

22nd October 2021

NSFC4ME

An update on College life



WELCOME FROM NSFC PRINCIPAL GERARD GARVEY

*A busy first term for everyone and a
great return to college life.*



THE FIRST TERM HAS BEEN A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO SHOWCASE THE VERY BEST OF COLLEGE LIFE

Dear Students and Parents,

We returned to college on Monday 6th September and immediately knew this was going to be a special term. The energy, enthusiasm and impact of 1,400 students coming back to college on the same day for the first time in almost 18 months felt like a real achievement, and we were impressed with the way students immediately settled into college life.

The term has already seen us pass a number of significant milestones, and sets a great tone for the year. This follows another set of fantastic results which allowed our students to progress onto 66 different universities including Oxford University and King's College, London.

Our Year 12 students have made an excellent start to college life with many great initiatives running as a result of our enrichment programme. Students across the college have been supporting many additional national campaigns including Wear it Pink, Mental Health Tea and Talk and Black History Month. Year 13 students had the opportunity to take part in our HE Fayre which saw over 20 universities visit campus for an afternoon.

As we prepare for next term it is a great time to remind students and parents that for Year 13 students, that this is a vital period for study, as they prepare for Mocks in January and final UCAS applications are completed. Good student attendance is a key part of the success of Newcastle Sixth Form College, and I am pleased to see that most students have maintained 100% attendance through the term. We will also be holding online Parents evenings in November to give all parents the chance to speak with teachers and see the positive progression students are making. We will also celebrate our Student of the Year awards in December which is a great event and recognises those students who have impressed us with their commitment, focus and example they set for their peers.

I thank all students and parents for their continued support in this first term, and hope everyone has a good break over half term and comes back refreshed for college on 1st November.

Yours faithfully,

Gerard Garvey

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



October 2021 has been a month long celebration of Black History at NSFC, with activity in every subject looking at the huge contribution significant figures have made in every area of society.

From philosophers like Charles Mills and economist Thomas Sowell, and including mathematicians like Katherine Johnson and influential figures in the world of computer science like Mark Dean, this month we looked at every single subject, and the huge advancements made in every field thanks to these individuals. Our library celebrated black history with a collection of works by prominent and celebrated authors, and across college we fully embraced the theme of this year's BHM which was 'Proud to Be'.

In Art Craft and Design we commissioned students to produce their own representation of BHM and the standard and quality of work is obvious from the small selection shown.



WRITING THEIR NAMES INTO HISTORY

Margaret Busby OBE

Margaret Busby OBE was born in Ghana, of part-Ghanaian descent, and grew up in London. She became the UK's youngest author in 1980, and has since published over 20 books, including the novel 'The Daylight Marriage'.

David Olusoga OBE

David is a British historian, writer, broadcaster, journalist, and filmmaker. He is Professor of Public History at the University of Birmingham, and has written several books on the history of race in Britain, including 'The Empire We Deserve'.

Melroy Blackman OBE

Melroy is a British writer, actor, and comedian. He is known for his work in the comedy world, and has written and performed in several plays, including 'The Colour of Money'.

Linton Kwesi Johnson OBE

Linton is a Jamaican-born British poet, writer, and activist. He is known for his work in the reggae and dub poetry world, and has written several books, including 'The Common Sense of Things'.

Bernardine Evaristo OBE

Bernardine is a British writer, actress, and novelist. She is known for her work in the literary world, and has written several books, including 'The Girl on the Train'.

Niyi Bandele

Niyi is a Nigerian-born British writer, actor, and filmmaker. He is known for his work in the film and television world, and has written and performed in several plays, including 'The Colour of Money'.

Adise

Adise is a British writer, actor, and comedian. He is known for his work in the comedy world, and has written and performed in several plays, including 'The Colour of Money'.

Alice Walker

Alice is an American writer, novelist, and poet. She is known for her work in the literary world, and has written several books, including 'The Colour of Purple'.

David Dabydeen

David is a Trinidadian-born British writer, actor, and filmmaker. He is known for his work in the film and television world, and has written and performed in several plays, including 'The Colour of Money'.

James Delaney

James is a British writer, actor, and comedian. He is known for his work in the comedy world, and has written and performed in several plays, including 'The Colour of Money'.

John Sissay

John is a British writer, actor, and comedian. He is known for his work in the comedy world, and has written and performed in several plays, including 'The Colour of Money'.

Alex Wheatle

Alex is a British writer, actor, and comedian. He is known for his work in the comedy world, and has written and performed in several plays, including 'The Colour of Money'.

Amarielle Fenn

Amarielle is a British writer, actor, and comedian. She is known for her work in the comedy world, and has written and performed in several plays, including 'The Colour of Money'.

Ben Okri

Ben is a Nigerian-born British writer, actor, and comedian. He is known for his work in the comedy world, and has written and performed in several plays, including 'The Colour of Money'.

Paul Gilroy

Paul is a British writer, actor, and comedian. He is known for his work in the comedy world, and has written and performed in several plays, including 'The Colour of Money'.

