

## PARENT BULLETIN: June 2020

It has been great to welcome students into College over the past two weeks as part of our phase 1 of reopening. We have had over 30 students come back into College and the comments have been very encouraging about their experience. We all know it has been difficult to return but it is still the friendly, supportive and caring place they left behind. Just a lot quieter for the time being! We expect student numbers to increase moving forward so we will need to monitor and adapt our procedures to accommodate the change. As we reopen to more students, things will again alter. We need to ensure that we can keep all our students and staff as safe as possible both now and in the future. We are constantly waiting for new governmental advice and guidance regarding our plans for September and will let you know as soon as we have them.

Can I reaffirm my thanks for your overwhelming support and positive feedback that you have offered the College over the past few months. This has been really appreciated by all staff and whenever I get sight of this it is always shared. It has been a great source of comfort to our team, all of whom have their own set of personal circumstances and challenges. In these unprecedented times I know that regardless of your circumstances at home and work that it has been incredibly testing; adjusting to new ways of working, dealing with furlough and changes to or loss of employment, supporting your children with their home learning and well-being. All of this against a backdrop of a very different way of life.

**Helpline** - If you have any concerns about helping your son/daughter learn or you need any other support from the college, please let us know by emailing the helpline, [helpline@newfriarscollege.org.uk](mailto:helpline@newfriarscollege.org.uk), ringing 07923 429392 or 07763 260733 or contacting your son/daughter's class teacher directly through Class dojo.

**Term Dates 2020-2021** - These have been added to our homepage on the College website.

<http://newfriarscollege.org.uk/>

**End of the Year** - We are in the process of completing End of Year Reports which will be sent out by early July. We are also completing group lists, staffing for next year and our timetable. We will send this as soon as it is complete.

**Leavers Celebrations** - Our leavers celebrations this year will be very different but we will ensure we mark their wonderful experience and contribution. We will sadly not be able to have a prom or assembly as per usual. This is very difficult for us all as it is a celebration of all that our young people have achieved, and the start of the next journey in their lives. We are looking at different options and would like to see all our leavers and their families before we finish in July. This could be a visit to college to meet with their form tutor and we will give leavers a traditional leavers book and DVD with well wishes to share as memento.



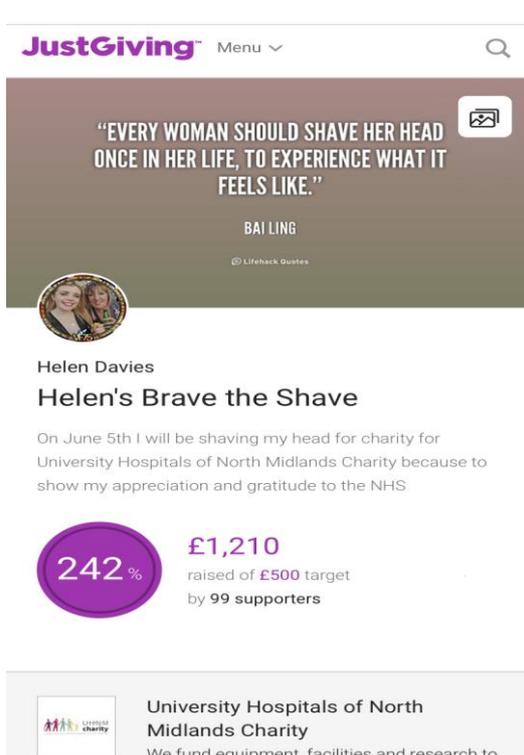
### Update on Food Bank

During the last 12 weeks, we have organised a food bank and a food parcel drop off service to many of our families. Dropping off in excess of 30 parcels a week at individual homes to support families. This provision, on top of the FSM vouchers, has been made possible, as a result of sponsorship from the Shaw Trust; income from the Shaw Education Trust and our own College. However, with the re-opening of schools and Colleges, our Foodbank has got to close and the number of parcels sent out will be reduced. This difficult decision has had to be taken because of the need to reduce costs but also in recognition of the fact that supermarket supplies are again plentiful, the free school meal voucher scheme is operational and universal credits are being paid and the restrictions on families are beginning to lift a little. We will continue to deliver parcels to a limited number of families and will contact them individually. We will continue to deliver parcels to a limited number of families and will contact them individually. We would like to thank all staff for organising this emergency support, I know that many of our families have found it invaluable.

Best wishes, *Rob Millington and All the Staff at Newfriars College*

# AMAZING.....

During these difficult times great things are still happening. More to follow in our Summer Newsletter.



"Huge thank you to @StaffordshireCC for the delivery of additional PPE packs, helping to keep our students and staff safe during the COVID-19 pandemic"



Our Grand Day In 2020 was viewed by 1000s of people online. We had many heroes of the day including Helen Davies who raised £1,210 for UHNM. Inspirational.....

Please follow us on our brilliant social media pages and our website.

<http://www.newfriarscollege.org.uk/>



Get Social:

[facebook.com/NewfriarsCollege](https://www.facebook.com/NewfriarsCollege)

[twitter.com/Newfriars\\_Stoke](https://www.twitter.com/Newfriars_Stoke)

[instagram.com/newfriars.college/](https://www.instagram.com/newfriars.college/)



## Keeping children safe:

Visit the NSPCC website for lots of information on keeping your child safe eg Online Safety, peer-on-peer abuse, parental advice etc.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/>

Think U Know is a good source of online safety advice.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>



## You and Your family's mental health:

The Mental Health Foundation and Place 2 Be have lots of good advice to help you in talking to your child about the situation

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publications/looking-after-your-mental-health-during-coronavirus-outbreak>

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/coronavirus/talking-to-children>

<https://www.place2be.org.uk/about-us/news-and-blogs/2020/march/coronavirus-advice-for-families-staying-at-home/>

<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/talking-to-your-child-about-coronavirus/>