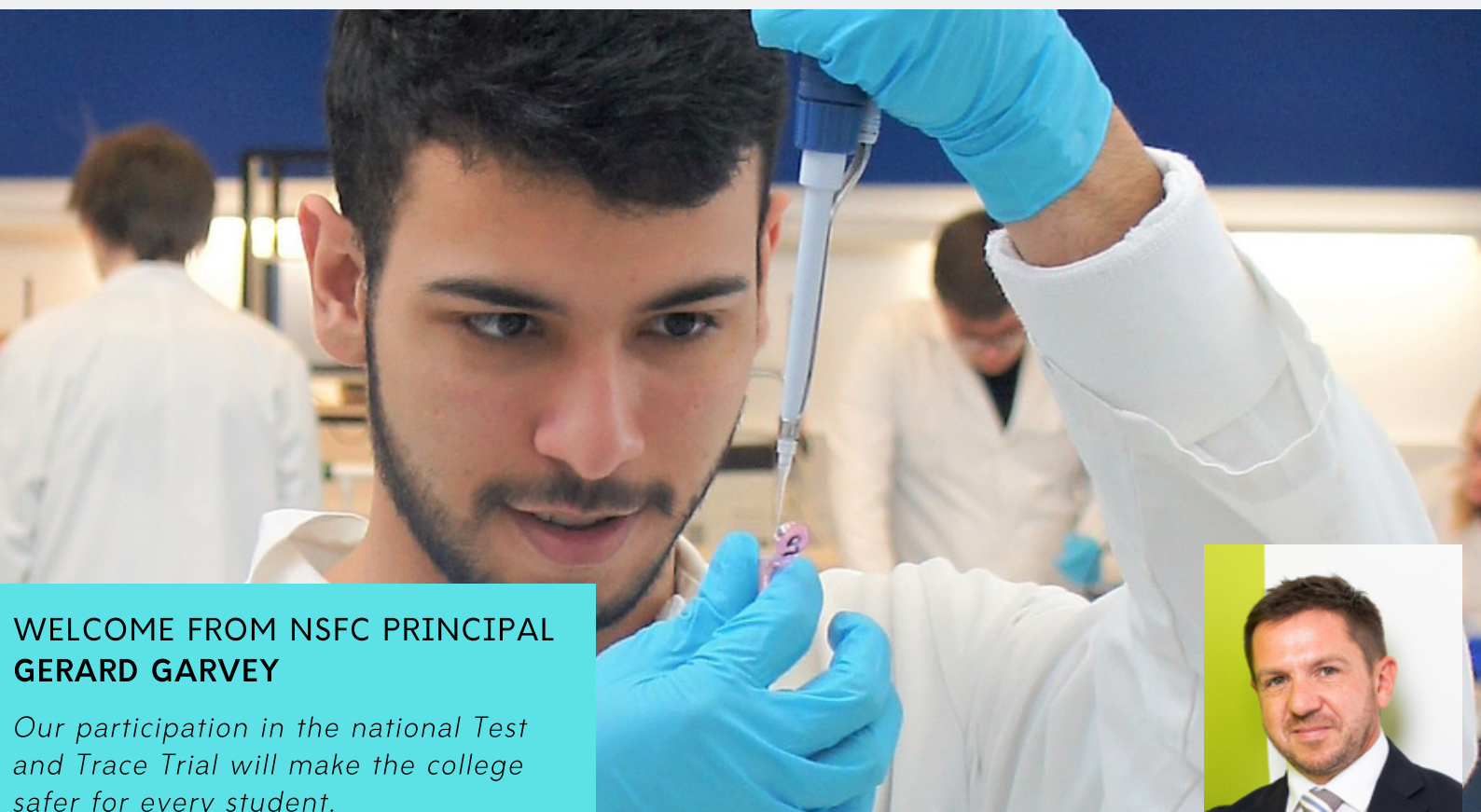


13 NOVEMBER 2020

NSFC4ME

An update on College life



WELCOME FROM NSFC PRINCIPAL GERARD GARVEY

Our participation in the national Test and Trace Trial will make the college safer for every student.

