



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

**Friday, 19 January 2024**



Dear all,

I hope everything is continuing to go well with students' studies. Well done on making it in through some very cold and icy weather to get to College.

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, 23 January.**) In addition, lessons have been continuing for A2 students in the run up to mock exams which will start the week commencing **Monday, 26 February.**

Here are this week's messages:

### **MESSAGES FOR ALL STUDENTS AND PARENTS/CARERS**

#### **Bad weather**

Although the weather is turning milder this weekend, can I remind students to take care when walking on the footpaths on campus and in surrounding areas, as these can still be slippery.

I have received reports from staff that they have had to intervene to prevent students walking on the frozen pond in Greenhead Park. The lake is not fully frozen and where there is ice it is quite thin, so this is potentially very risky behaviour. Can I please request that students do not put themselves in danger by going out onto the ice in this way.

## Counselling resources on Moodle

Here is a step-by-step guide to requesting a counselling appointment:

College Links

Student Services	Step Into Your Future Programme	<b>Book an Appointment</b>	Believe & Achieve	Library Resources
Exams Department	Enrichment Enrolment	Counselling Services	GCSA	Wellbeing
Moodmasters	Academic Skills Service	Technical Guides & Documentation	GL Assessment	

1. Go to Moodle and select 'Counselling Services'

2. Select 'Request an appointment'

3. Select 'Online form'

4. Read this

5. Complete the form. Providing as much availability as possible

6. Press submit.

## Academic skills weekly top tip

This week's top tip concerns blurring.

Start by reading over the content in your notes and then put the information away. Take a blank piece of paper and write down everything you can remember about the topic, non-stop, with no editing. Now get your notes out to see if you missed anything and, if you did, add it using another colour, so it's easy to see what you need to remember next time. Repeat this process until you remember everything.

Blurting is an active recall method. It is effective because you are going over and over information which helps store it in your long-term memory, so it should be easier and faster to recall it in an exam.

The following points are useful when blurting:

Make sure your notes are in good order for the initial reading	Don't spend long on presentation or layout	Use two distinct colours	Try saving time and paper by using the 'dictate' option on Word to record your blurt
Blurt in short bursts	Take lots of breaks, as it is quite an intense revision method	Invest in a whiteboard, a sustainable study option	If you are overwhelmed by blank paper, write headings, or create text boxes to give you some structure

Take time to identify which aspects of the blurt were recalled in detail and which areas might need work, so you know where to focus your additional revision.

If you have never blurted before, try it today.

### **Latest sporting fixtures**

Here is our latest enrichment scorecard. Many thanks to all those students who took part, especially the Netball Team, which had a long journey to and from Hymers College in Hull:

GC Team	Score	Opposition	Score
Netball First Team	<b>30</b>	Hymers College First Team	<b>39</b>
Netball Second Team	<b>23</b>	Hymers College Second Team	<b>13</b>
Basketball	<b>59</b>	New College Doncaster	<b>68</b>

### **MESSAGES FOR A1 STUDENTS AND PARENTS/CARERS**

#### **Executive Officer elections**

Each year, 10 students are voted to become Executive Officers and oversee the GCSA (Greenhead College Student Association). The Student Association is an essential body that all students are part of. Officers are tasked with starting and running projects and events, and feeding back students' queries and concerns.

Applications are now open for A1 students.

A stall will be set up **today** at break and lunchtime for A1 students to ask questions, find out more about the Executive Committee and register as a candidate. Students can also find out more about the roles on the Committee, the election process and tips for candidates.

Should students have any questions about the election or the GCSA more generally, please contact [executiveofficers@greenhead.ac.uk](mailto:executiveofficers@greenhead.ac.uk).

### **Black British Access Programme – for A1 ‘Believe and Achieve’ students**

Sheffield Hallam University will be attending College on **Tuesday, 30 January** at lunchtime in room M18 to introduce their new mentoring programme called Black British Access. This is a widening participation opportunity for Black British students to meet mentors and ambassadors from the university and find out more about what Sheffield Hallam has to offer.

For further details, please see the ‘Believe and Achieve’ page on Teams. If you would like to attend this session, please email Joanna Prophet ([jprophet@greenhead.ac.uk](mailto:jprophet@greenhead.ac.uk)).

### **Video parent/carers meetings for A1 students**

Parents/carers of A1 students are invited to make appointments for forthcoming parent/carers and teacher meetings. These will be bookable online and then held by video meeting on **Tuesday, 30 January** and **Thursday, 8 February**.

To make your appointments please login at: <https://parents-booking.co.uk/greenhead>

Booking will be open from 12:00 pm on Tuesday, 23 January until 12:00 pm on the day of the parents’ evening, i.e. 12:00 pm on 30 January and 12:00 pm on 8 February.

To login you will need to enter:

- Your first name and surname
- Your child’s preferred name, surname and date of birth.

