

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Hello and update from Ian Budge, Deputy Principal

I am delighted to write my first letter to you as the newly appointed Deputy Principal for our Ardleigh Green campus. I have worked in Havering since 2008 and it is a privilege to take up this role. My primary aim is to support each of our students to achieve their full potential and to progress to successful jobs or into higher education. I am responsible for day-to-day life at the campus and in planning any developments for the future.

Parents' evenings

My colleagues and I hosted the first progress review evening of the academic year last week. While it was a shame that we couldn't meet parents in person, we enjoyed speaking to hundreds of parents by phone about their child's progress on their course, the areas they need to focus on to succeed, and the support that you might be able to give them to do so. If you would like to check in on your son or daughters progress do not hesitate to get in touch with their Progress Coach.

Keeping everyone safe

You might be aware of some unsettling incidents in the local area in recent weeks. I want to assure you that we take our students' safety incredibly seriously and have extremely high expectations of student conduct.

- Our campus is secure, and accessible only by ID card access or visitors accompanied by staff.
- We have excellent CCTV coverage and a team of fully trained – and friendly – security staff and a strong team of duty managers.
- We have now invested in extra student safety staff to patrol neighbouring areas, keeping an eye out for our students' safety and supporting the management team on campus.
- We run knife arch and drugs dogs events routinely, not in response to anything per se, but we do not wish to rest on our laurels.
- Any students involved in antisocial behaviour are referred to our disciplinary process, which can lead to exclusion. It is with a heavy heart that we have had to take this action with a very small number of students recently but we will not hesitate or waver in our responsibilities to ensure the college is a safe environment for all.

We work very closely with the local police to make sure that our college environment is safe for all. We have been an active partner in Operation Riverside along with several local schools, which has helped to support the safety of young people across the whole community. Two weeks ago, we welcomed police, both experienced officers and a team of fresh recruits who undertook a safety exercise on campus as part of their graduate activity. We are delighted but not surprised to report that they found nothing untoward on campus. Due to this excellent relationship and our joint commitment to a positive and safe environment, students will continue to see officers around campus, and we will continue to always help the police to keep the local area safe.

Ardleigh Green

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Paul Wakeling

Principal Havering Colleges
Group Deputy Principal
New City College

Gerry McDonald
Group Principal & CEO
New City College

It saddens me that local social media or 'news' reports often unfairly attribute the local disorder to our students. Our students do not deserve their positive reputation to be tarnished by a very small minority. I am totally committed to keeping our students safe, and to encourage high levels of behaviour and standards across our campus and beyond.

If you have any concerns relating to recent local incidents or our campus security, please contact me directly via ian.budge@ncclondon.ac.uk

Covid-19 campus arrangements

Colleges have been asked to remain open through the current winter lockdown period. This is because the Government believes, as do we, that students gain most from their educational experience if they are in the college environment. We have undertaken robust Covid-secure risk assessments and put in place several measures including:

- The requirement for all students and staff to wear a mask in common areas, unless they are exempt
- Increased cleaning with approved anti-viral products
- Hand sanitiser stations located at entry points and across the campus
- One-way systems in corridors and stairwells where this is manageable
- Larger classes are located in our largest rooms, and some large classes have been split.

That being said, we are also well set up to deliver engaging remote teaching and learning through our VLE and Microsoft Teams. Some students have already experienced this due to self-isolation of themselves, staff members or their peers.

Please see [this page of our website](#), including a set of Frequently Asked Questions which we are updating regularly.

It is also worth noting that whilst on local transport or frequenting shops in the vicinity of the college that students should, act responsibly, respect the Covid-19 regulations and not to 'socialise'. We are working with the Police and local businesses to ensure our students take these responsibilities to the community seriously.

Student Community Action Group

We have put together a socially aware and importantly 'active' group of students who are keen to get out into the local community and contribute in any way that they can. They are looking at administering our Foodbank including collections and deliveries, litter picks, gardening for the elderly, graffiti covering to name just a few. If you wish to support this venture or have some ideas on how they can use their time for the benefit of the community please do not hesitate to get in touch on the email address above.

Thank you for reading

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. Once again, I am thrilled to have taken up the position of Deputy Principal at Ardleigh Green. I am proud of our students and what they are achieving in this challenging time. I know that you are too.

Sincere best wishes



Ian Budge
Deputy Principal