

12 FEBRUARY 2021

NSFC4ME

An update on College life



WELCOME FROM NSFC PRINCIPAL GERARD GARVEY

*Use half term to Relax, Refresh and
Renew yourselves for the term ahead.*

GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS THIS HALF TERM AND SOME TIME NOW TO REFLECT

Dear Students and Parents,

As we break for the end of another term, we can state with confidence that despite the restrictions and challenges imposed by another national lockdown, the whole college has rallied and worked extremely well to keep learning as our major focus and supporting each other a priority. Attendance has been excellent and student engagement remained positive all the way through this term, which shows the 'live' lessons model has maintained the highest standards of learning.

Next half term is a vital period for our students, and so we will use the time well, and have scheduled a 1:1/Flip Learning week, to ensure every student gets a chance to speak directly with their teachers and put in place the plans they need for success as they continue, or approach completion of their academic studies with NSFC. In addition, we are pleased to announce we will be holding two full Parents evenings in March, to update all parents/guardians on progress and planning for students. Details of both these events, and the dates, are contained within this edition of NSFC4ME and we will be sending out further details next week to parents, and arranging the student 1:1's as soon as college resumes.

I hope that you have the opportunity to take some time off in the next week to relax, refresh and renew your commitment to getting the best from college. I wish you all a good half term break.

Yours faithfully,

Gerard Garvey

PARENTS EVENINGS

11th & 18th MARCH

After half term we will be offering all students a Flipped Learning and 1:1 week, where they will speak with all their teachers and their personal development coach about their progress to date and the personalised plan for each student to ensure they get the best outcome from their academic studies and progression plans. This will take place between Monday 1st and Friday 5th March with students being set independent study tasks to complete.

There will not be normal scheduled online lessons during this week so that students can focus on their 1:1s and 'flipped learning'. Completing 1:1s with teachers and coach is compulsory and attendance will be recorded.

We will then hold two Parents Evenings, which will take place online via a specialist video conferencing platform, on the following dates:

Thursday 11th March 2021 – 4.00pm – 7.00pm

Thursday 18th March 2021 – 4.00pm – 7.00pm

We will be sending you a link via text and email on the 1st March 2021, so that you can book your preferred times with the specific subject teachers, and our staff will be available on both dates, so you have the flexibility to book appointments which are convenient to you. All appointments will last 8 minutes and will allow you to ask questions, and also get a detailed review of the progress in each subject.

For those students completing their studies this year, we will not be able to discuss Centre Assessed Grades, but we will cover the students progress, plans to support them and answer any questions you have, which will encourage them in completion of studies and progression to university, employment or further training.

Your involvement in the success and progression of your child is very important, and Parents evenings offer that direct contact with teachers to find out exactly how they are doing, and what additional support they may need at this time.



schoolcloud
Parents Evening

Parents' evenings, simplified



GEORDIE OBSERVER STUDENT NEWSLETTER

Our dedicated student editorial team have been busy in lockdown and bring you another great edition, with a Valentines Feature and all the usual specials including TV and Book reviews. Take a look at this terms edition online now:

[GEORDIE OBSERVER](#)



PRAISE WEEK UPDATE

Praise week was a huge success with a massive 310 messages of praise and thanks sent to staff and students alike.

The purpose of Praise Week is much more important than most of us realise, because being the recipient of an anonymous message can provide the small lift in morale that is so important at times like these, when we spend considerable amounts of time in isolation from one another. They are an important reminder of how supporting each other makes a major difference to the way we feel, and is positive for wellbeing and mental health.

For those who took the time to send a message or multiple messages, a big thank you for doing something so generous and positive. We hope that you were lifted by the experience of making others feel valued and important.

Finally, Praise Week is the purest sign that we are all a community, and that whilst the college may temporarily be operating on a remote basis, we are still part of something much bigger. For 310 staff and students in this last week, they have been able to share and receive the real benefits of being part of a college like Newcastle Sixth Form which is inclusive, supportive and capable of working as a team even under the current constraints.



1:1 WEEK 1st - 5th MARCH

This last half term has offered some challenging circumstances for everyone, but we have been extremely impressed by the positive attitude, high attendance and participation of students since we reverted to online learning. Live lessons have been really important to ensure you remain on track with your learning and progress. The half term break is a good time to relax, refresh and give yourself some time to reflect on how you have progressed over the last couple of months.

