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Dear Student

Earlier today the Department of Children, Young People, Education and Skills (CYPES) shared with us some links regarding the return to college (and schools) on Monday.

Please see the links below, which include yesterday's statement from the Education Minister, a list of FAQs & answers, and the latest letter from STAC (Scientific and Technical Advisory Cell) to the Education Minister.

- Statement from the Education Minister: <https://www.gov.je/News/2021/Pages/EducationMinisterStatement5Jan.aspx>
- Health Advice on the Reopening of Schools Letter from Scientific and Technical, Advisory Cell (STAC) to the Education Minister: <https://bit.ly/35dUcvp>
- FAQs: <https://bit.ly/35he9kZ>

We are in regular communication with colleagues on-Island and in the UK to ensure that you can complete your education with the least amount of disruption, while still following the latest public health advice.

As at today, Wednesday 6 January, the advice given is that schools and colleges should reopen as planned on Monday 11 January. Please be reassured that the situation is being closely monitored and should the advice change, we will contact you immediately.

Earlier this week we advised that all Sixth Form students were being invited to book an optional Covid test as part of the island's screening and testing programme for educational settings. We have now been advised that UCJ students and apprentices are now also eligible to book a Covid test as part of this programme (regardless of whenever you last had a test, if at all).

Appointments can be made by telephoning the helpline on 445566. **If you are an apprentice or UCJ student you are asked to please telephone from tomorrow, Thursday 7 January, to book your PCR test. This is to stagger the calls and avoid overwhelming the helpline.** The PCR test is optional, however we do recommend that all students book an appointment to help minimise the risk to our college community as a whole.

January sittings of exams for BTECs and IGCSEs are going ahead in Jersey schools and colleges, including Highlands College. For some of you, these examinations started today. The attendance in our college has been excellent; well done to all involved and thank you for your fantastic support.

Details about ongoing support relating to wider exams and assessment will follow once the UK government has issued the guidance. Please be assured, we will ensure that you are not disadvantaged by the changes.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the college on 608608 or email [info@highlands.ac.uk](mailto:info@highlands.ac.uk) where your feedback/query will be directed to the appropriate department: Adult and Community Education, Apprenticeships, 6<sup>th</sup> form, University College Jersey, or Professional Studies.

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Meanwhile, we very much look forward to welcoming you back to Highlands College next week. We are very proud of the commitment you have made to your studies; you are a credit to your families and to Highlands

Yours sincerely,

Jo Terry-Marchant  
Principal

