

17 September 2021 – Update for GC students and parents/carers

Dear all,

It's been wonderful to see all our returning and first-year students in College this week. I hope our new first-year students have enjoyed their first full week of teaching and our second-years have settled back into their studies.

Wellbeing update

Can I remind all students to speak to their Personal Tutor should they have any academic or welfare-related concerns. Additionally, a member of our safeguarding team can be contacted via this email address: safeguarding@greenhead.ac.uk.

A new resource has been added to the College's Moodle wellbeing page, details of which are accessible via the [24-hour helpline/text support button](#). [Night Owls](#) is a confidential support line for children, young people and their parents/carers who live in Kirklees, Calderdale, Bradford, Leeds and Wakefield. The service is available 8.00 pm to 8.00 am.

Sporting success

I am thrilled to report that Awais Ahmed, one of our new first-year students, has achieved the distinction of being named best under-17 cricket all-rounder in Huddersfield. Awais was presented with his trophy at a presentation evening last week.

Many congratulations to Awais who I feel sure will go on to achieve further sporting success!



Music concert

I am pleased to announce that the College will be presenting an evening of music featuring our A Level Music soloists. This will be taking place at Holy Trinity Church on **Thursday, 7 October** at **7.30 pm**. Tickets are £5.00 for adults (£3.00 concessions) and can be purchased through Wisepay.

Prayer room

A reminder to students that the location of the prayer room has changed this year to room **D5** (Dawson building). This facility is open each lunchtime, as well as at times when it is not being used for other activities during the day.

Wakefield Council debate

Greenhead College has been invited to send a team of students to participate in a debate with Wakefield Councillors and Council Officers on important environmental issues. This face-to-face event will take place on **Friday, 22 October** in the evening (time tbc).

There will also be several focus groups during September to gauge topics for discussion during the debate. These will take place either in College or online. If any students are interested, please email Stuart Strathdee (sstrathdee@greenhead.ac.uk).

Yorkshire and Humber climate action plan – public consultation

A public consultation on the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission's regional climate action plan opened on Monday, 6 September. For the online consultation, students and parents/carers are invited to review the headline actions and use the online form to express their views on what should be a priority for the Yorkshire and Humber region. There is an option to add comments on the actions which have been identified.

The online consultation will run until midnight on **Friday, 24 September**. It should take no more than 15-20 minutes to complete. Please click on this link for the [public consultation](#).

Arriving at and departing from College

Here are some general points regarding arrival at and departure from College:

i) Drop-off

As students and parents/carers will be aware, the College is very busy at the moment. Can I please request that parents/carers drop students off *outside* College and do not drive into the campus itself. This is causing considerable congestion on site, as well as presenting a potential health and safety hazard. Your assistance in this matter is very much appreciated.

ii) Bus and rail services

I also understand that many students are currently finding some local bus and rail services extremely congested. Please pass on your concerns to Leah Linden (llinden@greenhead.ac.uk) and I will contact the relevant transport provider.

Last year, a number of adaptations were made to local services as a result of us contacting the relevant transport company. Whilst I can't guarantee that further changes will be made, it would be good to make them aware of these issues. Can I also encourage students and parents/carers to contact the transport provider directly if they have concerns.

iii) Walking to and from College

This week we have had two incidents where students were approached by strangers on their way to College. We have, of course, reported both incidents to the police.

It is really sad that I should have to report on incidents such as this. However, can I ask that students remain vigilant to this please. I also feel it would be a good idea to walk in small groups wherever possible.

Students may also be interested in the website [ourstreetsnow](http://ourstreetsnow.com), which campaigns for change and for everyone to have freedom from harassment.

iv) Local residents

Can I please remind students that the College is located in a very busy residential area, and that they should respect the local community as they walk to and from the site. Additionally, they should take care when approaching the site as there is a busy highway on both Greenhead Road and Park Avenue.

COVID-19 updates

Finally, here are some COVID-related messages.

i) Latest COVID-19 figures

Second-year students and their parents/carers will already be aware that throughout last year, the College published figures at the end of each week showing the number of students and staff with confirmed COVID-19 and the number who are currently self-isolating.

Now that we have completed our first full week of teaching, our intention is resume publication of these figures on a weekly basis. Please note, however, that the College is no longer operating an internal track and trace system and the self-isolation figures are derived from students informing the College they are currently self-isolating.

Week ending 17 September 2021	Total
Number of students with confirmed COVID-19	12
Number of students self-isolating	10
Number of staff with confirmed COVID-19	0
Number of staff self-isolating	0

ii) Risk assessment

The College's COVID-19 [risk assessment](#) has been updated and can be found on our website.

iii) Trips abroad

Due to the continued uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, the College has made the very difficult decision not to run any trips abroad during this academic year (2021-22).

I realise this news will come as a disappointment to many students and parents/carers, particularly as a number of subjects had already started making preliminary plans to run trips abroad. However, we feel that this is a sensible, pragmatic decision to take given that foreign travel is likely to remain an ongoing issue over the coming months.

Please note that this decision will not impact on the World Challenge trip planned for 2022, which is being run by a separate company. We also plan to run a number of trips and visits to other parts of the UK during this academic year and aim to resume trips abroad in the 2022-23 academic year.

iv) Face coverings

As students and parents will be aware, face coverings are currently not mandatory for students and staff, either in classrooms or in communal areas. Although the government has removed the requirement to wear face coverings in law, it **recommends** they are worn in enclosed and crowded spaces where an individual may come into contact with people they do not normally meet.

As a College, we want to keep all our students and staff as safe as possible and would therefore strongly recommend the continued use of face coverings, both moving around College and in classrooms, but particularly in the **main hall** area.

v) Job opportunities for former students

Students may wish to alert older siblings to this message. Similarly, parents/carers whose children used to attend Greenhead College may wish to inform them of this job opportunity which has arisen at 'Medicare' and 'Friends of Honley', who are looking for new team members to join them.

Role Purpose:

- To ensure that patients' NHS records are updated accurately and in a timely manner, ensuring confidentiality at all times;
- To communicate with patients, volunteer and admin. teams in a friendly and professional manner.

Role Detail:

- Location: one of the vaccination sites (Honley, Clayton West, Slaithwaite, Birchencliffe) and/or pop-up clinics, such as schools across Kirklees;
- Hours: Monday to Saturday, generally 9.00 am to 6.00 pm;
- Salary: national minimum wage;
- Support: full training will be provided.

Please contact Andrew Penrose on +44 7881 493552 or apenrose@virginmedia.com.

My best wishes to you all,

Simon