

## 24 June 2022 – Update for GC students and parents/carers

Dear all,

I hope you are well.

Today sees the conclusion of our A Level exams. Can I start this week's message by saying a hugely deserved 'well done' to all our A2 students for working so hard in the lead up to and during their exams. I am sure that the results they will achieve in August will enable them to progress to excellent destinations in higher education, apprenticeships and employment. Also this week, lessons have resumed for our A1 students and I hope these have been going well.

Here are this week's messages:

### Greenhead College Art show

On Tuesday, the College gave students, staff, governors, parents/carers and other visitors the opportunity to see the work of our talented A Level Art students. Can I express my thanks to our Art students and to the Art department for the superb work that was on display in this show.

Greenhead College has for many years been the launching pad of the next generation of artists and our annual Art show is an opportunity to celebrate the importance of the arts in education, as well as the outstanding quality of students' work.



### Sixth Form Colleges Association (SFCA) Art exhibition

Sustainability and climate change are the themes of this year's SFCA online Art exhibition. Students from across the country have produced some superb work which reflects their thoughts on how the planet is changing.

The exhibition can be located [here](#) and there is a filter to navigate to the work of Greenhead College students.

### **Sixth Form Colleges Association (SFCA) annual awards**

Greenhead College was runner up in the 'Enrichment and Employability' category at the SFCA's prestigious national awards ceremony held in Nottingham on Wednesday. Our entry focused on the College's broad-ranging extra-curricular offer and, in particular, the 'Real World Chemistry' enrichment which sees students work alongside University of Huddersfield staff on a wide range of topics which enable them to develop employability skills in Chemistry.

At our recent Ofsted visit, inspectors were very impressed with this particular enrichment activity and they also praised the scope and ambition of the College's wider extra-curricular programme. Can I express my thanks to Paul Burnham, who runs 'Real World Chemistry', and the students who have recently taken part in this. Additionally, many thanks to Neil Harper, who manages the College's enrichment programme, and all our staff who contribute to it.

### **Exams update (A2 students only)**

#### **i) A Level Chemistry**

Students and parents/carers may have seen the following message from AQA concerning paper 2:

*"You might have heard yesterday that some students may have seen our A-level Chemistry paper 2 before the exam. We're very disappointed to hear this as I'm sure you are too, especially after all the hard work you and your students have done to prepare for this exam.*

*We wanted to let you know that our exams integrity team is investigating this, to identify and take the necessary action against any individual(s) responsible for this breach, working with the police and action fraud where we need to.*

*Unfortunately, it wouldn't have been possible to replace this paper before the exam as we wouldn't have had enough time to replace it with a suitable alternative. We realise students might be concerned, but we'd like to reassure you that we have tried and tested things we can do to make sure no-one has an unfair advantage. This includes, once the paper has been marked, analysing how students have performed on this paper and identifying any performance that looks suspicious.*

*Our advice to students is always to steer clear of any exam papers offered online or by any other means, because trying to sell, buy, or look at such materials can be categorised as a form of malpractice."*

On Wednesday I was contacted by a student concerning a potential leak of paper 3. However, we do not believe there has been an issue concerning the integrity of this paper. Should there be any further developments in relation to the Chemistry papers I will, of course, let students and parents/carers know.

**ii) A Level Law**

AQA has published the following in relation to paper 2:

*“We’ve had some questions about why the topic of one of the 30-mark questions in our A-level Law Paper 2 wasn’t mentioned in the advance information, and we wanted to explain why this was the case.*

*One of the aims of advance information is that it shouldn’t narrow teaching and learning, so we couldn’t list all the topics on the exam paper.*

*Although we advised students to revise all topics and included the focus of one of the two 30-mark questions, we appreciate that many students expected us to include the focus of both questions – especially in light of guidance we gave before we released the advance information.*

*We didn’t mean to cause any confusion or stress for students and we’re sorry that we did. The fairest way to address this is for us to look at how students performed on this paper after we’ve marked it, and we’ll take any action necessary to protect them.*

*We’d encourage students to revise all the topics relevant to Paper 3 when they’re preparing for it.”*

We have also complained to AQA about papers 1 and 3, as well as paper 2. If there are further developments in relation to any of these exam papers, I will let everybody know.

Finally, could I wish you all a very good weekend.

Best wishes,  
Simon