Dear Parent/Carer

Happy new year to you and your families.

It’s been a very hectic start, following the Prime Minister’s announcement on Monday evening and the subsequent lock down of college with most learning moving online. We are pleased that the Department for Education has announced that the planned summer exams cannot go ahead in their usual form and we eagerly await detail of the proposed alternative. We will keep you fully informed and ensure that our students are fully prepared.  In the meantime, please find below the weekly messages which are being shared with students next week:

* COVID-19:  We have updated our FAQ page on the main college website and we urge you to go here if you have any questions about College planning for and response to COVID. It can be found [here](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nelson.ac.uk%2Fnews%2Fcoronavirus-advice%2Fcovid-faqs%2F&data=04%7C01%7CDonna.Madden%40NelsonGroup.ac.uk%7C0fcc296b6a6c4acdd60608d8b3d4affa%7Cec8185ce4f05448b828746c0185766e2%7C0%7C0%7C637457073346678879%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=CVYzDRw3a8z4u%2BLQiWAAaisv2zfkj5slappHPudFYQM%3D&reserved=0)
* Even though most students are learning online, we still require all students to let College know if you get a positive test result. This is done by emailing: [absence@nelsongroup.ac.uk](mailto:absence@nelsongroup.ac.uk) or calling 01282 440293. Students are being reminded that they **must not** come onto site, unless they have been specifically invited to do so by their tutor or another member of college staff
* The College has plans to provide onsite testing to those students and staff who have been asked to come onsite to learn or work. These plans are still being worked through and further communication regards this will follow next week.
* If your young person is finishing college at the end of this year and wishes to progress onto an apprenticeship, please encourage them to attend the online apprenticeship event which is being held on Wednesday 3rd February. Students will have the opportunity to find out more about the Apprenticeships available, our live vacancies, the employers we work with and also the opportunity to enhance student’s CVs and interview skills. If your young person is still undecided about their next steps, please remind them that they can make an individual appointment with one of our specialist careers advisors by emailing:

[careers@nelsongroup.ac.uk](mailto:careers@nelsongroup.ac.uk)

* As we have moved to a model of full online learning for most students, please support us in ensuring that students are punctual to their live ‘Teams’ lessons and have their cameras switched on and professional / blurred background in place.  Online communication is undoubtedly here to stay, in the world of education and the workplace, so it is important that we help our learners present themselves in a professional way which will make them more employable. If your young person needs a laptop to fully access the work and Teams lessons, then please encourage them to request the loan of a college laptop.  To do this, they simply need to contact their tutor with the reason why they need one. We will then issue a set appointment for students to come in to collect their laptop. We have also been made aware that students can access Microsoft Teams and via Xbox and PlayStation consoles.
* We pride ourselves in being a “big fat maths and English college” as we recognise that English and Maths at GCSE are the most important qualifications to support progression to the next stage in education or into a job.  Therefore, we would appreciate it if you could ensure that your child is attending all of their Maths and English online lessons and completing their weekly homework.
* We are particularly aware that there are challenges to our learners’ health and wellbeing and we are urging students to participate in our extra-curricular activities as much as possible.  Despite lockdown, there are a number of online opportunities and tutors will be reminding students of this next week. We also have extensive resources to support positive mental and physical health on our student Moodle page.

Best wishes at all.  Please continue to follow the government guidelines by staying at home and observing the “hands, face, space” messages where this is not possible.

Kind regards

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**Fionnuala Swann**

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**Nelson and Colne College Group**

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