MAKING A SAFER SPACE WITH NATIONAL TRIAL

We have today been informed by NHS Test and Trace that the trial at Newcastle Sixth Form College will commence on Monday 23rd November. As stated in my communication earlier this week, we welcome the opportunity to take part in this trial. It will allow us to be at the forefront of the national programme to create schools and colleges which can operate with minimal disruption, but even more importantly, this trial will immediately improve the safety of our college environment.

Mass testing will be used as a means of ensuring education establishments can continue to deliver face to face delivery for the foreseeable future, and to be the only college selected in the North of England, means we have first access to the support and testing capability.

This decision to start testing on the 23rd November also gives us an additional week to prepare the changes we need around college, and also respond to any questions raised by parents. We offered an early Q&A as part of the initial discussions around the trial which are available [HERE](#), but we are now taking on board all comments from students and parents and will continue to update you as we get ready for the trial.

We intend to run this trial as part of the college day, and whilst there will be a couple of days readjusting to this new process, we do not intend to disrupt the important face to face learning experience, and will endeavour to provide you with the reassurance all students and parents need that we are acting in everyone's best interest.

I thank you for your continued support.

Gerard

TEST AND TRACE TRIAL WILL BEGIN 23RD NOVEMBER

WHY HAS NSFC BEEN SELECTED?

There are several factors for choosing pilot locations, including prevalence levels in the local community; testing at a diverse range of types of schools/colleges; the diversity of the student body and local community, including underrepresented groups and ethnic minorities.

This means the results of the pilot will be more inclusive of people from different races, religions and social backgrounds.

How many schools and colleges have been chosen?

For the pilots, NHS Test and Trace will be focussing on ten schools & FE colleges starting in mid November.

Is the test safe?

Lateral flow tests are validated technology, they are safe and the results are trusted. These tests have undergone rigorous testing and evaluation including at Public Health England's research laboratories to ensure they are verified for use.



NHS

Test and Trace

HOW TO GET YOUR COVID-19 TEST

- 1 you will have given your consent on the online form
- 2 WHEN YOU ARRIVE, THERE WILL BE SOMEONE TO HELP YOU DO YOUR TEST
- 3 YOUR TEST WILL BE FAST AND WHILE IT MIGHT FEEL A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE, IT WON'T HURT YOU
- 4 TO START YOU WILL BE ASKED TO OPEN YOUR MOUTH WIDELY AND SAY 'AHHHH' SO A SWAB CAN BE GENTLY RUBBED ON THE BACK OF YOUR THROAT
- 5 AFTER 10 SECONDS, YOUR TESTING HELPER WILL CAREFULLY REMOVE THE SWAB AND GENTLY PLACE IT UP ONE OF YOUR NOSTRILS
- 6 THE SWAB WILL BE TURNED IN YOUR NOSTRIL 5 TIMES
- 7 AFTER THIS, YOUR SWAB WILL BE REMOVED GENTLY AND PLACED IN A TUBE FOR TESTING
- 8 YOU CAN ASK YOUR TESTING HELPER ANY QUESTIONS YOU HAVE BUT THAT'S TO YOU'RE ALL DONE AND YOUR TEST IS COMPLETE
- 9 YOUR SCHOOL WILL CONTACT YOUR PARENT(S) OR CARER(S) WITH THE RESULTS AND LET YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

All students have been shown a presentation in class which explains how the tests are conducted, and we will have a trained team on site to help with the whole process.

PARENT GOVERNOR ELECTION

'We have two nominations for the position of Parent Governor, and so now we are asking the whole college community to vote for their preferred candidate, Below are the profiles of our two candidates. You can vote to select your choice of Parent Governor by clicking the link at the bottom of this page.

