

15th May 2020

# NSFC4ME

*The weekly update on college life*



## THE LATEST UPDATE FROM NSFC PRINCIPAL GERARD GARVEY

*We are creating a new online  
environment to support learning*



## IMPROVING OUR SYSTEMS FOR THE BETTER

I am sure that you will be aware of the Prime Minister's announcement on Sunday evening outlining plans for the next steps for how the country deals with Covid 19. The Department for Education has also been publishing additional guidance through the week which includes the ambition for Year 12 students to have some face to face contact with teachers before the summer if it is safe to do so. I want to reassure you that we continue to plan for a number of scenarios, and we will act with caution and with the safety of students and staff members as our overriding concern. There is no member of staff at Newcastle Sixth Form College who wants to delay a return to college for any longer than is necessary, however I think it is important to note that any face to face contact before the summer will not resemble our usual educational provision.

As a result we continue to work hard to develop our distance learning and the newsletter includes more details on the Office 365 email addresses that will be available from 1st June. We recently conducted a survey of students into how they were finding this new way of learning. I was pleased that students reported that they were finding the amount of work being set by teachers was about right.

It was also useful to get their feedback on how we can improve further. We are keen to get feedback from parents/guardians as well, including any questions or concerns that they may have at this time. I would be grateful if you could take the time to complete this 6 question survey. [CLICK HERE](#)

Yours faithfully,

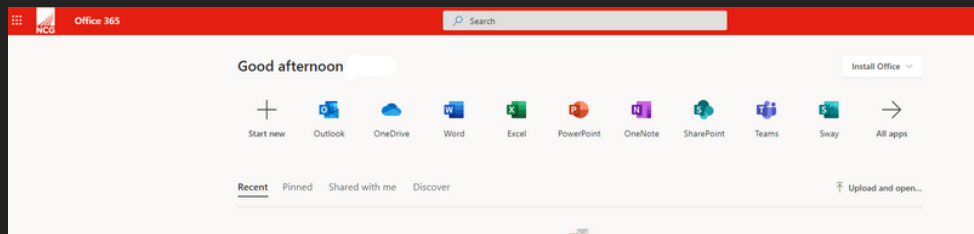
Gerard

# OFFICE 365 FOR EVERY STUDENT



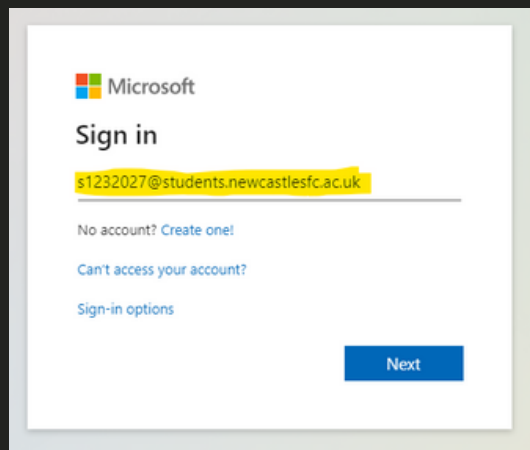
From 1st June all NSFC first year A Level students will receive new Microsoft Office 365 emails

This gives you:  
Access to all Microsoft Office Apps



Your own @students.newcastlesfc.ac.uk address  
400GB online storage through OneDrive  
Access to secure online video lessons with your teachers

Log in at <https://office.com>



From 1st June. Enter your new email address which consists of your student number prefixed by an 'S' and ends in '@students.newcastlesfc.ac.uk' for example 's1232027@students.newcastlesfc.ac.uk'. Then click Next. Enter your password (this will be your date of birth if logging in for the first time, e.g. 15Aug 2002)

If you currently use a college email account this will stop working from 1st June, so please save any emails you need to keep access to.



# AROUND THE COLLEGE



## USEFUL SURVEY FEEDBACK – POSITIVE ENGAGEMENT

A recent online survey of our students about how they were coping with the change of circumstances since the government restrictions due to Coronavirus were implemented had some really interesting and pleasing results for Newcastle Sixth Form College.

Students confirmed they were feeling safe, fit and well, and 99% confirmed they had daily contact with their teachers and that Moodle and Google Classroom were popular and useful for the students to continue their studies.

Among the hundreds of comments received from students below are just a few:

‘My law and sociology is really good with marking the work and if you have any questions they answer straight away.’

‘Some staff are absolutely on top form. They never fail to answer queries, and above this, they are marking, grading, and providing not only feedback, but praise.’