The details you enter must match those we have on record for you and your child. You can check what these are on your Cedar account.

Please ensure you select the correct parents’ evening date, as both are listed when you go into the booking pages. After you have made your appointments, you can choose to print or receive an email confirmation. If a member of staff’s name doesn’t appear when you try and book a date, then you may have to try an appointment on the other date as there are limited bookings available.

Where parents/carers are in different places and both wish to attend, there is a way to book onto the same online meeting to save on appointment space. Instructions for this feature can be found here: <https://www.greenhead.ac.uk/parents-evening-booking-instructions>.

On the day of your appointments, you will need to log in at the website address shown in the second paragraph (above). You will be able to join the video meeting room 10 minutes before your appointments are due to begin, where you can wait for your appointments.

If you have a specific pastoral concern about your child that we are not already aware of and would like to speak to their Personal Tutor, please contact them via email and book an individual appointment. Please note this appointment will not be during parents’ evening but at a mutually convenient time. (Email addresses use the Tutor’s first initial followed by their surname e.g. John Brown would be [jbrown@greenhead.ac.uk](mailto:jbrown@greenhead.ac.uk).)

## MESSAGES FOR A2 STUDENTS AND PARENTS/CARERS

### Mock exam timetable

Here are the details regarding next month's mock exams for A2 students:

Date		
<b>Monday, 26 February – Friday, 1 March</b>	<p>During the mock exam week, <b>Art</b> students will be expected to complete two hours on the observational tasks provided for their Unit 2 submission.</p> <p>Students need to sign up on the timetable provided by their teacher and notify the teacher when their two-hour slot begins.</p> <p>Further information will be given out to Art students prior to the mock exam week.</p>	
Date	9.00am start	1.30pm start
<b>Monday, 26 February</b>	<b>Business</b> (2 hours) <b>Religious Studies</b> (2 hours) <b>Politics</b> (2 hours) <b>English Language</b> (2 hours 30 mins) <b>Film Studies</b> (2 hours 30 mins)	<b>Physical Education</b> (2 hours) <b>English Literature</b> (2 hours 30 mins) <b>English Language/Literature</b> (2 hours) <b>Statistics</b> (2 hours)
<b>Tuesday, 27 February</b>	<b>History (Medieval)</b> (2 hours 30 mins) <b>History (Modern)</b> (2 hours 30 mins) <b>Computer Science</b> (2 hours 30 mins) <b>Geology</b> (2 hours)	<b>Psychology</b> (2 hours) <b>Further Maths</b> (2 hours)
<b>Wednesday, 28 February</b>	<b>Law</b> (2 hours) <b>Classical Civilisation</b> (2 hours 15 mins) <b>Geography</b> (2 hours) <b>AS Further Maths</b> (1 hour 40 mins) <b>Music</b> (2 hours)	<b>Maths</b> (2 hours) <b>Medical Science DBR (Diploma)</b> (2 hours NEA)
<b>Thursday, 29 February</b>	<b>Physics</b> (2 hours) <b>Sociology</b> (2 hours) <b>French</b> (2 hours 30 mins) <b>German</b> (2 hours 30 mins)	<b>Chemistry</b> (2 hours 30 mins) <b>Music Technology</b> (2 hours 15 mins)
<b>Friday, 1 March</b>	<b>Biology</b> (2 hours) <b>Drama</b> (3 hour rehearsal) <b>Spanish</b> (2 hours 30 mins)	<b>Economics</b> (2 hours)

Further details:

- A2 students will sit one mock exam paper per subject.
- Attendance will be compulsory.
- Most mock exams will be between 2 hours and 2 hours 30 minutes (plus extra time for those who are eligible).
- Exam halls will be formally set out in order to give students an experience akin to an actual external exam.
- Students must sit in their allocated seat.
- Bags, mobile phones, ear pods and watches are not allowed, mirroring the conditions in external exams. Belongings should be left in lockers or the drop-off organised with the relevant subject department; they should not be brought to the exam room.
- Students should bring the necessary materials with them into the mock exam (e.g. pens, pencils, calculator, etc.)
- Students are advised to dress warmly. However, caps, hats and bulky coats should not be worn in the mock exam.
- Students with learning support requirements will be accommodated to meet their needs (e.g. extra time, use of a computer, smaller room, etc.)
- Any on-the-day queries regarding entitlement should be raised with the invigilator and then followed up with the Additional Learning Support team, if needed.
- Students will be able to log in to Cedar to view their individual exam timetable. This will display the exam room and desk number for each mock. The Exams Office will let students know when timetables are available to view.
- A small number of students have clashes between their mocks. The Exams Office will contact these students directly to let them know how their clash will be resolved.
- The Exams section of the College website contains lots of useful information related to exams processes and procedures.
- Grades will be released to students on **Thursday, 14 March** at 11.00 am.

Best wishes to you all,

Simon Lett,  
Principal