

12th June 2020

NSFC4ME

The weekly update on college life



THE LATEST UPDATE FROM NSFC PRINCIPAL GERARD GARVEY

A time to examine the impacts of recent events and make positive change.

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

On Wednesday I wrote to all First Year A Level students and their families to provide an update on our phased reopening of the college. If you missed this it is available [here](#).

As I outlined in the letter, we are pleased to be welcoming some targeted students into the building from Monday, however remote learning remains the primary method of delivery at this time. This newsletter provides a further update on our remote learning programme.

As we have been communicating with students over the last fortnight, it is clear that one non-COVID news story has been a topic of key interest. The terrible killing of George Floyd in the USA and the subsequent protests around the world have led to much debate and an opportunity for reflection and action. When students are asked what is special about Newcastle Sixth Form College one of the most commonly heard responses is that it is diverse and inclusive. Our Respect Ethos is at the heart of who we are and what we do. We do not tolerate racism or discrimination in any form.

Recent world events highlight the need to look even more closely at what we do and how we do it, and make sure we know we are doing everything we can and should do to tackle racism and all other forms of discrimination and prejudice. This will include building the capacity of all of our staff to understand how unconscious bias works and ensuring they have the skills to eliminate discrimination. As part of the NCG group of colleges we will revisit, review and revise our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion strategy and will ensure that students and parents have an opportunity to contribute to this.

A number of teaching and learning activities around these topics have taken place at the college already and this newsletter also includes information of further ways for students to be involved.

Yours faithfully,

Gerard Garvey

NSFC LIVE LESSONS BRING DYNAMIC CHANGE

Live lessons are taking place or will be starting across the entire college within the next week, offering our students vital direct contact with both teachers and other students. The advantages of adding this part of our virtual learning experience are obvious with students benefitting from a range of additional interactions and learning opportunities. This also provides a chance for direct assessment and feedback in real-time and to be responsive to specific student needs.

Sessions have a variety of approaches which have been determined by the individual departments and tailored towards the subjects and our subject specialists.

Examples of these include:

- Student discussion and teacher feedback.
- Student presentation with teacher and peer review.
- Live polling and written responses assessed with feedback.

Just for reassurance, there are always at least two members of staff within the lessons to monitor sessions for students and staff, ensuring a safe and secure environment for all participants and to maximise participation for the duration of the lesson.

While we feel that live lessons are an excellent tool to allow learner progress, each subject will have a full range of mechanisms in place, for students that can't access live sessions at these times. It is the combination of a wide range of learning techniques including live sessions which allow the students to make good progress.

To access live lessons students need to use the new college Outlook email addresses. Please contact your teacher if you are unsure how to do this. Below is the timetable for next weeks live lessons, and we will update this timetable weekly.

	15-Jun	16-Jun	17-Jun	18-Jun	19-Jun		
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri		
9:00							
9:30							
10:00	Eng lang		Geography	Eng Lit	Chemistry		
10:30	History						
11:00	Politics	Maths	Sociology	Maths	Eng lang	Law	Lang
11:30							
12:00		Film	Business	Economics			
12:30				Sociology			
13:00	Psych	Biology	Psych	Spanish	Eng Lit	Further Maths	
13:30							
14:00	PHYSICS		Art, Craft and Design	PHYSICS	Eng lang	Eng lang	
14:30							
15:00		Chem	Media			Media	

OPPORTUNITIES AND ACTIVITIES

NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY ONLINE

Newcastle University are delivering a series of events hosted by a team of Outreach Ambassadors, all of which are recent Newcastle graduates, who will be able to answer questions about progressing to Higher Education in the current environment.

The next sessions are:

- How to Write Your Personal Statement - 18th June - 2pm
- Student Life - 25th June - 2pm
- How to Apply to University - 2nd July - 2pm
- Budgeting Bonanza - an interactive budgeting game - 9th July - 2pm

These sessions can be booked by your students on the Newcastle University [website](#)



CARERS WEEK - 8th - 14th June

A carer is 'Anyone who is looking after a family member or friend with an illness, disability, mental health illness or addiction who could not manage without support'

- If you are under 18 and caring, you are a young carer.
- There are lots of reasons why being a carer might be difficult. Carers might do extra jobs at home, like cooking and cleaning or helping to wash and dress the person they care for. They might stay with the person they look after and keep them company when they're feeling down.