SARAH CARTER

I am local government worker for Newcastle City Council, working with adults with learning disabilities. My daughter has recently started in Year 12, studying A Levels in Business Studies, Psychology and Politics. I have previously been a parent governor at a nursery school and a primary school. I am familiar with Ofsted inspections, staff recruitment, target setting, safeguarding and Prevent. I have been involved in the governance bodies of voluntary organisations including a local time banking scheme and a local Baptist Church. During my career in local government,

I have been involved in task groups conducting mapping exercises to look at areas with challenging housing and community issues, working in multi-agency groups to devise problem solving solutions, participating to see them implemented and reviewing effectiveness. I consider myself a keen team player with a desire to ask difficult questions that often get avoided. I believe that it important and parents and carers take an active interest in the education of their young people.

I think that in 16 plus education, young people are given appropriate and proportionate support alongside space to make good decisions about their education and training. In this way young people can achieve at the best level for themselves. I am passionate that inclusion, equality and diversity are embedded within any organisation. Staff and students should feel safe to express who they are in that particular setting. As a parent governor I will see to give my best to the role for the duration of my tenure.

DOUGLAS GEE

"Hitting the target and missing the point" is a quote I like. Targets and performance measures are great and not to have them would lead to a weaker education system. However they must be part of a wider direction of travel of continuous improvement.

I am a Dad. I have three children who have all had the privilege of state education at some great schools. Two have completed university education and my youngest is a student at Newcastle Sixth Form College. I am a doctor whose specialty is psychiatry and I work full time in one of the local NHS hospitals. During my career I have previously worked as an executive medical director for 10 years in two different NHS trusts. I have a range of experience in a senior management role dealing with the broad range of challenges in complex organisations. I believe the skills and experience I have are transferrable from a health setting to an education one. This includes experience of dealing with the CQC which would be the NHS equivalent of OFSTED.

It would be a privilege to now contribute to the advancement of the college for the benefit of the students, staff and all stakeholders. Given the COVID-19 pandemic and the consequent economic challenges the value of attaining the best outcomes possible for young people is even more vital. It would be a privilege to contribute even in a small way to this.

TO VOTE CLICK HERE

The deadline for votes is Friday 20th November

VOTE

WELCOME TO A2L3

This programme has been in place at NSFC for several years and each year we continue to see our success and pass rates grow. The A2L3 programme provides students the opportunity to retake and enhance their original GCSE grades or gain these qualifications for the first time.

What's new this year?

Target Grades

This academic year we have taken a more personal approach to student's target grades. This is not their predicted grade, but rather a minimum expected grade. We have used a combination of assessments, attitude, homework and progression plans to ensure students are being targeted correctly and efficiently academically.

Enrichment

New to this year! A2L3 students will have their own enrichment sessions outside of the classroom. Some examples are; Charity in the community, Culture's of the world, Mental Well-Being and Dragon's Den. These enrichment programmes will be beneficial to student's development both academically and socially. They are also extremely useful for Personal Statements when it comes to applying to University.

MEET THE A2L3 ALUMNI

Name: Khadija Begum

Age: 19

Time at NSFC: 2017-20

What are you currently studying/where?

I'm studying Sociology at Newcastle University☺ (I also took a Philosophy module)

How did the A2L3 programme help prepare you for A-levels?

The GCSE programme helped me acknowledge how imperative my education is. The programme helped me into becoming a dedicated person and made me recognise the skills that I have but never acknowledged them before. It was yet another chance to showcase these skills and I'm still till this day so grateful for that opportunity.

What would you say to anyone on the course this year?

For those of you who are joining or are in this programme, this is your second chance to show yourself the knowledge and skills that are instilled in you. Have a positive mindset, be optimistic and work hard. Put your mind to it and witness your hard work being paid off. Do it for yourself!!



Name: Halah Jamal

Age: 19

Time at NSFC: 2017-20

What are you currently studying/where?

Studying Criminology at Manchester Metropolitan Uni

How did the A2L3 programme help prepare you for A-levels?

The GCSE programme made me become a more hardworking student, I was more motivated than ever to turn things around and get the qualifications I know I could achieve. The programme gave me the skills and the mindset to get through my A Levels. I definitely do not think I would've done as well in my A Levels without the GCSE programme.

