

1st May 2020

NSFC4ME

The weekly update on college life



THE LATEST UPDATE FROM NSFC PRINCIPAL GERARD GARVEY

*Now is the time when our
students plan for their future*

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Teachers, coaches and support staff have continued to be busy over the last week despite the building being closed. We continue to monitor engagement from students and it is wonderful to see them continuing to complete work and seeking help from teachers where it is needed. Thinking about longer term plans can be an important part of staying motivated through these challenging times. Therefore, it is fortunate that the summer term is traditionally when we encourage our first year students to further develop their plans for the future.

The majority of A Level students nationally progress to university and students at NSFC are 10% more likely to progress to university than students with similar GCSE results elsewhere. A small but increasing number of students take up higher and degree level apprenticeships after NSFC, and these limited and highly competitive opportunities are also important to consider.

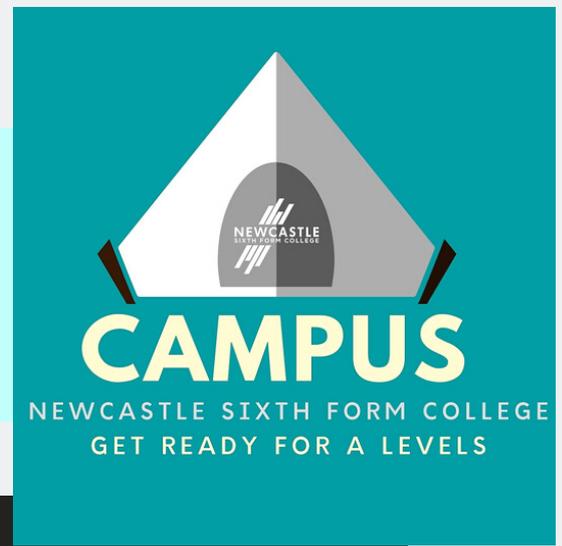
The summer term is a really key time to research options and an incredible range of opportunities can be explored at www.unifrog.org. Personal Development Coaches will also be highlighting online open days and other events. The coming weeks are also an important period for students to start developing their personal statement for university admissions or as a starting point for apprenticeship applications.

We continue to be here to support students and their families and I would encourage you to contact teachers and coaches directly if you have any questions about your plans after college. We can also be contacted through the office by email at nscfoffice@newcastlesfc.ac.uk and by phone 07739 266223.

Yours faithfully,

Gerard

CAMPUS ONLINE GOES LIVE



LAUNCH - A NEW WEBSITE FOR STUDENTS WHO WILL BE JOINING US THIS AUTUMN

This week we have launched our first ever 'Applicant' website to offer support, assistance and some summer tasks to those who want to attend NSFC this Autumn.

www.nsfc-campus.com

In any normal year, we would be holding regular open events, master class sessions, college tours, careers events at schools, consultations and interviews and in June we would have held a very large Taster Day. As we all now know, this is not a normal year. So, we have taken the campus online.

Subject Tasks and Projects

We have set up a series of tasks and challenges for students to allow them to start their journey to A Levels. This will offer many applicants some new and challenging work to do whilst they await their GCSE results. We are offering some small prizes for outstanding work, and whilst we cannot mark and grade these submissions (it is just for fun and practice) we hope that students take advantage of the wealth of information and materials available.

Ambassador Page

We have a detailed Q&A to answer the dozens of questions we normally receive from prospective new students at this time of year. The site is being supported by existing first year students, with case studies, articles and an ambassador led forum for applicants to have their questions answered by existing students. We hope this will build the feeling of a community, which is so hard to achieve when we are working remotely, and we will be extending this activity in coming weeks, with new content and student videos.

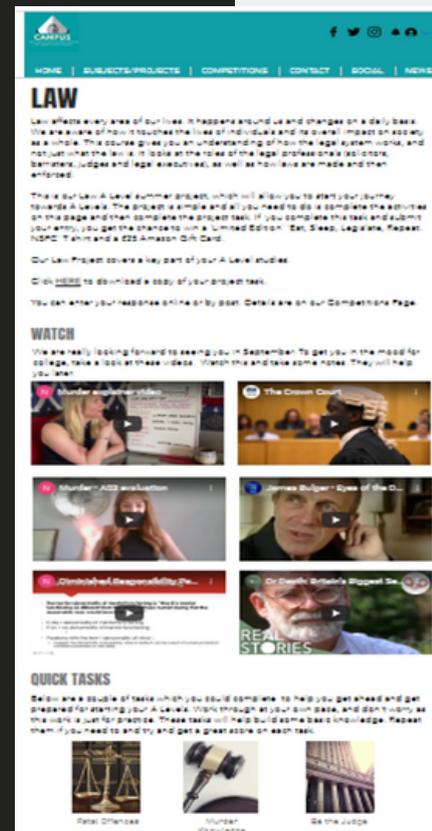
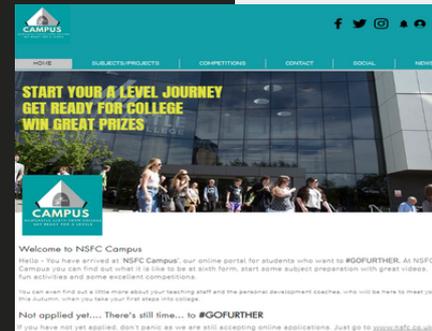
Competitions

