

Weekly message for Greenhead College students and parents/carers

Friday, 17 May 2024



Dear all,

Formal end-of-course exams commenced this week for our A2 students. I hope these have gone well for all concerned. Teaching for our A2 students is also drawing to a close today.

I hope lessons are continuing to go well for our A1 students. Subject monitoring will be taking place next week and there are details in this message about this, as well as next month's Step Into Your Future Week.

Here are this week's messages:

MESSAGES FOR ALL STUDENTS AND PARENTS/CARERS

Academic skills weekly top tip

This week's academic skills top tip is about the effective use of study leave. Clearly, this is timely for the A2s but I am sending this to all students as the information will be useful for everybody.

Here are our recommendations:

Equip yourself with all the resources and stationery that you will need before study leave begins. Stock up on pens, highlighters, lined paper, post-it notes and print any past papers or resources you need.

Remove distractions – turn off the TV, put away your games console and remove your phone from wherever you are studying, so that you can fully concentrate.

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| Stay focused by working every day but taking regular breaks too. Try the pomodoro technique . |
| Vary what you work on, using different revision strategies such as blurting, flashcards, past paper questions, teaching someone else and mind maps ¹ . |
| Try to watch and listen when studying, don't just read and write. Find relevant videos or podcasts to incorporate into your revision. |
| Use the time to complete full past papers in timed conditions, then mark and review your performance so you can make improvements. |
| Ask for support from your friends and family – they could use flashcards to test you, help to keep you on track with your work and provide emotional support. |
| After an exam, try not to worry about it as you cannot change anything. Instead, reflect on what you could do differently and change your approach. For example, if you should have learnt the structure of the longer answers more carefully, spend time doing that. |
| Stick to a routine so that study leave is used for studying, not sleeping! |

We highly recommend that you create a study leave timetable. Include all your subjects and consider the specific requirements of each paper. Also, build rest, exercise, fresh air and time for connecting with others.

This planning template might be useful: [Study leave planner.docx](#).

Revision Timetable

| Day | Morning | Afternoon | Evening |
|----------|---------|-----------|---------|
| Sat 18/5 | | | |
| Sun 19/5 | | | |
| Mon 20/5 | | | |
| Tue 21/5 | | | |
| Wed 22/5 | | | |
| Thu 23/5 | | | |
| Fri 24/5 | | | |
| Sat 25/5 | | | |
| Sun 26/5 | | | |
| Mon 27/5 | | | |
| Tue 28/5 | | | |

¹ Blurting involves you writing down all the information you can remember on a topic. You then go back to your notes to find out what you've missed or got wrong.

Flash cards are also good for testing yourself. On the front of the card, you write a key term or question. Say your answers out loud. Use more flash cards to write down key words/terms and questions.

A mind map involves you writing down a key theme and thinking of new and related ideas which spread out from the key theme. You will have ideas written down in your own words, which will enable you to look for connections between them. This will also help you retain important knowledge.

Youth volunteering podcasts and Greenhead College

Over the last few months, some of our students and staff have been interviewed by Graham Sykes from 'Youth Social' as part of a series of podcasts promoting the benefits of youth volunteering.

The podcasts cover a variety of subjects, including how volunteering can help with applying to university, gaining experience of work, developing 'soft skills' (e.g. teamwork, time management, communication, problem solving, critical thinking, etc.) and getting an apprenticeship or job. A number of our amazing students are in episode 7, Claire Barnes, Volunteering Manager, features in episode 2 and James Davidson, one of our C&K Career Advisors, is in episode 3.

These podcasts are now available on all the main podcast platforms, including Spotify and Apple Podcasts. Search 'Youth Social Podcast', click on the links below or use the QR codes attached.

Apple <http://tiny.cc/5mrwxz>



Spotify: <http://tiny.cc/cmrxwz>



As a College, we are committed to supporting the development of students and one way that we do this is by offering youth volunteering opportunities. As well as supporting local communities, volunteering has been shown to also improve volunteers' well-being and is also a great way to develop key employability skills.

Many of our students volunteer as an enrichment activity or as part of their Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. Volunteering can happen at any point across the week, including weekends and evenings. There are a wide range of opportunities, including working in schools, charity shops, libraries, health settings, scouts and guiding, offering charities support with IT/web design, working outdoors with animals, or working on environmental schemes.

If you would like to know more about our current volunteering vacancies, please visit our Greenhead Volunteering Scheme page on [Moodle](#).

