Dear parents and carers,

Happy  new year to you all and hope you and your young people enjoyed a restful break.  This is a key important term for all of our 16-18 year old learners. It’s when we really start to push them to progress beyond initial skills acquisition into mastery, embed knowledge in to long term memory and embed the importance of attendance ( on course and in English and maths), work-readiness and employability skills generally. For all of our students, this term is where we also focus on next steps. This ’internal progression’ process involves meaningful conversations between students and their tutors with regard to what they need to focus on in order for them to successfully progress onto their next level in college or their next steps beyond college. Please do start having these conversations also with your young person  to help them clarify their future intended ‘destination’.

A couple more notices that tutors will be sharing with students in tutorials next week:

**GCSE English – mock exams.**

For all students studying for their GCSE English, there are important mock exams taking place week beginning 23rd January.  At Accrington, these will take place within classrooms.  At Nelson there will be a full mock exam on Wednesday, January 25th, at 9:00 in the Sports Hall (unless they have access arrangements).  Please support us in ensuring your young person attends this important opportunity for exam practice.

**Summer exams**

We have been informed by the exam regulator that there is a planned contingency day for exams; this is used in case of a national event which would disrupt exams.  This year the contingency day is the 28th June. Students are advised not to book any holidays before this date, just in case this day is needed.

Finally, the half term two report to parents should be with you by today.  As always, if you have any questions about this please contact your young person’s tutor in the first instance.

Best wishes

Fionnuala

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