



CONNELL

CO-OP COLLEGE

16th February 2022

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

College will finish for half term this Friday 18th February. Lessons will resume on Monday 28th February.

If your child tests positive for Covid-19 during the holidays please let us know as usual by email to attendance@connell.ac.uk.

Please also ensure that your child tests at home before they return to College from the holiday.

Please find below some updates and information that I hope you will find useful.

With best wishes from,

Emma Soper
Head of College

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Setting some personal targets

As we reach this mid point in the academic year it is a good time for our students to reflect on their

- academic progress
- attendance
- participation in College life and personal development
- thinking about the future and their next steps

Please remember that you have access to all of this information via CEDAR which can be accessed from our website. Please email info@connell.ac.uk if you need a reminder about your password

Setting some personal targets on their own or in partnership with you could be a useful exercise over the holidays. For example - national statistics show that a student with 95% attendance will typically achieve A Level grades 1 grade lower than someone with 100% attendance. Covid has had an impact on attendance for many of our students so making this a focus for the second half of the academic year could have real benefits.

Supporting with revision and exam related anxiety

Another area to reflect on is preparing for exams. Without formal exams for two years we recognise that students may feel anxious and unsure about how to revise effectively. To support them with this all students have been given access to an extensive bank of resources to help prepare them for the exam season.

In addition to the 20+ new and innovative revision techniques designed for post 16, we have also raised awareness of how memory works. Once we understand that, we can revise, remember and retrieve more effectively! At this age, we appreciate that time is precious for our students. So we talk in depth about the importance of planning, barriers to success and how to overcome them.

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Finally, for most, the thought of exams is stressful. So we highlight the importance of maintaining their wellbeing during the exam season, whilst providing strategies to manage their anxiety. After all, a level of anxiety during exams is expected! Students can access all the resources on offer wherever and whenever they have WiFi, including; interactive information, videos, task sheets and much more! They can be referred to independently and may also be brought up by teachers in lessons. We want students to utilise these resources to help them approach their exams with a positive mindset.

Remember, if you are worried about the wellbeing of your son or daughter please let us know so that we can try to help.

Yr. 12 'Parents Evening'

On [Thursday 3rd March](#) we have our Year 12 Consultation Evening from [4.30-7pm](#). We are trialling the use of a website called SchoolCloud that will enable Year 12 parents/carers to sign in and book virtual 10 minute video call appointments with their son/daughter's teachers.

We hope that this will allow all parents/carers to access the evening as a result of the reduced arrangements for travel and other arrangements. We encourage your son/daughter to be on the video call with you. A separate '[Parents' Guide for Booking Appointments](#)' will follow on [w/c 1/3/22](#) that explains how you can log in and do this but please make arrangements to ensure you are available to log in between 4.30-7pm on 3rd March, although it should equate to no more than 3 or 4 x 10 minute appointments we cannot guarantee they will be consecutive so please factor in for some potential gaps between appointments.

Progression into Year. 13

Please note that Yr. 12 A level progression exams are scheduled for 29th April - 5th May 2022. These are exams which are designed to give students a realistic opportunity to understand the way they will be assessed in their course, and form an important part of

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discussions to make sure that each student is on the right course for them. Staff will share what the exam is testing with students after half term.

To progress into Yr. 13 on their existing courses we usually apply the following checks

- the courses still align to the students chosen career pathway
- the student is able to secure a passing grade, meaning they are able to secure a D for an A Level or a Pass for a BTEC, including a Pass in their examined units
- attendance of at least 95%
- general good conduct during their time at College

Where this is not the case we will work with you to agree what support might be needed to help them achieve or alternatively discuss different pathways to ensure that they are able to succeed in their chosen career pathway. This will be done in the summer term in a progression meeting with the student, a parent and a senior member of staff.

Remember, you can see academic and attendance data as well as any rewards or concerns through CEDAR. If you have any questions or concerns please get in touch via email to info@connell.ac.uk

Yr. 12 Work Experience

On 27th & 28th April, all Yr. 12 students will be taking part in a work experience placement. Since 28th January, students have been given the opportunity to source their own placement for these two days. There will be no lessons for students on these days unless any student has not been able to secure a placement. In this case, they must attend an employability session held within college.

University Finance Information Evening

On Thursday 10th March, all parents are invited to attend our student finance information evening when Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) will be giving a presentation

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from 5-6pm. MMU will also talk about their First Generation Scholarship Scheme available to students. They will be available for questions during this time.

Careers Education and opportunities

All students receive a weekly career bulletin which is designed to help them learn about careers as well as highlighting opportunities that may be of interest such as work experience and careers talks. If you would like to receive a copy of this on a regular basis please email careers@connall.ac.uk . If you feel able to offer a career talk or work placement, please do also get in touch.

Early Applicants

If your son/daughter would like to apply to study one of the following courses at university or would like to study at Oxford or Cambridge, please email careers@connell.ac.uk with your son/daughter's full name and the pathway they want to apply for from the list below

- Medicine
- Dentistry
- Veterinary Science
- Primary Education
- To study at Oxford or Cambridge
- To pursue a career in the NHS (Including physiotherapy)

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