'Best Young Performer' nomination

I am very pleased to report that one of our first-year students, Gabrielle Dowling, who plays Cathy Hope in 'Emmerdale' has been nominated in the category of 'Best Young Performer' in the Radio Times Soap Awards. This award will be decided by a panel of professionals, with the ceremony taking place in Manchester in July.

Well done to Gabrielle and we wish you all the best for the awards!



Gabrielle Dowling as Cathy in Emmerdale. ITV

Best Young Performer - Voted for by a panel of soap experts

- Charlie Wrenshall (Liam Connor), Coronation Street
- Liam Mccheyne (Dylan Wilson), Coronation Street
- Ellie Dadd (Amy Mitchell), EastEnders
- Jaden Ladega (Denzel Danes), EastEnders
- Elizabeth Green (Jade Masood), EastEnders
- Amelia Flanagan (April Windsor), Emmerdale
- Gabrielle Dowling (Cathy Hope), Emmerdale
- Rebecca Bakes (Angelica King), Emmerdale
- Ela-May Demircan (Leah Barnes), Hollyoaks
- Noah Holdsworth (Oscar Osborne), Hollyoaks

Big band

Congratulations to our College Big Band, which took part in the Musica Kirklees Big Band Festival on **Saturday, 11 May**. The band raised the roof with a stunning performance and were awarded the prize for 'Best Trumpet Section'.

The Big Band has also been invited to take part in the Music for Youth National Festival at Birmingham's Symphony Hall in July.



Copyright, [Radio Times](https://www.radiotimes.com)

Congratulations to all involved!



Toilet facilities

Can I remind all students to treat the toilet facilities in College as they would at home or at work. Any student found to be complicit in the vandalism of toilets will be dealt with in line with the College's disciplinary procedures.

MESSAGES FOR A1 STUDENTS AND PARENTS/CARERS

Student monitoring

Student monitoring for A1 students will take place on **Monday, 20 May** (surnames A-K) and **Tuesday, 21 May** (surnames L-Z).

Independent study days

A1 students should note that on the following three dates they will be set work to do independently by their teachers: **Tuesday, 4 June, Monday, 10 June** and **Tuesday, 11 June**.

This is because there are large-scale exams for A2 students taking place on these dates where we will require use of every single teaching space in College.

Step Into Your Future Week – 24-18 June



Step Into Your Future Week Student Information Meeting

ALL A1 STUDENTS MUST ATTEND

Thursday 6 June 2024 will be a Six Period Day

with lesson times as follows

| Time | Period | MONDAY | Time |
|-------|--------|---|-------|
| 8.45 | 1 | B Block | 8.45 |
| 9.45 | 2 | F Block | 9.45 |
| 10.45 | | BREAK | 10.45 |
| 11.05 | 3 | A Block | 11.05 |
| 12.05 | | Step into your Future Week Information Meeting with College Staff Supervisors. Students will be notified about their meeting rooms after half term via TEAMS and information will also be on the Step into your Future Moodle page | 12.05 |
| 1.05 | | LUNCHTIME | 1.05 |
| 1.55 | 4 | D Block | 1.55 |
| 2.55 | 5 | C Block | 2.55 |
| 3.55 | | End of day | 3.55 |

**TAKE A PICTURE OF THE TIMETABLE ON
YOUR PHONE**



Step Into Your
Future Week

Staff are busy finalising arrangements for our careers-focused week, which all A1 students will be participating in.

All students must attend a compulsory information meeting in College on **Thursday, 6 June at 12.05 pm** specific to their chosen career area. They will be messaged via Teams after half-term with further details and to confirm which room they should go to.

At the meeting, a member of staff who will be facilitating the week for a student's chosen career area will:

- Confirm the timetable and outline activities planned for the week, including the Careers Fair on the Friday morning.
- Clarify arrangements (especially for any trips) and expectations for the week.

Please note that there are many exciting trips and activities planned outside of College during this week and the timings for the College day may vary from the usual timetable. Could parents/carers please ensure that they are fully aware of the timetable and of any planned activities or trips, so they know where their child will be. Some independent travel may be required. Parents'/carers' support in ensuring prompt attendance, especially for any coach departures, will be hugely appreciated.

Please contact Claire Barnes, Placement Manager, if you have any queries: cbarnes@greenhead.ac.uk.

MESSAGE FOR A2 STUDENTS AND PARENTS/CARERS

Revision

A reminder to A2 students to stay in touch with your teachers and Personal Tutor, should you have any concerns about your upcoming exams. The exams office can be contacted at exams@greenhead.ac.uk.

Please continue to use the library and study areas should you require a space in College to revise. You are also still welcome to use the counselling service right up until the end of the academic year (12 July).

Best wishes,

Simon Lett,
Principal