

5th June 2020

NSFC4ME

The weekly update on college life



THE LATEST UPDATE FROM
NSFC PRINCIPAL
GERARD GARVEY

*We are working hard to ensure
students get the support they need.*

GETTING PREPARED FOR THE FINAL TERM

Welcome to the 8th edition of our weekly newsletter. Recently, a number of students and families have contacted the college with questions and concerns about the arrangements for the summer 2021 exam season. In particular, they have expressed worries about how prepared they will be for final exams given the amount of time they have had working from home.

I want to provide some reassurance about this. Firstly, this is something that is affecting students nationally and as a result OFQUAL and the Department for Education are considering a number of possible options for how to take account of the disruption caused. We are contributing to these discussions through our membership of the Sixth Form College Association and will share any plans with you once they are announced.

Secondly, at Newcastle Sixth Form we are experts in helping students make progress in their A-levels. Your teachers are currently developing plans for how they can help 'fill in the gaps' when we are able to resume some face to face teaching, and for how we can improve our support for students working at home. You should feel confident that we will work with you to ensure you reach your potential.

The key thing to remember when you are feeling worried about this, is that you are not the only one and most students across the country have similar concerns. In the meantime, try your best to complete the work set and take part in online learning as much as possible. If you need additional help or support please let your teachers know.

Yours faithfully,

Gerard Garvey

NSFC ALUMNI WEBSITE LAUNCH



Our first ever NSFC Alumni website launches on Monday 8th June, and we would encourage all our Year 2 students to register straight away. In this year, when the end of the academic year has changed so much from our original plans, it has been a challenge for our college community and this brand new Alumni will offer just one way in which we can acknowledge and remain in regular touch with our students who are leaving or have already left the college from previous years.

The benefits of the NSFC Alumni website are significant and include:

Bi-monthly Alumni Newsletter – Our newsletter will feature articles by and about former students and let you know the latest developments at NSFC. This will form a significant way of allowing you to see the progress of other students and find networks within HE and for career progression.

Future Events and Opportunities – We will provide regular events and dates when former students will be welcomed back to the college including our annual Student Awards, HE Fayre and other careers related activities.

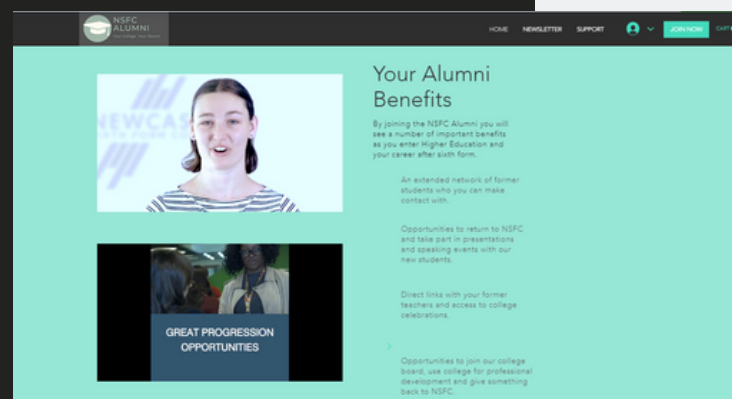
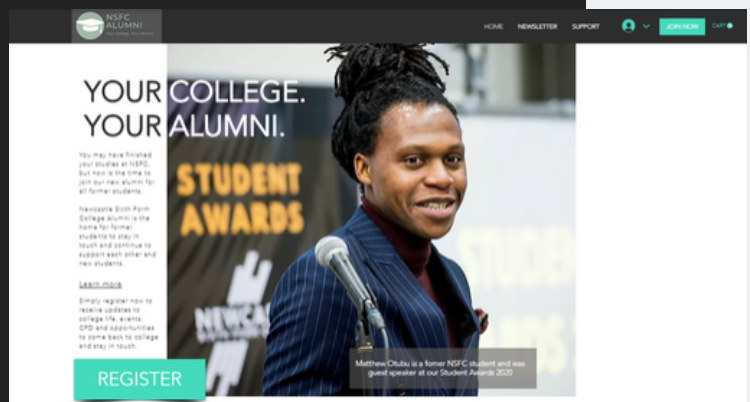
Online Network for Former Students – We intend to develop a Facebook closed group for former students based on the membership of our Alumni, which will allow you to reminisce and remain in contact with your year long after you head off for your HE destinations.

University Links – We always want to know where you have progressed to beyond NSFC, and our destinations and university page will list those students who are available for contact at selected universities, and would be happy to speak to new and existing students about their experience of HE. This will be an invaluable way of guiding those who are making up their mind about university.

