

**Friday, 10 September 2021**

### **First Minister Welcomes Students Back to College**

Shona Struthers, Chief Executive of Colleges Scotland, has joined the First Minister Nicola Sturgeon in welcoming college students back to learning and teaching for 2021. In a [video](#) released today, the First Minister highlights the importance of students returning to colleges as an important part of the recovery from the pandemic and urges students to get vaccinated.

The new academic year sees tens of thousands of students starting new full and part time college courses across Scotland, many entering further and higher education for the first time.

She said: “Along with the First Minister I want to wish all new and returning students across the country a very warm welcome to college for this year.

“Colleges are delivering world-class education and training in some of the most vital skills areas our country needs right now, from care and social work, computing and digital courses, to new skills like electric car maintenance.

“We know students have had some really tough times over the past 18 months and colleges are delivering education and training safely and with public health built into the return to learning and teaching. Students can expect their local college to have safety measures in place and at the same time deliver a really good experience on and off campus.

“Like the First Minister I would urge students to get vaccinated if they can to help keep their friends and family safe, and to protect their own health. Covid-19 sadly has not gone away and we can all play our part in protecting each other with regular testing, getting the vaccine, and being alert to symptoms.”

Find your local Covid-19 vaccination drop-in clinic on the [NHS Inform website](#).

**ENDS**

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