

NSFC4ME

An update on College life



WELCOME FROM NSFC PRINCIPAL GERARD GARVEY

A fast paced first week has been an overwhelmingly positive experience.

A GREAT FIRST WEEK BACK AT COLLEGE

This week has seen hundreds of our new students arrive at college for their first week at sixth form, and it has been a great pleasure to welcome so many positive and focused students. Starting at sixth form can be an anxious time in normal circumstances, and this year has been exacerbated by the wide ranging challenges we face in providing a safe and secure environment which adheres to the social distancing guidelines. I am pleased to report that our new approach, with staggered start and finish times for different year groups, dedicated subject days, enabling students to remain within contained groups, and our new one-way system have all worked really well.

The students have acted responsibly and shown great respect to our staff which has been so helpful in ensuring the college runs efficiently and provides the sort of learning environment we need. A quick survey was sent to our first year students yesterday, and the response has been overwhelmingly positive, and demonstrates just how keen the students have been to get started. This bodes really well for the year ahead, and we are grateful for the positive attitude and support of all of our students.

Next week, we will be inviting parents of the first year A Level and A2L3 students to our first virtual parents welcome event. Whilst we would have enjoyed the opportunity to welcome all new parents into the college building, it was felt that a virtual event using video links would be more practical and would allow you to meet and hear from the senior team as early as possible into the new term. We hope that you find the welcome parents event useful, and as always we are here and keen to hear your views and welcome feedback.

I hope that at the end of this fast paced first week, all the students have enjoyed their early college experience and I wish everyone an enjoyable weekend

Yours faithfully,

Gerard

STUDENTS FEELING POSITIVE AS THE TERM STARTS

We wanted to share some of the feedback we have had from students who started with us this week. It has been an exceptional week and we are really grateful to all our new students for the helpful and mature way they have behaved whilst starting at the college.

Daniella Elkington

“It was a good way to meet people and get talking through ice breakers, taking some of the pressure off the first full day as it allowed me to feel comfortable in my class and my peers.”



Lui Bauer

“Friendly staff at the entrance gave helpful directions to classrooms. I felt welcome instantly. The induction activities were great for getting to know people even with the restrictions on distancing. Your action plan for COVID safety makes me feel very safe and is really well executed. Thank you so much!”



Sydney Cook

“My induction with Katie was great, She was really welcoming and informative.”



Bethany Bone

“Charly was really nice and we did some icebreakers that made everyone loosen up a bit and start talking more.”



Ellie Cram

“Induction and the first week were great for getting organised. I was able to stay socially distant in the classroom and at all times.”

ADAPTING TO THE NEW COLLEGE ENVIRONMENT



COVID 19 Student Information and Updates

We have worked hard all summer to ensure that the return to sixth form was as smooth as possible, and with the cooperation and support of all of our new students we are pleased to have the first week completed safely and securely, with students enjoying the chance to be back in full time education.

There has been a really positive response to our 'dedicated subject days' and the new approach is already working well across all subjects. This approach has ensured we could manage the arrival and departure of students in whole year bubbles, and we also have managed to allow for a staggered lunch break which means our corridors and communal areas have been carefully controlled. Some of the additional activities we have included to ensure our students have both a positive and safe experience in college include:

We are recommending that students wear face masks when in communal spaces and arriving and leaving the college. There is no requirement to wear masks during lessons. This approach has worked well so far, as many students come in using public transport and so are used to having their masks on, but we are encouraging students to remain disciplined all day, whilst on site, and help us keep the college a safe space for everyone.

We have a range of guides and supporting materials for students as they start their academic journey with us, and we wanted to make sure you were aware of the student handbook, guide to moving around college and college life video.

[GETTING AROUND](#)

[STUDENT HANDBOOK](#)

[VISITING COLLEGE](#)

VIRTUAL PARENTS EVENING

We always look to keep parents involved in college life, and during the academic year we will remain in touch at all relevant times to provide the much needed feedback and progress of the students.

Next week, we have decided to run a Welcome presentation for parents featuring members of our Senior Leadership Team, and welcoming all parents to the college.

The link to the virtual parents evening will be emailed to you on:

**Thursday 17th September
5.00pm**



REFLECTIONS FROM STAFF

As we finish our first week, here are a selection of comments and views from our staff on what has been a hectic but enjoyable and successful first week.

We have been so excited to welcome students back to NSFC. The last few months enabled us to create some exciting and stimulating learning environments using Microsoft Teams as a virtual classroom that we are continuing to use now, which will really help as we start the year looking at challenging yet exciting topics such as Theft and Murder.

But as useful as online tools can be, nothing can replace the buzz that being in the real classroom creates when we are having debates in Law, Politics and Citizenship so it has felt great to be back.



Anna Stokes
Head of Law and
Politics



Charlotte Walker
Deputy Lead Personal
Development Coach

It has been brilliant to see so many of our students in their online Personal Development lessons and it has been a privilege to read your aspirations for this year and beyond. I can't wait to start our telephone 1:1's.

The students are happy to be back in room 1.23 despite social distancing and individual desks. The new regime certainly hasn't stopped the critical debate and discussions we have. There is still lots of heated debate from two metres apart.



Jordan Tindale
Film Studies



Claire Deighton
English Department

Very impressed with my English Literature Block C and D. Brimming with confidence and promise. Conversing with ease and developing each other's ideas from the very first lesson. A pleasure to work with - very much enjoyed my first week working with them.