CPD – For many students and those entering employment, an excellent form of Continuing Professional Development involves providing outreach, return visits and speaking at college. We will provide ongoing opportunities for our Alumni members to come back and speak to our existing students in careers, subject related activities and at our major annual events like the NSFC Student of the Year Awards.

We will be contacting all former students and our existing year 2 students on Monday by email and text with a link to reach the website and register. We will also feature the new alumni on our Facebook/Twitter and Instagram pages from next week.

Other future features for the site include a closed Facebook Group allowing former students to remain in touch and a Merchandise section, where students will be able to purchase branded items from the college.



OPPORTUNITIES AND ACTIVITIES



OPERATING THEATRE LIVE

The recent Post Mortem Live series was an overwhelming success and this week sees the launch of Operating Theatre Live. This new series will help students keep up with their preparations towards national exams.

The **Operating Theatre Live** channel goes live on Tuesday at 10.00am and will broadcast live until 11.00am every Tuesday and Thursday until the schools return where it will move to later slot at 4.00pm.

Each episode will focus on a patient with a different pathology and woven into the episode will be A Level content along with National-5 and Highers' in Scotland. Using exam related assessment from all the main specifications with students, there will also be a free download to complete with each episode. In the same way as The Post Mortem Live there will be live Q&A where students will be able to interact with us in the studio.



There is an exciting line up of guests including leading doctors and university admissions staff to help coach students on preparing for UCAT and writing their UCAS application. The series hopes to inspire as many students to consider careers in health, bioscience and medicine while keeping their subject.

Full details can be found at www.operatingtheatrelive.co.uk

COULD YOU OUTFIT YOUR TEACHER?

In this period of lockdown, we have all been advised to take regular daily exercise. Running is great for your mental health and also offers an opportunity to get outside and enjoy the benefits of fresh air. For many staff at NSFC this has been a chance to practice their times running 5km.

In the staff weekly newsletter, we now run a feature sharing our times, and that made us think!

Could you run faster than your teachers. This is a quick fitness challenge for anyone who is a regular runner. If you think you could run faster than your teachers, just email us your times to reception@newcastlesixthformcollege.ac.uk and we will publish a league table at the end of this month, showing just who are the fastest runners at NSFC.



As a guide to get you started, Micah Van Tuyl, Politics teacher, currently leads our staff league table with a 5km run in a time of 23 minutes 56 seconds. Do you think you could do better? Let us know.

ONE MINUTE INTERVIEWS

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

If you could travel back in time, where would you go, and who would you visit?

I would only go back a few years to 2014 when I lived in Australia for 7 months and visit all of the friends I made from around the world.

What was the last film/programme you watched on television that made you laugh out loud and why?

Since lockdown I re-watched all of the inbetweeners episodes (too much time on my hands), but the episode where Jay crashes Neil's motorbike had me in stitches.

What have you missed most about coming into the sixth form building during lockdown?

Definitely seeing all of my students, especially my year 13's who I didn't get to say a proper goodbye to!



Bethan Lewis
Business/Economics



Mirella Carinanos Ruiz
Spanish

If you could travel back in time, where would you go, and who would you visit?

I think I would go back to my childhood, not to sound too cheesy. I would go back to one of our family summer holidays where my twin sister and I would play around and enjoy the beach while my parents and grandparents enjoyed a bit of quiet time. Very much deserved! Lovely memories!

What was the last film/programme you watched on television that made you laugh out loud and why?

Last programme I watched that made me laugh out loud was an episode of Taskmaster where Bob Mortimer is performing something remarkable synchronised in a group. His moves are hilarious and the way he shows no synchronisation whatsoever made me cry with laughter! Even I can do better! And that says a lot!

What have you missed most about coming into the sixth form building during lockdown?

There are various things I am missing about not coming into sixth form. One of them is my steps! Going up and down two floors several times every day is good exercise! Not to mention when I am roving! But I think what I am missing the most is my students and my classroom and also a good chat with staff. And I would have never thought I would say this but, I even miss the metro journey!

If you could travel back in time, where would you go, and who would you visit?

I would go back in time to 1985 and go to Live Aid, feel like that would be a once in a lifetime experience and seeing Queen. live would be amazing.

What was the last film/programme you watched on television that made you laugh out loud and why?

I started watching Friday Night Dinner for the first time on Netflix last night, I would recommend everyone to give it a try.

What have you missed most about coming into the sixth form building during lockdown?

The thing I have miss most about coming to the sixth form is speaking to people, lockdown has made it quite hard! Being part of a great community like NSFC has made me realise how important daily contact is, and I am looking forward to getting back to college as soon as we can safely open.'



Brandon Black
Admissions and
Marketing