Dear parents and carers,

I hope you and your family enjoyed a lovely Easter break. You should have received your young person’s half-termly progress (working at grade) report at the end of the holidays. If you haven’t, please contact your young person’s tutor in the first instance. As we enter our final term for the academic year, the focus is on preparing students for final examinations, completion of coursework, and/or assignments so that they have the best chance of successfully being able to progress onto their next steps.

Just a couple of key messages from me this week:

**Covid related absences**

The government guidance has now changed and, as a college, we are no longer required to report specifically on COVID absences. All absences should be reported in the normal way (detailed below) and not the specific Covid email address of health@nelsongroup. In light of the updated government guidance on Covid as of 1 April –

*If you have symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as COVID-19, and you have a high temperature or do not feel well enough to go to college or carry out normal activities, stay at home and avoid contact with other people, until you no longer have a high temperature (if you had one) or until you no longer feel unwell.*

*If you have had a positive COVID-19 test result and are under the age of 18 years, you should stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day you took the test. After 3 days, if you do not have a high temperature, you can return to college if you feel well enough to do so.   If you are over the age of 18 years you will need to follow the same advice but stay at home for 5 days.*

**Reporting Covid related absences**

Any student with Covid related symptoms or positive test results should report their absence to college via the normal absence channels:

Email –[absence@nelsongroup.ac.uk](mailto:absence@nelsongroup.ac.uk)   or    Telephone – 01282 440293

Please click the link below for further information on the updated government guidance.

[https://www.gov.uk/guidance/people-with-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-including-covid-19](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fguidance%2Fpeople-with-symptoms-of-a-respiratory-infection-including-covid-19&data=05%7C01%7CEmma.Swindlehurst%40NelsonGroup.ac.uk%7Cfc40614fefa74386387808da2909534e%7Cec8185ce4f05448b828746c0185766e2%7C0%7C0%7C637867417266557519%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=cr23wyEnVmTJ2vn4rfLQ7L3R0Vohfg9SQmMN78kxyr0%3D&reserved=0)

**GCSE exams**

GCSE Maths and English exams are starting very soon - 18th May English and 20th May Maths (Paper 1). I cannot stress enough how important it is for students to attend all of their lessons. We would really appreciate your support in emphasising this message with your young person if they are resitting their Maths/English. In addition to this, there is an additional mock exam for GCSE English paper 2 (for all Nelson site students) on April 26th at 9am. Again, your support in reminding students about this would be much appreciated.

Have a lovely weekend….

Kind regards,

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**Fionnuala Swann**

Assistant Principal Academic Curriculum and Centre Principal for Nelson

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