

Dear student,

I know that this has been a very difficult time for many people since Covid reached the UK. There are too many reasons to list as to how this is impacting people in different ways, but I'm very conscious about the impact on you and your peers.

For many, your school education was interrupted and now, your learning with us is disrupted. You're probably concerned about what options and opportunities are available to you now and moving forwards, and it's undeniable that there are likely to be fewer jobs available for at least some of 2021.

I wanted to reassure you, though, that things are not as bad as you probably feel they are. We are currently in another lockdown, and it's imperative that everyone plays their part in bringing infection rates down and keeping one another safe. We all know what we need to do to help with this – follow the rules; hand washing, get tested if you have symptoms, socially distance, wear facemasks and stay at home unless it's essential.

I don't want to preach about this to you, but I do want to remind you that this pandemic will be over shortly, and life will get back to normal. It's probably taking longer than any of us expected, but you have a lot of years ahead of you and it's important that you use the time you have now to ensure you're well prepared for the years ahead. This includes giving yourself the best chance in the job market for when you are looking to leave us and make your next step.

Please do not waste this valuable time you have now. All of your learning with us will continue remotely. If you have issues and cannot access work remotely then you are able to continue attending our centres to use our IT facilities. If you're classed as a vulnerable student, then you should already be attending our centres.

I know some of you will have concerns about how safe centres are, and these concerns are probably worsened by what you're hearing in the news about the virus spreading – please speak to us about this if you have any concerns at all. All our centres are risk assessed and you know that we have measures in place that make the risk very small. Thankfully, we have had very few incidences of the virus at our sites – and where we have, they have been isolated promptly.

You can take this one step further by having a test even if you don't have symptoms, where that's offered in your local area. Our staff can support you with booking these tests.

However you engage in your learning, whether it's face-to-face, or remotely, the important thing is that you do continue with it. GCSEs are to be tutor assessed again this year, which means that your tutor will be looking at the work you're producing and giving you a grade based on that. It's, therefore, even more important that you attend sessions and produce the work being asked of you – there's no option for turning up at an exam and "winging it" this year!

If no other reason than the fact that there's not much else to be doing during a period of lockdown – you really might as well make the best use of the time you have to improve your job chances in

future!!! We still have the same high expectations of you in terms of attendance, timekeeping and the work you produce, but likewise, we're still here to support you in every step of your journey.

We have employed three wellbeing counsellors who can provide you support with mental wellbeing. We have additional maths & English tutors who can provide you with additional teaching support remotely for small groups, or even on a one-to-one basis. We are also working with a dyslexia specialist who can provide specific support for students with dyslexia.

If you're unable to access learning remotely and feel that you are unable to attend your centre, then please speak to us – we may be able to help and offer alternative solutions.

I know you probably have heard this from teachers and parents in the past, and I really don't want to sound as though I'm nagging you but please make good use of the time you have. These are terrible times for many reasons, but in terms of your education, this is an ideal time to push forward – time you won't get back; please ensure that you make the most of it.

If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to speak to the manager of the centre you attend – contact details can be found on our website; [www.junipertraining.co.uk](http://www.junipertraining.co.uk).

Yours sincerely,

Lesley Holland

Managing Director