



Weekly message for Greenhead College students and parents/carers

Friday, 12 January 2024



Dear all,

I'd like to start my first weekly message of 2024 by wishing all our students and their parents/carers a Happy New Year. I hope the coming year is a rewarding, happy and peaceful one for you all.

I am conscious that these early weeks of term can be difficult for some students. It won't be long before it starts to get lighter and milder but, in the meantime, students should not hesitate to get in touch with us should they have any academic or welfare-related concerns. Students and parents/carers should speak to the Personal Tutor in the first instance. There is also our safeguarding email address, which is safeguarding@greenhead.ac.uk.

Here are this week's messages:

MESSAGES FOR ALL STUDENTS AND PARENTS/CARERS

Children's Commissioner Ambassador

I am very pleased to announce that A2 student **Zara Maya Ullah** has been chosen to be an Ambassador for the Children's Commissioner for England. Zara was chosen from a high calibre of applicants because of the passion, commitment and creativity demonstrated to improve the lives of children in England.

The Ambassadors' programme is a new opportunity, launched as part of the Children's Commissioner's 'Big Ambition' campaign, to give young people the chance to represent the views of their peers. Zara will play an integral part in driving forward the changes that young people want to see from the next government as we approach the General Election.

The 'Big Ambition' online survey will let the Children's Commissioner know what you enjoy about College, your community, family life, and the wider world, and what you want policymakers and government to focus on to help you achieve your future hopes and ambitions.

[This link](#) is open until **Friday, 19 January**. Can I please encourage all students to complete this important survey.

Term 2 enrichment

A reminder to all students that they should be enrolled on at least *one* enrichment activity for term 2. This could be a new activity or an enrichment that is continuing from last term. Students should only use the enrichment enrolment page on Moodle to enrol for a *new* activity.

[This site](#) will go live from 11.10 am to 12.00 pm on **Monday, 15 January** and again at 12.45 pm that same day. Students have until 9.00 am on Friday of next week to enrol.

Enrolment is on a 'first come, first served' basis. Term 2 activities start on **Monday, 22 January** and run until the end of term 2.

Greenhead Volunteering Fair

This will take place on **Tuesday, 16 January**, from **12.00-2.00 pm** in the **Main Hall**, Hirst building. It is open to all students to attend.

We would really encourage students to come along and find out the latest volunteering opportunities in Kirklees and Calderdale. Volunteering is a fantastic way to support the local community whilst gaining valuable employability skills and looks impressive on CVs/application forms.



Academic skills weekly top tip

This week we are encouraging you to be a proactive learner.

Being proactive means creating or controlling a situation rather than just responding to something. In terms of study, this means actively seeking out information and enhancing your learning by doing more than is asked of you.

If you work in a reactive way, you only do what is set for you and what the situation demands. It is important to do this, but you also need to create your own work plan or revision strategy.

At the start of this new term, try making every effort to be proactive by going above and beyond in preparation for A2 mocks or A1 assessments.

Try out a few of the following:

Ask questions for clarification in lessons	Talk to a friend about complicated topics	Write an essay in timed conditions
Watch a relevant documentary to find out more and make connections	Put in time over the weekend to review a difficult topic	Use feedback to make improvements and challenge yourself to re-do a piece of work
Seek out additional exam questions and mark schemes, even if they are from different exam boards	Become a mentor so you can teach someone else	Have a go at writing exam style questions and marking your own answers
Visit the library to use textbooks and articles to deepen understanding	Set 'personal bests' to beat when submitting work	Make contributions in lessons such as volunteering answers or offering opinions

Sanitary products

Can I remind students that sanitary products should be disposed of in the bins provided and not in toilets. We have had to close a number of toilet facilities recently due to blockages.

Similarly, students should not dispose of general litter in the designated sanitary bins.

Latest sporting fixtures

Here is our latest enrichment scorecard. Many thanks to all those students who took part:

GC Team	Score	Opposition	Score
Netball Third Team	15	New College Pontefract	26
Men's Football First Team	6	Bishop Burton Third Team	0
Men's Football Second Team	2	New College Pontefract	3

MESSAGES FOR A1 STUDENTS AND PARENTS/CARERS

A1 subject monitoring

Subject monitoring will be taking place for A1 students on **Thursday, 18 January** and **Tuesday, 23 January**.

Students with **surnames A-K** will need to attend College on 18 January and those with **surnames L-Z** on 23 January.

'Step Into Your Future Week' application form

A reminder that the [application form](#) for A1 students to select their option for June's 'Step Into Week' will be open from **Monday 15** to **Thursday, 18 January** on Moodle.

All A1 students must complete this form, even if they plan to organise their own placement.

HEE session

This week we successfully hosted the first academic talks on behalf of Cambridge University's Higher Education Extension scheme. 15 different subject talks were delivered to over 400 students from Greenhead College and eight other schools/colleges from across Calderdale and Kirklees.

The next talks will be held on **Tuesday, 6 February**.

MESSAGES FOR A2 STUDENTS AND PARENTS/CARERS

Ofqual student guide 2024

This [student guide](#) has been published by Ofqual and will provide A2 students and their parents/carers with information about this year's arrangements for exams. It also explains what support is in place when taking exams and assessments.

Set work

A reminder that work will be set for A2 students during the time A1 subject monitoring takes place on **Thursday, 18 January** and **Tuesday, 23 January**.

Best wishes to you all,

Simon Lett,
Principal