‘I think the college is trying its best to cope with a difficult and ever changing situation, and staff are working hard to keep on top of the work submissions.’

We will be using the comments to improve our ways of working to ensure students continue to feel supported and engaged as we remain off-site. Lots of students told us they liked using Google Classroom and this is something that we will develop further.

## UNIFROG WELLBEING CHALLENGE

As part of World Wellbeing week, NSFC are joining forces with Unifrog to take part in a wellbeing challenge. Full details of the challenge are available on the college website by following this link. [CLICK HERE](#)

We will be judging entries and will be promoting the best overall response and providing some NSFC merchandise to the best entry.



## CREATIVE CHALLENGE WINNERS

The winners of our creative challenge have been selected, and there was some exceptional work, and some really interesting pieces submitted. Covering all forms of creativity, our competition included art, photography, poetry and short story submissions and challenged our judging panel.

The winning entries were:

Photography collection – [Forida Aktar](#)

Entry (poem) – [Denise Chapim](#)

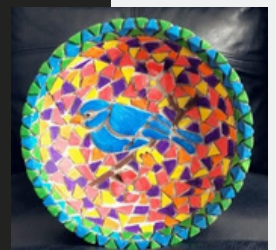
Who we really are (poem) – [Anonymous Entry](#)

Bird Bath Painting – [Robyn Taylor](#)

Gareth (painting) – [Emily Allsopp](#)

Each of the winners will be receiving a gift card by email to spend on their creative pursuits.

Details of our new Creative Channel Challenge are available from Enya-Marie Clay [enya-marie.clay@newcastlesfc.ac.uk](mailto:enya-marie.clay@newcastlesfc.ac.uk)



# ONE MINUTE INTERVIEWS

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

**What book have you read or film you have watched during the lockdown that has made an impression on you, and why?**

I binged on 'After-life' with Ricky Gervais the night it was released on Netflix, and have to say it is one of the most emotional programmes I have watched in years. I have just finished reading 'Unnatural Causes' by Dr Richard Shepherd, and would highly recommend this biography to anyone considering a career in medicine.

**Which food is your guilty pleasure?**

I grew up in Birmingham which is the birthplace of the Chicken Balti, and so I have always been slightly addicted to curry. You cannot beat a Jalfrezi with a naan bread.

**During the lockdown what changes/adjustments have you made to the way you work?**

The hardest part of working from home has been taking regular breaks. Working alone makes it really difficult to notice the time and sometimes hours could pass without a break from the computer screen. I have changed this now, and take proper breaks a couple of times each day, and I am now starting to take a daily short run.



Mark Carton  
Marketing

**What book have you read or film you have watched during the lockdown that has made an impression on you, and why?**

Stacey Dooley has a book called 'on the frontline with the women who fight back'. She tackles some hard-hitting topics but looks at the inspiring women she has met through the course of her documentary making with the BBC. She uses the women's names, photographs and tells their story of what it is to be a woman fighting back in the world today. It's an interesting and uplifting read, and I'd highly recommend reading this if you're interested in global issues.

**Which food is your guilty pleasure?**

Weetabix minis chocolate with no milk. I know its chocolate for breakfast.

**During the lockdown what changes/adjustments have you made to the way you work?**

Keeping to a routine has helped me. I've been making lists and giving myself certain tasks to complete each day. Working in lockdown has meant most of the time is spent at my desk reading the laptop screen, when normally I'd be up teaching and hopping between first and third floor. Therefore, taking a quick coffee break or dog walk is good to stretch the legs. Not quite the same as popping downstairs to Costa for a caramel latte but it'll do.



Rebecca Wallace  
Sociology

**What book have you read or film you have watched during the lockdown that has made an impression on you, and why?**

Can't beat a good boxset to settle down and binge watch for a bit of escapism. I love action movies and thrillers and really enjoyed watching Treadstone on Amazon. A prequel to the Jason Bourne movies. Can't wait for season two!

**Which food is your guilty pleasure?**

I really love to cook and have been taking the opportunity to try out new recipes and dishes. I love spicy, flavoursome food and have recently discovered a Thai dish, Massaman curry. Really good with jasmine rice or noodles!

**During the lockdown what changes/adjustments have you made to the way you work?**

At the beginning of the lockdown, I set up a specific workspace, where I can complete work with minimal distraction and not turn the whole house into an office. Learning how to use new software and getting it to work on my aging laptop has been both fun and challenging at times.



Andrew Elliott  
Chemistry