Please contact your personal development coach if you think you may be a carer and would like support. Support can be physical, mental, and financial.



BLACK LIVES MATTER DISCUSSION FORUM

Eradicating racism in all its forms is something that our students feel strongly about. As we reflect on recent events and the Black Lives Matter Campaign, we feel now is an important time to reiterate our respect ethos and our strong anti-racist stance at NSFC. With the help of our Psychology Department, we have put together an extended reading/viewing list of materials which deal with the issues of systemic racism. The full list is available [HERE](#).

In addition we are running a discussion forum for staff and students in response to George Floyd's death in the US and the #Blacklivesmatter movement which can help us to understand what racial injustice looks like across the world today and in our specific context. The areas we aim to cover are: Lack of information about black British history (colonialism, slavery and the UK civil rights movement etc), what it is like to have grown up/currently live as a black/BIPOC in the North East, and specifically microaggressions towards Black people.

To prompt the formulation of actions to improve the college we would like to pose this question: "What does/can NSFC do to be actively anti-racist?"

More information is available from **Bethany Cooper-Guest**
Email: Bethany.CooperGuest@newcastlesfc.ac.uk

**BLACK
LIVES
MATTER**

ONE MINUTE INTERVIEWS

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

When you were 16, what was the song/artist that made you happy/dance/laugh and why?

It would have to be Justin Timberlake – Rock your Body. It was just a feel good song that put me in a good mood when it came on the radio!

If you had to spend a full day in college and give a presentation/lecture to every student, which one of your colleagues would you want alongside you and why?

I'd pick Kayleigh because I know she would be there offering support and encouragement throughout the day.

Name one new activity you have taken up (or restarted) as a result of the lockdown, and why you have done this?

I've been trying to stay active throughout lockdown so I have signed up to Les Mills online and have been doing his GRIT classes a few times a week. It feels like torture at the time but once I have completed them it leaves me feeling more positive and energised. It is so important to look after our own wellbeing during these difficult times and finding something that we enjoy or look forward to can really help with this.



Sophie Johnson
English Language

When you were 16, what was the song/artist that made you happy/dance/laugh and why?

I'd have to say The Coral, Dreaming of You. I was reflecting recently on my own exam period after a discussion with one of my year 2 students, and I can remember playing this in my drama classroom after my last exam and I can still remember how relieved I felt to have finished. It remains one of my favourite songs.

If you had to spend a full day in college and give a presentation/lecture to every student, which one of your colleagues would you want alongside you and why?

I would happily do that with anyone in the PDC team. I think if I was to choose one person though, it would have to be my colleague Veronique, she has this brilliant ability to make you be the best version of yourself. She also always has snacks.

Name one new activity you have taken up (or restarted) as a result of the lockdown, and why you have done this?

I decided to take up running, something I have never really done before, a couple of days before the weather turned! I'm keeping it up through the rain though and I'm finally starting to understand what people mean when they say 'you'll enjoy it eventually'. I think I was looking for another excuse to get outside regularly, it can be so tempting to stay indoors.



Charlotte Walker
Personal Development

When you were 16, what was the song/artist that made you happy/dance/laugh and why?

When I was 16 I was quite unwell and spending a lot of time in hospital with other kids who had a variety of illnesses. We used to love listening to Led Zeppelin's Stairway to Heaven. It is a fantastic song with great lyrics (we all knew them off by heart and would throw them randomly into conversations !) and I think, at the time we thought it was quite ironic.

If you had to spend a full day in college and give a presentation/lecture to every student, which one of your colleagues would you want alongside you and why?

Definitely Graham Davison, he is a legend and so enthusiastic about everything – a real life Genius!!

Name one new activity you have taken up (or restarted) as a result of the lockdown, and why you have done this?

Making videos myself talking about Maths, who knew I could talk for so long about the subject Hopefully they will be helpful to my students (if they ever watch them!!)



Kathryn Winship
Maths