

7 January 2022 – Update for GC students and parents/carers

Dear all,

This has proven to be a challenging week, with a high level of absence across our student and staff community. Firstly, can I express my wish for anyone who is currently ill with COVID (or any other illness) to make a speedy recovery. For those who are looking after family members or relatives, you are also in my thoughts at this difficult time.

As of today's date, there has been one further amendment to the COVID-19 guidance beyond the ones I notified you of on 3 January – please see the COVID-19 update section on pages 3 and 4. Should there be any additional information released – or a change to the operating conditions of the College – I will let everybody know as soon as possible.

Here are this week's messages:

New building update

I am pleased to report that the planning application for our proposed new four-storey build on the site of the current car park was approved by the Strategic Planning Committee of the Local Authority on Thursday, 16 December.

The scheme had unanimous backing from local councillors. All being well, work will start shortly (precise date tbc), with a handover date of September 2023.

As with any building development, there will be some disruption, particularly at the beginning when our new car park is built on the west of the site. This will, sadly, necessitate the loss of our all-weather pitch for some time, although we will get a brand new one in due course. I will update with further developments shortly.

Prayer room update

You may recall that I recently used one of my weekly messages to provide a response to the recent A1 and A2 student survey. One of the points raised by Tutor reps. concerned the provision of a larger prayer room in College.

The College intends to provide accommodation for the sole function of it being a multi-faith prayer room. Developing a space as a fully-fledged prayer room will require the reallocation of staff and development of resources. Therefore, we anticipate the new prayer room will be up and running after the Summer break, although it may be possible to have this in place later this year.

Going forward, in order to ensure that we are able to provide adequate enough provision, a number of additional rooms may be used by students as a prayer facility. Please note that the following rooms and times are **in addition** to D5, which is available every lunchtime:

Monday period 3
Room C7

Tuesday period 4
Room M15

Thursday period 4
Room P7

Monday period 4
Room R23

Wednesday period 3
Room C7

Friday period 4
Room D5

Tuesday period 3
Room D4

Thursday period 3
Room R23

Friday period 5
Room C7

Can I also remind students that these rooms are not to be used for socialising, and that food and drink are not to be consumed in these rooms. Our Student Area Supervisors will be checking these rooms to ensure that students are being compliant with this instruction.

Rail update

It has been brought to my attention that the Northern rail service between Castleford to Huddersfield (which arrives at Huddersfield at 8.36 am) has been temporarily cancelled and replaced with a bus service, which reaches Huddersfield after 9.00 am. This is scheduled for at least the whole of January and has been caused by a shortage of drivers and COVID-related illness.

If you are a student who uses this service, could you please inform Leah Linden (llinden@greenhead.ac.uk), who will collate names and inform teachers.

Upcoming careers-related events

Here is a summary of our upcoming events:

A1 students

Thursday, 13 January:

Step into Healthcare degrees talk

Teams / Careers Library
(A2 students may also attend if they have not yet applied to University)
12.40 pm.

Thursday, 3 February:

Step into University of Cambridge talk (Lucy Cavendish Scheme)

Teams / Careers library
12.40 pm.

A2 students

Tuesday, 11 January:

C+K Careers mock interviews for apprenticeships (higher/degree/employment)

Room C4 (taking place all day).
These mock interviews are suitable for any career area under consideration.

Tuesday, 18 January:

Mock interviews for degree courses (any subject)

Conducted by the University of Huddersfield (one-to-one on Teams).
Preference will be given to those students who have not yet had a mock interview.

Both year groups

Tuesday, 25 January:

Step into student finance with the University of Huddersfield

Teams / Careers library
12.40 pm.

Sign-up sheets for all of these events are available in the Careers Library.

WhatsApp student chat groups

It has been brought to my attention that many students are part of a number of WhatsApp chat groups relating to their subjects in College. These are an excellent way of sharing course information with each other.

However, can I please ask that information is confined solely to subject content and not personal information about teaching staff.

Subject monitoring (A1 students only)

Subject monitoring is an opportunity for students to meet their teachers in College on a one-to-one basis (5-10 mins.) to discuss their current progress and effort. It is a chance to raise any questions about learning and discuss any support that may be needed. Targets will be agreed upon to submit onto the Cedar Individual Learning Plan (ILP).

There will not be any set lessons on these days, so teachers will be setting A1 students independent work to do in advance.

Thursday, 13 January for A1 student surnames A-K:

Teachers will be making appointments with A1 students for the following times:

8.45 am -10.45 am: surnames A-C
11.00 am - 1.00 pm: surnames D-G
1.55 pm - 3.55 pm: surnames H-K

Tuesday, 18 January for A1 student surnames L-Z:

The same procedures will apply as above with appointments made during the following times:

8.45 am -10.45 am: surnames L-O
11.00 am -1.00 pm: surnames P-S
1.55 pm -3.55 pm: surnames T-Z

For our A2 students, there will not be set lessons on these days and teachers will set independent work to do in advance.

COVID-19 updates

Confirmatory PCR tests

As you may be aware, there are new rules on when to get a confirmatory PCR test after a LFD positive test result. From Tuesday, 11 January, if individuals have no symptoms but receive a positive LFD, they do not need to get a PCR test to confirm and should begin self-isolation. If individuals do have symptoms, they should self-isolate and arrange to take a PCR test.

Can I also encourage students and parents-carers taking routine LFDs to report all of their results through the NHS system, especially positive ones, in order for public health teams to gauge how the pandemic is developing across the country.

Test kits

If students require a box of LFD tests, these can now be found at the front office. Students will be issued one box which includes three tests. Due to the current national shortage of tests, please only ask for a box when required.

On no account must any student come into College with COVID symptoms to obtain a test kit.

Latest COVID-19 figures

Week ending 7 January 2022	Total
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of students with confirmed COVID-19	110
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of students self-isolating	55
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of staff with confirmed COVID-19	12
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of staff self-isolating	3

Best wishes,
Simon