Dear Student,

I hope that you are coping well with the challenges that we have all been facing due to the Covid-19 epidemic, and will achieve good results this academic year.

This letter is for all students who are going to return to College in September, and those who are preparing to start their College studies, many of whom will be school leavers.

North Shropshire College has a great deal to offer to young people and adults who want to study in order to progress to university or pursue the career of their dreams. We offer a huge range of courses at several locations (full and part-time courses and apprenticeships) and at different academic levels: from Foundation Learning through to Higher Education (university level). This means that you can start your studies at the level and pace that suits your needs and progress as far as you desire.

I am sure you will agree with me that this has been a very unusual time. We had to close the College to most students on 23 March and have only recently been able to open again for a limited number of students. The vast majority of students have, however, with the support of their teachers and other staff, persisted with their studies and will succeed this year.

I want to reassure you that in September we will be ready for you to start or continue your studies with us. We are taking precautions to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all our students and staff by, for example, facilitating social distancing, regular hand washing, and the appropriate use of personal protective equipment. We will also do everything we can to give you as much learning time, with your teachers and student peers, at College as possible – and continue to comply with government guidance, especially advice from the Department of Education.

Should you have any queries or concerns about next academic year and are returning to College in September, please contact your teachers. If you are coming to College for the first time and require any guidance, please ring this number: **0800 440 2281**

I hope that you will have a good summer and look forward to welcoming you to College in September.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Peake Principal & Chief Executive