For those applicants brave enough to send us their completed work, we wanted to reward the excellent work, and so will be providing regular updates, and materials, with the best student submissions being given limited edition merchandise and gift vouchers.

Advice and Guidance

It is important that our new students feel supported as they start their journey to A Levels, so we have provided support and advice links to other sites, some guidance on how to make the best use of their time, and will continue to use this site as a means of updating students on enrolment as the summer progresses.

This site is a work in progress and has had a huge amount of contributors from across the college. We hope that existing students will also visit the site, and if you would like to get involved, please email enquiries@newcastlesixthformcollege.ac.uk as our existing students are our very best advertisements and your contributions will be most welcome.



ONE MINUTE INTERVIEWS

We ask NSFC staff three quick questions to give you a little insight into what makes them tick.....

What was the most memorable moment of your graduation from university?

So I graduated later than my class, in the winter as I had been unwell in the last term. So I was very sad in the lead up to it, no friends/ classmates to celebrate with, the department was not in attendance and it was a very small affair. I walked up to the stage to receive my certificate and as I turned around to smile for the typical 'proud parent' photo I saw the, the head of the sociology faculty. No robes, just her normal clothes. She'd raced over from teaching just to see me graduate. I knew she was proud of me, and I was proud of myself.



Kate McDermott
Sociology

What was the strangest reason ever given to you by a student for missing a homework deadline?

The good old "I dropped it in a puddle"- one time she actually had dropped it in a puddle, we dried it out for 2 days and she still asked me to mark it!

Do you have any superstitions? (As it is the 1st of the month, some people say 'White Rabbits' etc.

Walking under ladders. It's not really superstition, I'm just really scared they'll slip and collapse on me!

What was the most memorable moment of your graduation from university?

Bill Bryson was the Chancellor at my university when I had my undergraduate graduation ceremony. He's a famous writer and has written a lot of books on travel and non-fiction so I was very excited to hear him give a speech! He gave us '7 simple rules for leading a good life' and I particularly liked this one: "be happy. Really happy. All the time. You're young and you have all your life ahead of you. You've been impeccably educated. You live in a rich and civilised country. Count your blessings and be glad of them."



Bethany Cooper Guest
English Literature

What was the strangest reason ever given to you by a student for missing a homework deadline?

I don't think I've ever been given a very strange reason... The stranger thing for me has always been the homework with horrible unidentifiable marks on them. I always hope they're just tea stains... I've had students hand work in with big splotches of dried blood on and say 'Oh sorry, I had a nose bleed'. Urgh.

Do you have any superstitions? (As it is the 1st of the month, some people say 'White Rabbits' etc.

Until I had finished the seventh book of the Harry Potter series, I didn't say You Know Who's name. But, lucky for us, he was VANQUISHED. Take that Voldemort.

What was the most memorable moment of your graduation from university?

Graduation memories for me are a bit of blur with the focus on not tripping on my gown or up the steps to get onto stage, get hooded and shake hands with the presiding officer. My family were sat up in the balcony seats with my two nieces - as I walked across stage my two year old niece started shouting my name and clapping - this broke the silence in the room and made me feel a little less nervous.

What was the strangest reason ever given to you by a student for missing a homework deadline?

I have had a few excuses of my dog ate my homework - but then have had work produced that has clearly been chewed by a dog! The funniest excuse for being late for school was when two year 7 students in my tutor group who turned up almost 15 minutes late, when questioned one student said "I lost my tie, so walked all the way back to Subway to try to find it", when asked if he found it he said "yes Miss....it was down my jumper" - he must not have lipped it on properly when he left the house - I found it very difficult to keep a straight face and be annoyed with their lateness after this answer!



Lauren Plews
Biology

Do you have any superstitions? (As it is the 1st of the month, some people say 'White Rabbits' etc.

Not particularly; although I still won't put new shoes on the table and will say touch wood!