



College Experience Day - 2 March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are excited that your son/daughter will be taking part in the College Experience Day on 2 March 2021. We hope that they enjoy it and find it valuable. College Experience Days are an informative, online programme that will support their decision making for their next steps. In these difficult times we also hope that it will keep them motivated and interested in their future study plans and also give them opportunity to meet virtually some fellow students and see some of the tutors as well as try out a range of lessons in which they are interested.

We will be using Zoom (Zoom is an online platform for video conferencing and collaboration) to deliver these sessions but certain protocols need to be in place in order for this to happen safely and securely for your son/daughter. In order to keep all students and staff safe, the following underlying principles are in place and by your son/daughter attending the College Experience, you are agreeing that you understand and accept that:

- Zoom links will be shared with your son/daughter at 9am on the morning of the event via the email address they have used to sign up to the event
- The Zoom session will be set up by Strode College
- Staff will be the first in, and last out of each session
- Your son/daughter has permission from their school to attend, if they are due to be in school on this day
- All participants will have their microphones muted at the beginning of the session

We sincerely hope that in using this technology, students will not only have an enhanced learning experience but also gain some of the sense of classroom community and routine which is challenging to maintain at this very difficult time. We recognise the positive impact of 'staying connected' on mental health and wellbeing and we hope that this activity may help in this aspect too. Please also take a look at our social media pages for tips and links about positive mental health and wellbeing.

How will it work?

Students do **not** need to create an account on Zoom. They will receive an email in the morning of the event with a link to the sessions. This email will be generated by the college. This information must **NOT** be shared with anyone else for security reasons and tutors will have the authority to remove anyone in the virtual classroom who should not be there.

The following protocols are needed in order to keep everyone safe and the event enjoyable. Students should:

- Reduce the possibility of interruption from family members/pets where possible.
- Join from an appropriate room for them to engage in their learning.
- Dress appropriately.

- Ensure that the background is suitable.
- Ensure their screen displays their actual name.
- Have video enabled for registration. Students may turn off their camera at the tutor's discretion.
- Have basic equipment to hand e.g. pens.
- Not use private chat function/posts unless contacting a member of staff.
- Behave in a sensible and respectful way
- Use the hands-up function
- Not record, screenshot or otherwise capture visual or audio from the lesson
- In the unfortunate event of a student sharing any captured material, this not be shared more widely and the incident should be reported to the college immediately.

FAQs

- *What do I do if I am concerned about any aspect of my child's experience using Zoom?*

Please contact your child's school or the college if you have any concerns about your son/daughter's experience. If your concern is of a safeguarding nature, whether that be because of Zoom or for any other reason, please call main reception 01458 844400 and let them know you have a safeguarding concern. They will direct your call the relevant member of staff. Alternatively, you can call the Strode College Safeguarding Hotline on 07825922241. The hotline is staffed between 8.00am – 6.00pm by the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), the Deputy DSL or a member of the Safeguarding Team.

More information about Zoom

Some of you may already be using Zoom or a similar platform in your working or social lives. It is an excellent way to stay connected. However, teachers are very clear that the use of Zoom at college is purely for learning and will not be used for any purpose other than teaching. If you are not familiar with Zoom and would like some more information, the following links may be useful and informative.

Zoom website - <https://zoom.us/>

NSPCC website – staying safe with Zoom - <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/zoom/>

Tutorials from Zoom :- <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/categories/200101697-Getting-Started>

Please do not hesitate to contact the college if you wish to discuss this or any aspect of your son/daughter's learning. On 01458844400 (09.30-15.30)