To help with this reflection, after half term we will be offering all students a Flipped Learning and 1:1 week, you will have some dedicated time to speak with all your teachers and your personal development coach about progress to date and the personalised plan you will need to ensure you continue to have an enjoyable experience whilst studying at the college and that your progression and destination plans will be achievable.

This dedicated week will take place between:

Monday 1st - Friday 5th March 2021 (sessions will be booked with your individual teachers and will take place on the normal subject study day during this week)

Everyone will be set independent study tasks to complete. There will not be normal scheduled online lessons during this week so that you can focus on these important 1:1's. Completing 1:1's with teachers and your coach is compulsory and attendance will be recorded, but use these meetings as an opportunity to ask questions and get fully prepared for the remainder of this academic year.

LAW TALKS OFFER GREAT CAREERS INSIGHT

The NSFC Law Team have been busy again in the last week with another outstanding external speaker providing a session with our students.

Last week students were invited to a talk about careers in law from David Merrills, a Deputy District Judge and local solicitor.

The event was attended by a mix of Y12 and Y13 Law students. The event was excellent for any student considering entering the law profession as a career and David was very forthcoming about his experiences in both his highly regarded jobs!

David spoke at length about his path into law as a Northumbria University graduate, his career as a civil solicitor (which started from a job lifting boxes as work experience in a law firm) and his appointment as a DDJ including the effects of the pandemic on his roles.



David Merrills is an Associate at Hattons Law

After half term the Law Team have another amazing and rare opportunity for our students, with a special visit from Adrian Foster, the Chief Crown Prosecutor for Proceeds of Crime. He will be with us for a virtual event on Tuesday 9th March It should be very interesting - he was involved with recovering of goods following the famous Hatton Garden robbery as an example of just one of his national cases.

UNPAID CARERS SUPPORT



If you are a carer or know someone who cares for an elderly independent relative or member of the community, then this week a new scheme was launched to provide free PPE to those who require this support.

The national scheme was confirmed earlier this week and more details of the scheme are available [here](#).

Professor Deborah Sturdy OBE, Chief Nurse for Adult Social Care, said:

It is important everything is done to protect those who are vulnerable and the people who care for them.

Unpaid carers provide a fundamental pillar supporting our social care system and have the gratitude of a nation for their work before, during and after this pandemic.

The scientific advice is to wear PPE while caring and we are ensuring extra-resident unpaid carers can now access this for free.

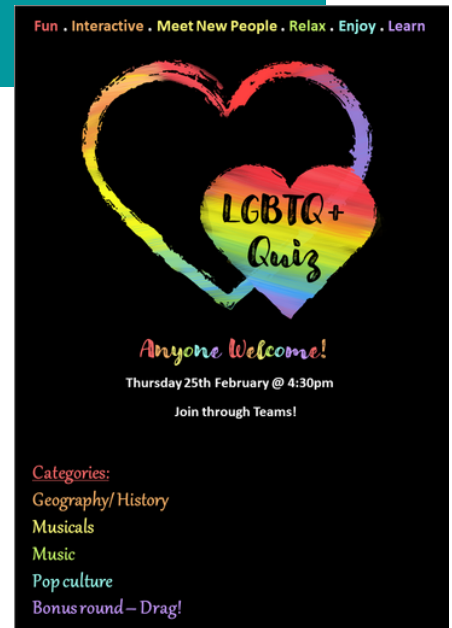
THE 'QUIZ'ARD OF OZ....

On Thursday 25th February at 4.30pm we will be holding a student led quiz which is open to everyone to take part. The quiz will be available through Teams, as part of our LGBTQ+ History Month activities and among the categories will be:

Geography
History
Musicals/Music
Pop Culture

.... and a special bonus round.

To take part simply join the Teams channel or ask your PDC for more information.



PINEAPPLE BLACK GALLERY SHOWCASES STUDENTS WORK

Our students have been taking part in a rare opportunity to promote and display their own work in one of the regions most innovative and inspiring galleries, with their own exhibition.

A competition allowing students from NSFC to submit their photography for inclusion in the gallery received an incredible response and the following clip shows the virtual gallery which launched last week.

The screen which sits within the virtual gallery at Pineapple Black offers a platform for the wider community - a space where marginalised voices can share their voices through video and photography. Students at NSFC provided the gallery content as part of a month long celebration of LGBTQ+ History month, with photography that celebrated and captured the essence of the LGBTQ+ movement.

The gallery will remain open throughout the month, and is an important showcase for the issues and also a perfect showcase for the quality of work being produced by our students. Thanks to Pineapple Black for making this exhibition possible.

www.pineappleblack.co.uk