Irenosen Okojie

Irenosen is a British writer, actor, and comedian. She is known for her work in the comedy world, and has written and performed in several plays, including 'The Colour of Money'.

Benjamin Zephaniah

Benjamin is a British writer, actor, and comedian. He is known for his work in the comedy world, and has written and performed in several plays, including 'The Colour of Money'.

Zadie Smith

Zadie is a British writer, actor, and comedian. She is known for her work in the comedy world, and has written and performed in several plays, including 'The Colour of Money'.

Yrsa Daley-Ward

Yrsa is a British writer, actor, and comedian. She is known for her work in the comedy world, and has written and performed in several plays, including 'The Colour of Money'.



PREPARATION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

MINI MOCK INTERVIEWS

An important stage in preparation for university interviews for any year 13 students considering medicine as a pathway is the 'Mini Mock Interview' programme. This afternoon event saw students put through a series of rapid interviews with members of staff who provided a challenging series of interviews and scenarios. The purpose of these mini interview sessions is to prepare our students for the real interview process which is part of their final application and gaining offers onto relevant university courses.

Students enjoyed the afternoon long activity and undertook the full range of interview scenarios, which will ensure they feel more confident and prepared for the real activities which come later this year.



HE FAYRE 2021

Our HE Fayre is an annual event which grows each year, and this year saw 22 universities attend to talk with students across a whole afternoon. For our Year 13 students this event is a great opportunity to look at potential destinations, but more importantly speak with universities about other considerations such as finance, careers and university life.



The purpose of the event is to expose our students to a wide range of opportunities and give them the chance to consider the huge range of options which are open to them when considering Higher Education.

Analysis of our 2021 A Level results revealed that students attending NSFC have an 18% better chance of progressing to HE than the national average and so the HE Fayre is just one of the ways in which we engage students in preparing for life beyond sixth form. This year's event was a great success with over 1,300 students attending the half day event, and we were extremely grateful to the universities who sent teams to support this event representing locations across the whole of the UK.



WEAR IT PINK DAY



We had a fantastic show of support for Breast Cancer Now with our very own Wear it Pink Day which took place on Friday 15th October.

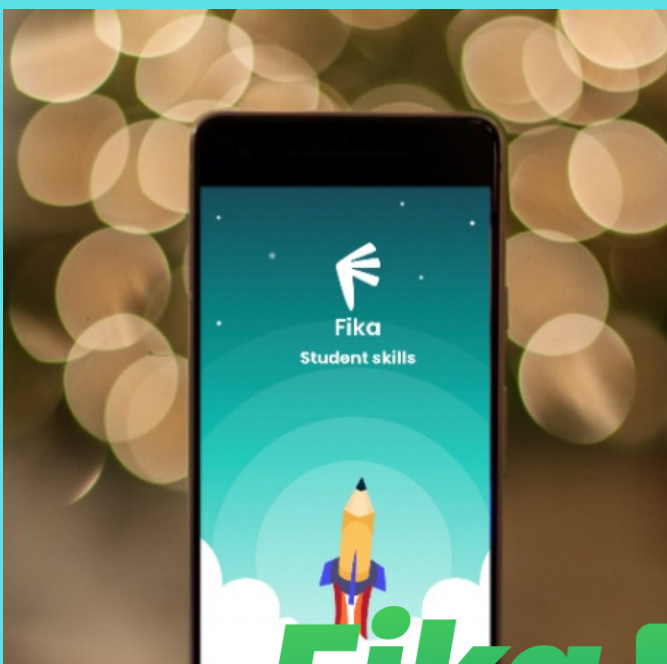
Students showed up in a variety of pink garments and the whole day was a huge success with the college raising over £160 for the charity.

Students held their own collections around the campus and students were encouraged to donate £1 if they were wearing something pink on the day.



**BREAST
CANCER
NOW** The research
& care charity

MANAGING STRESS: FIKA SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS



Fika 

The good mental health of our students is of paramount importance, and every student at NSFC can download the FIKA wellbeing and mental health app for free, which allows them to follow a range of activities designed by experts to help combat the issues relating to good mental health. FIKA has been developed specifically to address the issues of stress management, focus and motivation.

Many students already have the easy to use application on personal devices, and if you would like to download the app just visit www.fika.community/ and the site will guide you through the process to download the app and access the hundreds of useful resources.



HOLOCAUST AMBASSADORS 2021

A group of our students took part in an enrichment programme run by the Holocaust Education Trust. Taking the 'Lessons from Auschwitz' online course, four of our students have become Holocaust Ambassadors. Well done to Grace Gladdon, Caitlin McAuley, Faye Thompson and Megan Wheeler who worked extremely hard and now join a national band of ambassadors with the aim to educate others on not just the Holocaust itself, but the people who suffered and survived.

The students were greatly moved by the stories they heard and felt a great responsibility to ensure that we remember the real people who endured those horrors. As Faye put it "we should re-humanise the victims and survivors by continuing to tell their stories".

