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**South Thames Colleges Group**23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020

Dear students and families,

As you know, our College buildings are now closed. For a very small number of specific students we have opened Merton College in response to the Government's request. The Government's approach to this and who the students are that we will admit to Merton College is set out here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

We hope that most of our students will be able to continue their studies from home and our teachers and support teams are working very hard to provide you with online information, resources and/or work if they can.

We would very much like you to continue to study hard. The Government has cancelled all exams and other kinds of assessment. The Government is working with the exam boards to come up with alternative arrangements and as soon as we have the full details of these we will let you know. For HE students, the different Universities are making plans to manage the situation and your course teams will be able to update you.

We are also keen to do anything if we can to help keep you safe and sound through this time. If you have concerns about your welfare please refer to your College's Moodle site which will tell you about the support services available. It will also tell you what to do if you need help. If you are not sure how to access these services talk to your friends, family and carers in the first instance. If you are still not sure after this please try to contact your tutor and they will be able to refer you to the right place to get help if they can, or you can contact Student Support via one of the relevant College site email addresses:

**Carshalton & Merton College** - [ccstudent.support@stcg.ac.uk](mailto:ccstudent.support@stcg.ac.uk)

**South Thames College** - [advice.wandsworth@stcg.ac.uk](mailto:advice.wandsworth@stcg.ac.uk)

**Kingston College** – [student.support@stcg.ac.uk](mailto:student.support@stcg.ac.uk)

You will know that we have been asked to close our colleges to save lives. You must take your responsibilities very seriously and stay at home unless you have to shop, work or seek medical help. Please do not ignore this advice; we will only beat this disease by being very strict about our behaviour and working together to stay apart.

Please stay safe and take good care of yourselves,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. Mayhew-Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and a long, sweeping underline.

Peter Mayhew-Smith

Group Principal and CEO