



gc Greenhead College
Be exceptional

**Weekly message for
Greenhead College students
and parents/carers**

Friday, 16 December 2022

Dear all,

This is my final message of the term and, indeed, 2022.

Can I take this opportunity to thank our student community for working so hard during what has been a very busy and demanding term. Our first years have quickly settled into their subjects and our second years have continued to apply themselves to their studies. Well done to all students – I hope you find time to relax and unwind over the two-week break.

Can I also take this opportunity to thank our teaching and support staff for all that they do to assist and encourage our students. Whether this is in the classroom, in enrichment activities and trips, or in admin., supervision and technical support, our College staff have worked extremely hard over the last 15 weeks.

Here are a number of messages to conclude the term:

Strep A

As you will be aware, there has been an increase in strep A and scarlet fever infections affecting children. Although the infection is more serious in under-15s rather than 16-to-19-year-olds, the college can easily become a place where the disease circulates.

The main symptoms are:

- Sore throat
- Headache
- Fever
- A fine, pink or red body rash with a sandpaper feel.

If a student has these symptoms, they or their parents should contact their GP or NHS 111. If scarlet fever is confirmed, students must stay home until at least 24 hours after the start of antibiotic treatment.

To help prevent the spread of Strep A, UKHSA advises young people and staff to implement good [hand and respiratory hygiene](#) practices. For more information visit the [UKHSA website](#) or the [Education Hub](#).

Water safety

This week has brought very tragic news following the deaths of four boys who fell into an icy lake in Birmingham. Our thoughts are with the bereaved families and the local community at this extremely difficult time.

The Kirklees Water Safety Group has asked me to remind students about the risk of open water, especially since the extreme cold has resulted in many open water sites, such as the lake in Greenhead Park, being covered with ice.

Walking on iced over water is extremely dangerous. The ice is often thin, fragile and a person can fall through and become trapped under the ice very easily. The tragic loss of life in Birmingham last weekend shows how dangerous falling through ice can be and the effect of cold-water shock shouldn't be underestimated.

Support over the Christmas period

Students should seek to take a proper break after a very busy half-term to re-charge their batteries.

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

In terms of cost of living support, students and families may find this [help for households](#) information useful.

Key dates next term

Here is a reminder of some upcoming key dates over the next six weeks:

All students

- Start of term – **Wednesday, 4 January**
- Awards and reunion event for former A2 students – **Thursday, 5 January** (6.30 pm, the John Smith's Stadium)
- Volunteering fair – **Tuesday, 10 January** (12.00-2.00 pm, main hall)
- Students enrol for enrichment – **w/c Monday, 16 January** (deadline 20/1/23)
- GCSA meeting – **Thursday, 19 January** (lunchtime, room tbc)
- Young musician of the year competition – **Thursday, 19 January** (7.30 pm, Slaithwaite Civic Hall)
- Live lunch concert – **Friday, 20 January** (lunchtime, G17)
- Term 2 enrichment starts – **Monday, 23 January**
- 'The Big Gig' – **Friday, 27 January** (lunchtime, main hall)
- Half-term – **w/c Monday, 13 February** (College reopens Monday, 20 February)

A1 students

- Subject monitoring for A1 students (A-K) – **Thursday, 12 January** – work set for all other students
- Subject monitoring for A1 students (L-Z) – **Tuesday, 17 January** – work set for all other students
- Tutor monitoring for A1 students – **w/c Monday, 23 January** (until 24/2/23)
- A1 parents' evening – **Tuesday, 24 January** (5.30-8.30 pm – online)
- A1 parents' evening – **Thursday, 2 February** (5.30-8.30 pm – online).

A2 students

- Work set for students – **Thursday, 12 January** (due to A1 subject monitoring)
- Work set for students – **Tuesday, 17 January** (due to A1 subject monitoring)
- EPQ poster showcase for A2 students – **Thursday, 19 January** (4.00 pm, R20)

- A2 assemblies, containing important mock exams and Summer 2023 exams briefing – **w/c Monday 23 January** (all week, R20, times to follow shortly – attendance will be compulsory for all A2 students)
- Final UCAS deadline for September 2023 applicants – **Wednesday, 25 January**
- EPQ project deadline – **Friday, 10 February**.

Please also note that mock exams for all A2 students will run w/c **Monday, 27 February**, the second week back after half-term.

Rail station connections scheme

Finally, I recently attended a meeting to hear about the local authority's plans to make it easier to walk, cycle or travel by bus between Huddersfield Rail Station and key local places, including Greenhead College. The local authority is keen to maximise the participation of Greenhead College students in its consultation, which is open until **Friday, 23 December**.

Visit [consultation site](#) or scan this code, below, in order to:



- Read proposals for the Huddersfield Rail Station Connections scheme
- Fill in the online survey
- Provide detailed comments by email to yourvoice@westyorks-ca.gov.uk.

Finally, can I wish all students and their families a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy new year.

Best wishes,

Simon

