

20 May 2022 – Update for GC students and parents/carers

Dear all,

On Friday of last week, I was standing near the back gates of the College when a taxi driver pulled up and, having read about our Ofsted success in the local paper, wound down his window to thank me for the good work the College is doing!

Whilst it's wonderful to get such positive feedback from a member of the public, I've always felt it's our amazing students and staff that are the two key 'ingredients' that make Greenhead such a distinctive and successful place. With our A2 students leaving College today, this is an apt opportunity to thank them for their brilliant achievements over the last two years. (*I will say more about this on pages 4 & 5.*)

Before I come to this week's messages, can I thank everyone for making our 'Cosy Café' such a success last Friday (*see picture below*). The event for Mental Health Awareness Week was a great success and we raised £135.80 which will go to 'Young Minds'.



Here are this week's messages:

A1 students

A1 progress assessments

This week we released progress assessment grades to our A1s. Students and parents/carers may like to be aware how these progress assessments feed into deriving UCAS predicted grades. The College has a policy on how we produce these, which can be found [here](#).

The College's process to deriving these grades is **holistic**, in that it considers a range of factors; **evidence-based**, in that it draws on tangible data over a period of time; and **realistic**, in that the grades represent what the evidence tells us about the student.

Consequently, progress assessment grades are an important piece of evidence in helping us to derive students' UCAS Predicted Grades. However, these assessments are not AS Level examinations, nor are they mock exams. They are pieces of work which we use to help measure students' progress at roughly the halfway point of the A Level course.

Because our approach to deriving predicted grades is **holistic**, the progress assessments are just one piece of evidence in a much bigger pool of evidence which will help us to derive these grades.

Our approach is **evidence-based**, meaning that we will be using the progress assessment grades to help us derive the UCAS grades but we won't be placing all the emphasis solely on these pieces of work.

And our approach is **realistic** in that the progress assessments will tell us how we think our students are performing as they reach the end of their first year. However, we look at a range of evidence and formulate judgements on what we think students *can* achieve and what we think they *might* achieve.

We will be reinforcing these key messages after half-term as students prepare for their second year.

Subject monitoring

Can I remind A1 students that subject monitoring will be taking place next week on **Monday, 23 May** (surnames A-K) and **Tuesday, 24 May** (surnames L-Z).

Student information meeting on Microsoft Teams – Tuesday, 24 May 12.45 pm

Our '**PaWS (Project and Work Shadowing) – Step into your future**' week will be taking place between 13-17 June 2022.

In preparation for this, all A1 students must attend a **compulsory** Microsoft Teams meeting on **Tuesday, 24 May at 12.45 pm**. Students will receive a Teams invite, specific to their chosen career area, by Friday, 20 May and must check their College email and Teams calendar to ensure they have received this.

Any students in College for monitoring appointments around this time can attend the meeting by using a computer in G1, the Careers library or any other room where a computer is available, or be in the classroom where the teacher is presenting from (room details will be on your invite).

At the meeting, a member of staff who will be facilitating the week for a student's chosen career area will:

- confirm the timetable and outline the activities planned for the week, including our careers fair;
- clarify arrangements (especially for any trips) and expectations for the week;
- ask students to complete an emergency contact details/health form (which is needed for trips);
- answer any further questions.

Please note that there are many exciting trips and activities planned to take place outside College for our 'Step Into' week in June and timings for the College day may vary. Can parents and carers please ensure that they are fully aware of the timetable and of any planned activities or trips out of College so they know where their child will be. The support of parents/carers in ensuring prompt attendance, especially for any coach departures, is hugely appreciated.

Trip to the University of Hull

The Careers department is offering a trip to the University of Hull on **Wednesday, 22 June**. The University is offering taster sessions for subjects, campus tours, a look at student accommodation, information about clubs and societies, and will be providing free lunches for all who attend.

