

STUDENT AND PARENT/CARER BRIEFING

Week commencing 12 October 2020

COMMUNITY

“For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.” (Matthew 18:20)

Important Dates

22 – 30 October - October half-term break

Forward Notice

As we learn of further useful/important dates for you, we will put them here for you.

Notices for All Students

College Canteen Survey

The College is going to conduct a survey on the service that our Canteen provides. We need **your** views and opinions. You will receive via your e-mail account a link to an online form. Click on this link and answer a few simple questions about the service we provide in the Canteen. We look forward to hearing from you all.

World Mental Health Week

This week has been World Mental Health Week. A large number of you have completed work on mental health throughout this term during your PSHE lessons. To find out more about how you can access mental health care online, please go to www.kooth.com. You can also look at the attached poster.

GCSEPod webinar on Motivation and Mindset

Last week, the student and parent/carer briefing included information about the GCSEPod webinar on Motivation and Mindset. The link to the webinar recording of the ‘Motivation and Mindset’ webinar by Cameron Parker can now be found here <https://youtu.be/n7wPciZkL8U>.

Notices for All Parents

Seneca Learning Parental Support - please register for a Seneca Parent account!

You may be aware that we’re using Seneca Learning to support our students’ digital learning.

Seneca offers high-quality free online learning courses for students to study from a computer, tablet or phone.

Seneca also provides free parent accounts. Their free parent accounts allow you to track your child's learning and help make conversations about school and learning easier.

Seneca's parent accounts also allow you to learn alongside your child if you wish to do so. This might be helpful in supporting you to work with your child on areas of their school work that you are less familiar with.

You can sign up for a free Seneca parent account here: app.senecalearning.com/parent. Alternatively, you can sign up by scanning the QR code in the attached document, named Seneca parent platform invite.

Seneca have made this handy [2-minute video](#) to help you get started.

If you have any questions about how Seneca works, you can get support from the Seneca team using the live chat on their website or you can email them at learnmore@seneca.io.

Chaplaincy news

Harvest Festival Foodbank Donations Tuesday, 20 October 2020.

As part of Student Chaplaincy, we will be collecting in food for the Harvest Festival and this will be distributed out to those most in need within our Community.

In order for this to work safely, we need to ensure the following takes place:

- All items must be handed in on the same day. This will be **Tuesday, 20 October 2020**.
- Students must hand in their items during their year group bubbles only. Chaplains who are collecting the items, will be wearing gloves and masks.
- This will take place in your **year group at first break**.

This year we are particularly asking for the items listed below. However, we are truly grateful for any non-perishable donation.

- Instant Coffee (100g)
- Long life milk (1 litre)
- Long life fruit juice (1 litre)
- Small bags of sugar (500g)
- Tinned fruit
- Tinned vegetables
- Tinned potatoes
- Biscuits.

Anything collected will be stored safely and left to be in quarantine for 72 hours.

If you have any questions, please see or email Mrs Mobey

Weekly reflection

Please read through the reflection in the attached PowerPoint. This week it is based on the theme of Community.

Pastoral Notices

Message for Year 9 students

Despite the message last week, the Year 9 behaviour has not improved this week. Any poor behaviour will be sanctioned and students risk losing social times if they continue to behave inappropriately.

Uniform

We understand that traveling to and from College in PE kit can be cold and if students want to use outdoor space during social time, additional layers will be necessary to keep them warm. Coats and sweatshirts are fine for this purpose. However, students should avoid wearing non-uniform layers over their PE kit while in College. The building is warm. If a student feels the need for an additional layer in the College building, this must be their College blazer or College jumper. Any other layers being worn in College during the school day will be a uniform infringement and can be sanctioned. Sweatshirts and coats should not be worn in the building. Hooded-tops are not to be worn in the building.

Food

As the autumn weather gets cooler, we are looking at keeping all consumption of food in the inside space during break and lunch times from the start of Term 2. There is enough seating for each year group in the Street. Please can students keep all consumption of food and drink to the indoor area from the start of the new term (Monday 2 November). No food or bottles of drink should be taken outside of the Street from this date. Students are welcome to go to the outside area at lunchtime for fresh air, but all eating and drinking should be carried out at tables indoors.

Walking around College

Students are expected to line up quietly outside classrooms whilst waiting for their teacher to arrive and to be mindful that classes are still in process when they are walking around college at breaks or beginning/end of the day and must therefore do so quietly and sensibly.

Reading Books

As staff move from class to class, there can be a period of time when students are waiting for their teacher to arrive. We would like students to use this time for reading. If all students could bring a reading book to College each day, it would enable them to use this time for reading. Students who would like assistance in accessing reading books should contact Mrs Ash.

Careers Notes

Whilst these careers notes are aimed mostly at years 10 and 11, that does not mean that no one in years 7 – 9 can look at them. It will start to give you an idea of what is out there for you in the future. It is never too early to plan!

1. Special Notice from New College Swindon for Years 11 and 10: Queens Drive and North Star Campuses – As you probably know by now, New College and Swindon College have become one institution. They had advertised that they were running physical and virtual open days in October and November. They have contacted us to say that, in light of recent advice, they are now only running virtual open days. These will take place on:
 - a. Saturday, 10 October 2020 -10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. (Queens Drive Campus only)

b. Saturday, 7 November 2020 – 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. (North Star Campus only)

There is still time for you to register for these events if you have not done so already (I would **strongly advise** that you do). Visit www.newcollege.ac.uk/open-events to register for any of these events. Whilst this is an essential event for year 11 students, New College is also pleased to welcome any year 10 students who want to start planning for their futures now.

2. Special Notice from Cirencester College – Cirencester College is planning to hold an **actual** Open Day on Saturday, 17 October 2020. It will be by appointment only and you can book up to 4 appointments with the subjects you are interested in studying. All information and booking details can be found by clicking: https://www.cirencester.ac.uk/events_and_actions/open-day-2020/ . You can also look on the main website to find videos from the Choices Day run earlier in the year. This includes sample lessons (lasting 20 minutes) and a virtual tour.
3. Special Notice from Marling Sixth Form – Marling Sixth Form is holding a live virtual open evening on 19 November 2020. During this event, you will be able to chat to teachers and students to find out more about the opportunities offered here. The evening will start at around 6.00 p.m. To sign up for the event, visit <https://www.marlingsixthform.org/admissions> . To get an idea what the sixth form is like, you can watch a video on <https://youtu.be/88OjEd8P5tk> . It is well worth a watch just so you can see what is out there for you.
4. UK University and Apprenticeship Search Virtual Fair (for year 11) – This will take place on Wednesday, 21 October 2020 from 12 noon to 6.00 p.m. It is like a real careers fair that you would visit, but just takes place on your computer. Over 90 universities, colleges and apprenticeship providers will be present. You will be able to see their “stands” and chat directly with their representatives. This will be useful for year 11s to think about your career beyond post-18. Click [here](#) to go to the website and find out more information.

The next briefing will be Friday, 16 October 2020