In an effort to see this happen all four focussed on the stories of survivors, such as Kitty Hart-Moxon and Elie Wiesel, and shared their experience in a newsletter they put together for the wider college body.

IT'S GOOD TO TALK

On Thursday 21st October NSFC took part in Mental Health Tea & Talk. NSFC takes the mental health of our students and staff very seriously, and we believe it is important that we talk about it to break the taboo surrounding mental health.

Everyone was invited to enjoy a drink and cakes which were available throughout the day and discuss topics relating to mental health.

Donations for the food and drinks were donated to the Mental Health Foundation. Their mission is to "help people understand, protect and sustain their mental health", with a focus on improved research and developing community programmes.





UCAS DEADLINE UPDATE

Our internal deadline for UCAS applications was Thursday 21st October, and this is an important stage of every Year 13's progression, with the combined efforts of students, teachers and Personal Development Coaches we have had an excellent response.

All applications will now be reviewed by Personal Development Coaches and if there are any issues or incomplete elements to applications, students will be sent the request to amend or add content by 1st November 2021.

Over the next few weeks all applications will be submitted to a final quality check, and we hope to have the majority, of applications completed before the Christmas break.

If you have any queries on this process please contact your child's Personal Development Coach.

MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Next half-term sees the start of a very exciting new working group for students, with the establishment of our very first 'Model United Nations. As an organisation the UN is made up of 193 countries who come together regularly to discuss issues and come to joint agreements and resolutions which provide solutions to global challenges on a range of issues from climate change to child poverty. With separate bodies such as a dedicated Security Council and the International Court of Justice under its umbrella, the United Nations is a highly influential group on the world stage.

Using the college's purpose designed Debating Chamber, students will replicate these meetings by taking up the position of a member state and discussing topics relating to racism, politics, war, gender and many other relevant issues. With such a variety of topics anyone who is interested in philosophy, law, politics, history or international relations will greatly enjoy these discussions. Outside of these fascinating conversations, Model UN is the perfect place to get real leadership experience and looks great on personal statements.



NSFC 'Model' UN will run every Tuesday from 2nd November, during the Y13 lunch break. For more information on the Model UN you should attend the first meeting at 12.45pm on Tuesday 2nd November.

OUR RESULTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES

After a fantastic first term with the arrival of a new year group, and the return to a fully operating college, it is easy to forget that results day for our departing Year 13 students was only 8 weeks ago. We're incredibly proud of all our students, and the exceptional results they achieved despite the challenges they faced over the last 18 months. Our results maintain the colleges position in the Top 25% nationally for student progress at A Level, and demonstrated that students at NSFC now have an 18% better chance of progressing to HE than the national average.

Across our full range of subjects students set a great standard with some excellent results including:

- Hasan Bilal Thompson, who achieved A*, A* and A in Sociology, Business Studies and Economics.
- Anna Roth who got A, A, B in Art, Craft & Design, Film Studies and Media Studies.
- Emily Field, who achieved A*, A, A, A in Art, Craft & Design, English Language, Media Studies and an EPQ.

These students are just a small sample of the high achievements, and like every year at NSFC we celebrated results day with hundreds of students and families attending our results event.



COLLEGES WEEK 2021

18th–22nd October has been a celebration of all Further Education providers with ‘Colleges Week’, and this year the theme was ‘Get in, go further’. The week aims to celebrate all colleges in the UK and the excellent work they do.

As part of this week, NSFC decided to focus on the ‘One NCG – Our Community is Your Community’ initiative which aims to support refugees in our local community. In aid of this our PDC’s organised a Refugee Donation Service, encouraging students and staff to donate any winter clothes to pass on to local services. Thank you to everyone who donated, these supplies are essential as we move into the winter months.

This week is a good time to reflect on the positive impact NSFC has on our community.

WINTER TERM CALENDAR

The following are just a few of the important dates and milestones in the college calendar we wanted to share with you. For further information on any of our events and specific enquiries please email:

NSFCOffice@newcastlesfc.ac.uk

NOVEMBER

1st November - First day of term

2nd November - History Careers Week

3rd November - Open Evening (5.00pm – 7.00pm)

4th November - NSFC Student Council Meeting

9th November - Sociology Careers Week

12th November - World Kindness Day Celebration

16th November - Year 12 Mock Interview Week

17th November - Geography Careers Week

18th November - All Student Parents Evening (4.00pm – 7.00pm)

23rd November - Psychology Careers Week

24th November - All Student Parents Evening (4.00pm – 7.00pm)

25th November - All Student Parents Evening (4.00pm – 7.00pm)

26th November - Flipped Learning Day – All Students

29th November - Business, Economics and Computer Science Careers Week

30th November - NSFC Student Council

DECEMBER

1st December - Open Evening (5.00pm – 7.00pm)

6th December - English Lit/Lang Careers Week

7th December - Praise Week

13th December - Newcastle West End Food Bank Appeal

15th December - NSFC Student Awards 2021

17th December - Last day of term