Approximately 40 places are available. Students will need to pay a deposit of £12 to secure their place and return a signed parent/carer consent form. They will be reimbursed the £12 if they attend on the day. Coaches will leave College at 8.00 am and return at approximately 4.00 pm.

Please apply by Wednesday, 25 May. Consent forms have already been emailed to all A1 students.

A2 students

Access to emails

Can I just remind A2 students that they will still have access to College emails and Moodle after today. Please keep in touch with us for any pastoral or careers-related advice.

Access to College

A2 students may still use either the library and/or the study area for independent revision. Students may also wish to come into College to speak to their Personal Tutor. However, A2 students should not come to College to socialise with friends.

Alumni

Can I also encourage our A2 students to sign up to our alumni page. The link for this can be found [here](#).

Autumn 2022 exams

Can I clarify for A2 students and parents/carers that there is no planned Autumn 2022 exam sitting for A Levels. Previous exam sittings in 2020 and 2021 were an exception as a result of Centre Assessed and Teacher Assessed Grades.

A Level results day

Results will be available on Cedar from **8.30 am on Thursday, 18 August**. UCAS Track will open at this time too. Staff will be available in College to offer careers and progression-related advice and guidance, as well as pastoral and wellbeing support. We will be sending students details of the support available on the day later this Summer.

We would love to see you on results day, so please come into College to celebrate your results with us!

A2 awards and reunion event

This will be taking place on the evening of **Thursday, 5 January 2023** at John Smiths Stadium. We will be sending out invites to this event early in the Autumn term.

Farewell to A2 students

Today marks the final day of teaching for our A2 students. Parents and carers may wish to read this message which I sent to these students earlier this week:

Dear A2 students,

As you start your last week in College, I would just like to say a few words to you all. Firstly, thank you for coming to Greenhead College. You have been an inspirational year group – one of the best we have ever had. I am proud to have known you and to have worked with you.

Your two years at Greenhead have not been as straightforward as I would have wished! If you remember, you started your A Levels in September 2020 by studying in an A-K/L-Z rota split and then began 2021 by studying at home due to the national lockdown. Nevertheless, you have fully applied yourselves to your studies throughout your two years with us.

There are always curveballs in life - what's important is that you reflect on your time at Greenhead and turn the experience of the pandemic to your benefit. What you have gained are skills and attributes that previous year groups haven't had the opportunity to develop in quite the same way. Coping strategies; learning online; working independently; sitting A Levels without having sat GCSE exams – these have all been precious life lessons and the most valuable thing you have is this experience.

Learning how to do all of these things hasn't been easy, but you have used these skills and experiences to roll with the punches and overcome any obstacles. If I can cite my own upbringing, I failed most of my O Levels when I was 16, so was never expected to make it as far as I did. But with a determination to keep going after a number of setbacks, I achieved my goals.

I have been moved and motivated by you, as I know our team of Ofsted inspectors were in March. The last thing the Lead Inspector said to me on the final day of the inspection was that you were amazing and an absolute credit to the College. You have demonstrated this in the classroom, on the sports fields, in your willingness to help charitable causes, and in the sense of community you have created in the College.

*Greenhead is outstanding because of **you** – our inspection success is down to people like you who choose to study here. Just keep going and you will achieve your goals. I have no doubt that in your year group are the next generation of leading thinkers; engineers; linguists; lawyers; creative artists; sports people; medics; MPs; business entrepreneurs, and more besides!*

We will still be here for you after your time at College finishes. Always remember, you are not alone – you will always be part of the Greenhead community. Please share any difficulties you have with us, your friends and, of course, your parents and carers.

Finally, can I please encourage you to show your appreciation to your tutor, your teachers and support staff this week. They have found the last two years extremely demanding and have worked very hard to adapt to new ways of working. They deserve a pat on the back and a 'thank you' from you for their public service will mean the world to them.

Thank you all again – you have been simply outstanding. All the very best for the future and my best wishes to your families.

Best wishes,

Simon