



Weekly message for Greenhead College students and parents/carers

Thursday, 19 October 2023



Dear all,

I hope this week has gone well for all students. Here in College we are gearing up for the handover of our new Hirst building, which I will say more about later in this message. Admissions tests have also been taking place for some of our A2 students this week – I hope these have gone smoothly for all concerned.

Here are this week's messages:

MESSAGES FOR ALL STUDENTS AND PARENTS/CARERS

College closure

A reminder to students and parents/carers that the College will be closed tomorrow (**Friday, 20 October**).

Opening of Hirst building

I'm thrilled to report that following an 18-month construction phase, our new £25m Hirst building is going to be handed over to us in just over two weeks' time. Named after Professor Judith Hirst, a former Greenhead College student who became a pioneering woman in science at the University of Cambridge, the resource will contain dining and social space for all students, as well as classrooms and labs for the teaching of Biology, Chemistry, Politics and Psychology.

The move across to Hirst will be a time-consuming and challenging process, made more complex because we're obtaining the building at the end of the half-term break and not during a lengthy holiday period, such as the summer. Therefore, can I remind students of the arrangements for next week and the first week back after half-term, which were issued earlier this week – *please see page 2*.



COLLEGE TEACHING ARRANGEMENTS DURING THE DECANT TO THE HIRST BUILDING

DATE	TEACHING ARRANGEMENT
Monday 23 October	College <u>open</u> as normal to all students You <u>must</u> attend College Biology, Chemistry, Medical Science, Politics and Psychology stream pre-recorded lessons on Teams
Tuesday 24 October	
Wednesday 25 October	
Thursday 26 October	College <u>closed</u> to all students A2 subject monitoring online A1 students set work to complete
Friday 27 October	
HALF TERM	
Monday 6 November	College <u>closed</u> to all students All subject lessons and tutorials streamed on Teams*
Tuesday 7 November	
Wednesday 8 November	College <u>open</u> as normal to all students You <u>must</u> attend College Biology, Chemistry and Medical Science stream pre-recorded lessons on Teams
Thursday 9 November	
Friday 10 November	
Monday 13 November	All teaching returns to normal

*Biology, Chemistry, Medical Science, Politics and Psychology will provide pre-recorded lessons on Teams.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

- Your enrichment supervisor will inform you directly if your enrichment activity can run over this period.
- Your EPQ supervisor will discuss the arrangements for EPQ lessons with you.

PLEASE TAKE A PICTURE OF THIS POSTER ON YOUR PHONE

IF YOU HAVE ANY SAFEGUARDING CONCERNS DURING COLLEGE CLOSURE

Email: safeguarding@greenhead.ac.uk

Please bear with us during the first weeks after half-term. As with any new building, there are likely to be some initial 'snags', as well as additional works that will need to be carried out over time. However, having recently been in the new building, I can safely say that it looks amazing and will be a wonderful place in which to study and socialise.

When we obtain access to Hirst, the next phase of the building works will commence, which will involve the demolition of the current science block and the main hall/kitchen area. Details of this will be communicated to students and parents/carers shortly.

Change in the law

I should like to alert students and parents/carers to an upcoming change in the law concerning the possession of nitrous oxide. Details of this were covered in the media this week and can be found on the [BBC News](#) site.

This is a topic which will be discussed in a forthcoming Tutorial lesson with students.

Academic Skills Weekly Top Tip

This week's Top Tip concerns independent learning.

To fulfil your potential at A Level, you must study independently outside of your timetabled lessons for each subject. Your independent study should consolidate and deepen your understanding of the topics you are studying in class. Through independent study, you will also develop subject-specific skills, master concepts and, in turn, feel more confident applying your knowledge. At Greenhead, we recommend 4-5 hours of independent study per subject every week.

What can independent study include?

Revisiting/rewriting class notes
Using apps such as StudySmarter, Uplearn or Seneca
Reading around the topic you are learning in class
Listening to relevant podcasts
Reading ahead to find out about upcoming topics
Creating posters and zines to summarise topics
Reading a newspaper article relevant to the topic
Visiting a place of interest or museum to enhance your understanding
Watching a documentary or film related to the topic
Making mind maps or flashcards about the current class topic

Research has shown that it takes thirty days to establish a habit so if you make 12 hours of study a week your habit for a month, you should soon establish a good study routine. (The A Level Mindset, Oakes & Griffin, 2021.) Therefore, we recommend planning your study time so you know exactly what you are doing in each study period, and you can get started speedily with all the resources you need without wasting time.

MESSAGES FOR ALL PARENTS/CARERS

Conflict in the Middle East

As you'll be aware, the conflict in the Middle East is a developing and, indeed, worsening situation, and many students will be deeply affected by the images they are seeing in the media. Our central focus is on students' well-being and welfare, and to promote the College's ethos of mutual respect, tolerance and understanding.

I thought it would be useful for you to see this message which I sent to all students earlier this week:

I know that for many students and staff at Greenhead College, the last week will have been very difficult due to events in the Middle East. Many in our community will be concerned about the terrible loss of life in both Israel and Palestine. Some students and staff may be directly impacted by the conflict; others may be affected indirectly having watched images in the media.

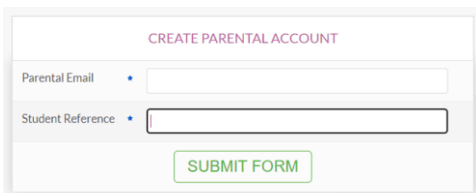
Could I encourage anyone requiring additional support and guidance to contact their Personal Tutor, the safeguarding team (safeguarding@greenhead.ac.uk) or a senior member of staff.

Two of the key principles of Greenhead are 'Every person matters' and 'Create a safe space to grow and flourish'. Therefore, I should also like to remind everyone of the importance of mutual respect, tolerance and understanding. As part of our commitment to these principles, we are supporting 'Show Racism the Red Card' in College this week and you are invited to show your support by wearing something red.

At all times, I would urge all students to report any incidents of racism, intimidation or harassment to either their Personal Tutor, the safeguarding team (safeguarding@greenhead.ac.uk) or a senior member of staff.

Cedar access

Finally, should any parent/carer not have a Parent Account on Cedar, instructions can be found in our [CEDAR Parent Guide](#).

A screenshot of a web form titled "CREATE PARENTAL ACCOUNT". It contains two input fields: "Parental Email" and "Student Reference", each with a dropdown arrow on the left. Below the fields is a green button labeled "SUBMIT FORM".

[CEDAR Parent Guides - Greenhead College](#)
Creating a Parent Account for CEDAR Parents can create a CEDAR account at the following url:
<https://cedar.greenhead.ac.uk/auth/account/create>
After
www.greenhead.ac.uk

Best wishes to you all,

Simon Lett,
Principal