An Exceptional Year

While we all hope that the worst of the COVID-19 crisis will be behind us during this academic year, we do need to consider the possibility that social distancing measures will be in place at the start of the academic year or re-introduced during the course of the year.

We at The Islamic College believe the academic year 2021- 2022 to be an exceptional year, because of the uncertainties linked to the Covid-19 pandemic. Therefore changes being introduced for are still classed as temporary from a quality assurance perspective. As the changes are considered temporary, a streamlined approval process through Middlesex University will be used, rather than the established process for permanent changes to the programme. By recognising the year as 'exceptional', we are able to build on the changes to learning already introduced since 2019 with the breakout of the pandemic and further learn from new approaches before making permanent changes. Where the changes made for 2021- 2022 prove to be successful, and review further processes for making these permanent for future academic year.

Default Position (DfE Tier 1)
— Assume the College is fully open with no capacity constraints (face coverings may still be required).
— All programmes are in-house but could feature blended* delivery.
— Student attendance expected for timetabled in-house activities.
— Alert to possible future moves to Tier 2 (e.g. in the event of new variants, localised outbreaks etc.).

Fallback Position (DfE Tier 2)
— Assume the College is fully open but social distancing in place (1m + face coverings/social distancing measures).
— Group sizes limited by socially–distanced room capacities; lectures online.
— All programmes to have some in-house activity, but online equivalent for students who are unable to travel to campus.
— Some programmes may be largely delivered and assessed online.

*Blended learning involves the use of is in-house and online deliveries and assessments, its

technology enhanced (brightspace), inclusive and tutor-curated to support self-paced learning.