

22 October 2021 – Update for GC students and parents/carers

Dear all,

As we approach the half-term break, I should like to thank students and parents/carers in ensuring a very successful first half-term. Although COVID-19 is still with us, it has been great to have all the students back in College and putting real effort into their studies. The behaviour and commitment of both year groups has supported the values of Greenhead College, and I have no doubt they will continue to thrive in the coming weeks and months.

Here are this week's messages:

Support over half-term

Should students require wellbeing-related support over half-term, our [Moodle wellbeing page](#) provides a list of extensive support. Additionally, this is the link to the [24-hour helpline and text message support](#).

'Think Positive: Talk Positive' – MoodMaster workshop

A promotional poster for the MoodMaster workshop. At the top, there is a small image of a potted plant with green leaves. Below this, the MoodMaster logo is displayed, consisting of three green leaves and the text 'MoodMaster®'. The text 'Coming Soon!' is written in a large, green, cursive font. Below that, the title 'BUILDING EMOTIONAL RESILIENCE' is written in a bold, green, sans-serif font. The poster then states 'This 5 week course will begin week commencing Monday 8th November.' followed by 'All sessions will be delivered in C2 Learning Support in the Conway Building'. Contact information is provided as 'contact: moodmaster@greenhead for more information'. At the bottom, the phrase 'INVESTING IN YOUR WELLBEING' is written in a bold, purple, sans-serif font. The background of the poster is light yellow with a dark purple border. There are also some decorative elements like a ruler and a pencil at the bottom corners.

How do you talk about yourself? Do you struggle with positive self-talk and often find yourself thinking negatively about yourself? If positive self-talk seems like foreign territory to you, it might be because it's difficult to know where to begin. It also might be a challenge to write a CV or personal statement.

In this group workshop, students will learn how to identify negative self-talk trends, how to use positive affirmations, how to step out of negative thoughts, and how to develop the habit of positive self-talk.

If students are interested in joining this workshop, they should attend one of the following drop-in sessions in C2:

- Tuesday 9th November, 9:55 am;
- Thursday 11th November, 1:35 pm.

Lunchtime rooms

A couple of weeks ago, I explained that we would be making available some rooms in Dawson building for students to use at lunchtime. From Monday, 1 November, the rooms that students can use during the lunch hour will instead be in **Rostron building**, specifically **R1, R5 and R6**.

Charity Day – Tuesday, 23 November

We are looking forward to running one of the most popular days in the Greenhead calendar next half-term – our annual Charity Day.

This year, we will be raising funds for Young Minds, an extremely important cause.

Students are encouraged to wear fancy dress on the day and will be receiving further details on this in Tutorial.

We have, however, taken the difficult decision to not run our Battle of the Bands competition in the main hall on Charity Day. This event usually attracts the full student body in the main hall and due to the size of our cohort this year, we feel it would be impractical and difficult to supervise this event.

We will look to run our Battle of the Bands in a different format later in the year.



Every penny raised goes towards the fight for young people's mental health.



Event: Charity Day!

Activities: Bake Sale

Raffle

Date: 23rd November

Contact: executiveofficers@greenhead.ac.uk



Donate to JustGiving page by scanning this QR code with your phone camera



youngminds.org.uk

This event is held in aid of YoungMinds, registered Charity in England (1016968) and Scotland (SC039700).

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

Take-up of our Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme this autumn has been tremendous, with 139 first-year students starting their Gold Awards.

Since the pandemic started, there have been many young people in the local area who have not been able to complete their Bronze and Silver Awards due to their centre being unable to provide expeditions. Here at Greenhead, our Award Scheme Coordinator, Barbara Farmer, has run five Gold expeditions throughout the last twelve months with help from external volunteers in order to assist 70 students to complete their Gold Award. With restrictions now being lifted, Barbara has expeditions planned for October half-term and over the Christmas holidays.

Netball success



Greenhead College's netball team has recently enjoyed some amazing success.

The team has been crowned Association of Colleges (AoC) champions for the Yorkshire and Humber region, and will represent the region in the national finals in Nottingham next April.

The team dominated the qualifiers and eventually won the final 17-5 against Huddersfield New College.

They are L-R Harriet Mackrill, Ella Dibden, Maisie Reading, Isabelle Kowalczyk, Grace Wragg, Abby Conway, Bella Cook, Grace Spurr, Jess Head and Holly Burnip.

This is an absolutely fantastic achievement – huge congratulations to the team!

'Believe and Achieve'

Over the last three weeks, Personal Tutors have been meeting first-year students on a one-to-one basis to get to know them better. One of the aspects they have discussed is whether a student fulfils our 'Believe and Achieve' criteria.

'Believe and Achieve' is the Greenhead College programme which aims to support eligible students to access top universities and receive lower offers. In addition, there are schemes available which aim to support students with apprenticeship aspirations. Eligible students will have been given a green leaflet during their one-to-one which identifies which criteria they meet. The main criteria are: that they are in receipt of a College bursary; have ever received free school meals; are the first in their family to apply to university (not including siblings); live in an area with low progression to HE; and come from a school with below-average Progress 8 score.

One of our most popular university schemes is the Leeds University Reach for Excellence programme. Successful applicants are invited to engage with a varied programme of subject-specific academic tasters, personal development workshops, and intensive research and study skills sessions. More details can be found at the [Reach for Excellence](#) website. The closing date for this scheme is Thursday, 18 November.

Information on all the university and employment schemes can be found on our [Believe and Achieve' Moodle page](#). If students have any questions, Personal Tutors will be happy to help.

COVID-19 updates

Latest COVID-19 figures

Week ending 22 October 2021	Total
Number of students with confirmed COVID-19	29
Number of students self-isolating	26
Number of staff with confirmed COVID-19	0
Number of staff self-isolating	0

COVID-19 testing during October half-term

As we approach our half-term break, can I encourage students to test twice-weekly at home over this period, as well as testing at home the evening before the return to College on Monday, 1 November.

Face coverings

Can I please remind students that it is our strong recommendation that face coverings should be worn in enclosed spaces. This will be especially important when we return from half-term, and more students are likely to remain inside during break and lunch-time.

Next term arrangements

A reminder that our term recommences on **Monday, 1 November 2021**. Please also be aware that there are two staff training days coming up next half-term on **Thursday, 25** and **Friday, 26 November**.

May I wish all students and their parents and carers, a very peaceful and restful half-term break.

Best wishes,
Simon