



Dear all,

I hope all our students and their families are well.

This week has seen subject monitoring take place for approximately half of our A1 cohort. (A reminder that subject monitoring for A1 students with surnames L-Z will take place on Tuesday, 17 January.) In addition, lessons have been continuing for A2 students in the run up to mock exams which will start the week commencing Monday, 27 February.

Here are this week's messages:

### **Online safety**

I have been made aware that there is currently a blackmail scam targeting users of some chat/messenger apps. This is a reminder to all students to be cautious about which apps and online communications they use and to make sure they research them thoroughly. Students are advised not to join platforms which do not allow filtering of contacts and to never share personal details with people they do not know.

There is a lot of conversation in the media at present about the online risks to young people, be it scams or the sharing of dangerous views, and this may be a good time for parents/carers to engage in conversations around their child's online activity, to ensure they are able to keep themselves safe.

If students and/or parents/carers wish to discuss this further or have any concerns, please contact the Personal Tutor or our safeguarding team ([safeguarding@greenhead.ac.uk](mailto:safeguarding@greenhead.ac.uk)).

### **Transpennine Express trains to Dewsbury**

I understand a number of students and parents/carers are concerned about the recent timetable changes announced by Transpennine Express.

The changes omit the stopping of two evening peak services at Dewsbury, leaving hourly gaps between 15:49 and 16:46 and 17:50 and 18:46. This leaves a reduced level of service between the two main towns and will impact on students' ability to get home.

The Local Authority is aware of this and I am currently in discussion with them to try and get a resolution to this issue. Should there be any further developments, I will let students and parents/carers know.

## Volunteering Fair

This week we held our first Volunteering Fair in College and invited a wide range of charities to promote their volunteering opportunities. Our visitors were thrilled at how well attended the Fair was and commented on how polite and engaged our students were. They look forward to welcoming many more new student volunteers to their organisations.

Can students please let us know if they are undertaking voluntary work so we can add this to their College record. Please see our [GVS Moodle page](#) for further guidance on this.



Pictured left to right:  
**Dial Wood Carriage Driving/Riding for the Disabled** – Holly Crawford,  
**Give...A Few Words** – Sharron Wilkinson,  
**Forget Me Not** – Charlotte Bridle,  
**The Welcome Centre** – Emma Greenough and Katie Peel,  
**Placement and Volunteering Manager** – Claire Barnes,  
**Kirklees Dementia Hub** – Charlene Friedl.

## Application to open a 16-19 free school

I would like to inform students and parents/carers of a potentially exciting development concerning our application to open a new **16-19 free school** in the local area.

When the latest round of free school applications was announced by the Department for Education last summer, the College decided to set up **The Conway Education Trust**, named after Kevin Conway, former Principal of Greenhead College who pioneered the nationally renowned Alps value added system. The Trust is working with the College to oversee the development of a new 16-19 free school, which would offer A Levels to approximately 300 students studying Maths, Further Maths, Chemistry, Computer Science, Physics, Business and Economics.

We would, of course, still be offering these subjects to students who choose to study at Greenhead. We would also continue to operate as a standalone Sixth Form College. If the application is successful, the free school would open in 2025 or 2026 and be a separate organisation to the College.

Having recently retained our outstanding judgement from Ofsted, we would like to broaden our excellent philosophy of education to more young people in Kirklees and beyond. There is an expansion in the number of post-16 students in the local area, which raises an important point about where these young people will study their A Levels in the coming years.

With over 600 additional students in the Kirklees system, Greenhead has an excellent track record to enable them to achieve outstanding results. However, there is already considerable pressure on the College for places and no further capacity on the existing site to take more students. We strongly feel we should be permitted to have this additional capacity to fulfil a critical local need.

The DfE has received 64 applications in total for 15 new free schools. The full list of applicants can be found [here](#). Separately to this, we have also made an application to the DfE for more classroom and laboratory space which could be built offsite. Successful applicants for both bids will be informed later in the spring.

I will keep students and parents/carers informed of any further developments. Should you wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Here are two messages for **first year** students and their parents/carers:

### **Parents' evenings**

Instructions for how to make appointments for the forthcoming parent/carer-teacher meetings for first year students are contained in a separate attachment to this message.

Parents/carers can download further guides from [this weblink](#).

### **PaWS: Step Into Your Future Week: 26-30 June 2023**



The aim of this week is to provide students with the chance to explore a potential career path in more depth and find out the next steps needed to progress towards that career. Students will participate in a week of bespoke, interactive workshops, talks, research activities and visits, engaging with a range of employers, Universities and Apprenticeship providers.

There are 30 different career areas students can select from. The workshops will be delivered in College and off-site, with a mix of both in-person and virtual sessions. This will be a unique opportunity, with the chance to engage with and learn directly from the experts.

A reminder that all first year students must complete the **PaWS: Step Into Your Future Week** application form by **Wednesday, 18 January**. Full information is available on our [Moodle page](#).

Please see Claire Barnes or Sophie Jagatia in the PaWS Office (by the green Conway stairs near the Tutor corridor), should you have any queries, or email [paws@greenhead.ac.uk](mailto:paws@greenhead.ac.uk).

Best wishes,

Simon