What would you say to anyone on the course this year?

To those taking the GCSE programme, it's important to know that the hard work your doing WILL pay off. Use the programme as a second chance to get the grades you wanted first time round. Good luck!



TIMETABLE CHANGES

In our first term student survey, students noted the short length of lunch breaks as one of their main concerns, and so at the start of this term we entered into a consultation with staff and students/parents to get your views and opinions on a new proposed timetable, which would extend the day, and increase lunch break from 30 minutes to 45 minutes.

RESULTS

Our staff survey provided all staff the opportunity to offer an opinion on the new proposed timetable, and the result of the ballot was a split with 52% voting for the timetable to remain unchanged.

The parents/students survey brought a much more definitive response, with 75% voting for the timetable to remain unchanged.

Reasons expressed by students and parents for the timetable to remain unchanged included:

- The 30 minute lunch break was sufficient, and ensured students remained safe.
- An earlier start to the college day would mean more students requiring to travel during rush hour.
- An extension to the lunch break would likely see a reduction in social distancing.

As a result, we will not be changing the current timetable and the college week remains the same this term.

1. Would you be in agreement with the proposed changes of start times to allow for a longer lunch break?

[More Details](#)

Yes	313
No	927



1245 responses

313 in favour = 25.1% in favour of proposed timetable change

927 against = 74.4% against timetable change

AROUND THE COLLEGE

The start of term has been an incredibly busy period and below are just a selection of the activities we have had on site.

PUMPKIN CHALLENGE

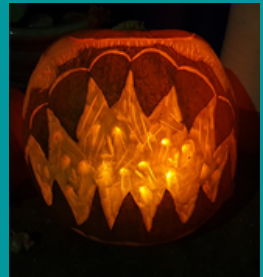
Over the half term we ran a creative challenge to find some ingenious Pumpkin carving, and the results were amazing.



Paul Benton
Staff Winner



Abbey Charlton
Student Winner



AWARD WINNING STAFF AND STUDENTS

LORD MCNAMARA STEM TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Students, teachers and school leaders from across the North East have received national recognition for their achievements and for making stand-out contributions to their communities.



Schools Minister, Baroness Berridge joined this year's virtual prize giving ceremony on 26th October, praising the winners for their achievements, including NSFC Physics Teacher, Graham Davison, winner of the Lord Glenamara STEM Teacher of the Year. Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson also appeared in a video message to the winners congratulating them on their accomplishments. The college is extremely proud of Graham's achievement.

FORMER STUDENT WINS PRESTIGIOUS INTERNATIONAL ESSAY WRITING PRIZE

A former NSFC student, Autumn Irving-Carr now at Northumbria University, has won a prestigious international writing competition held annually by the UK and Ireland Chapter of the United Nations Principles for Responsible Management Education (UNPRME) initiative.



As well as taking first prize in the undergraduate (UG) category for her essay exploring modern day slavery, business student Autumn Irving-Carr was also awarded £500. Autumn's essay was titled 'Vulnerable people: The hidden world of modern slavery'. It aimed to raise awareness of modern slavery practices, discuss causes and consequences, and highlight system-wide solutions that involve all elements in society.

AROUND THE COLLEGE

This week saw us use our reception area to acknowledge the hard work completed in every department throughout October to celebrate Black History Month, and on Wednesday we observed the Armistice Day with a minutes silence around the college.

At 11.00am on 11th November, the college observed Armistice Day with one minutes silence.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH



In addition to discussions and activities in all subjects across the month, we ran a creative challenge for students, with 1st Year student Eugene Corpuz producing a thought provoking and informative winning entry for our competition.





MASKS ON THE MOVE

**Please help fight the spread of COVID19
You must wear a face covering in all
public spaces around the college.**

**WE REQUIRE ALL STUDENTS TO WEAR FACE
COVERINGS IN ALL PUBLIC SPACES AROUND
THE COLLEGE. THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT.**

