



**CONNELL**

CO-OP COLLEGE

16th February 2022

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

February Parent Update

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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

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.



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

## 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 from 5-6pm. They will also be available for questions during this time.

## Yr 13 mock interviews

On Wednesday 16th March, Yr. 13 students have the opportunity to take part in a mock interview throughout the day. The interviewers will be from a range of our partner employers, HE institutions and other providers. They will last approximately 30 minutes, students will receive the questions beforehand to prepare themselves fully. Students are expected to dress accordingly as for a normal interview.

## Yr 13 mock exams

To give students another experience of a mock exam, A level mock exams will take place each Friday when we return from half term, on the 4th, 11th and 18th March, taking place on students' study day to preserve teaching time.

## Careers appointments for students not applying to university

After the half term break, we will have a careers advisor in college. All students who have not applied to UCAS will be given an appointment, which will be compulsory to attend. There are a number of other students who have requested an appointment - these will be scheduled shortly. If you would like your son/ daughter to request an appointment please ask them to complete this [form](#).