p> <p>Students should check the website regularly for updates.</p>	<p>Digital Students should access their work via Teams and also use Teams to communicate with their teachers.</p> <p>Email should be used as a backup.</p> <p>Engineering Students should check the website for resources. They should use Pearson Active Learn for support, and submit assignments via email for marking.</p>
<b>Year 11 Students</b>	<p>Students should continue to follow the 100 day plan (check website).</p> <p>Use email to contact your teacher if you have any concerns or questions.</p> <p>Check the website daily for updates and resources.</p> <p>Coursework is generally carried out under controlled conditions. This means that it needs to be completed under the supervision of your teacher. Your teacher will give you up-to-date advice on this.</p>	
<b>Year 10 students</b>	<p>In the first instance, year 10 students should be self-studying using the following online packages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hegarty Maths</li> <li>• Educake</li> <li>• Immersive Labs</li> <li>• Seneca Learning</li> <li>• BBC Bitesize</li> </ul> <p>You can access these via the UTC website via this link <a href="https://academytrust.sgscol.ac.uk/sgs-berkeley-green-utc/curriculum/online-resources">https://academytrust.sgscol.ac.uk/sgs-berkeley-green-utc/curriculum/online-resources</a></p> <p>Students should preferably vary their studies so they cover material from all the core areas (English, Maths &amp; Science).</p> <p>Jekyll and Hyde, Journey's End and Romeo and Juliet can all be read online, and excellent audio version are available from Audible.co.uk.</p>	

3. UTC Closure

There are currently no plans to close the UTC. We are however mindful that this remains a distinct possibility. We have put together teaching and learning plans which will be sent home and shared on the website in the event of a closure.

4. Examinations and coursework

We have not yet received information about the plan for students who have external examinations this year. We will, of course, update you as soon as this is available.

5. Staff absence

As it stands, we have one member of staff who is self-isolating. This figure is likely to increase. Our current plan is to cover lessons for students in years 10 and 11 in the usual way. However, we may need to adapt the way we cover absences in the days to come. For example, class sizes may increase and students may be asked to work in different ways.

6. Cleaning

Cleaning staff have been asked in recent weeks to pay particular attention to the wiping down of hard surfaces (including table tops, keyboards and door handles) and to carry out recommended practice in respect of Covid-19 and other viruses. If a student is sent home, the cleaning staff will be asked to clean the surfaces used by that student.

7. Anxiety

There will inevitably be a higher level of anxiety among students, especially those who have external examinations this year. We will endeavor at this end to reassure them, provide appropriate information and talk to them about their concerns.

8. Confirmed Cases

Please note that to date there are currently NO confirmed cases of Coronavirus linked to the UTC.

As you can imagine, none of us at the UTC has ever experienced anything like Covid-19. It is simply unprecedented. There is an enormous amount for us to do to ensure that we keep students safe while continuing to help them make progress. This is not always easy. I would ask therefore that you are polite and respectful when communicating with staff members. They are doing a fantastic job in difficult circumstances. We appreciate your patience and goodwill in these extraordinary times.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the office on 0800 470 1516 or [office@berkeleygreenutc.org.uk](mailto:office@berkeleygreenutc.org.uk).

With very best wishes from all at the UTC

Yours faithfully

**Louise Davies**  
Headteacher