

**October 19, 2020**

Dear Goodwill Excel Center Students:

Congratulations! You have pushed hard and excelled virtually in Term 1 of the school year. We thank you for your dedication and commitment to your academic journey. We also thank you for your patience as we navigate our new Microsoft Teams virtual platform. It is our desire to deliver the best distance learning experience for you and we will continue to reflect on your feedback as we build an environment that feels like our GEC home back in the building.

Given the current ongoing health and safety concerns resulting from COVID, we have made the decision to continue with virtual learning in Term 2. However, we will be offering some extra support on site to support your learning experience. We plan to share more details on these supports and other Term 2 updates in a Town Hall meeting on **Thursday, October 22 from 12-1pm on Teams**. You will see a calendar invite for this Town Hall.

In Term 2, we will be issuing a student survey to get feedback from you on potential onsite classes in Term 3. Your coach will be contacting you to go through this survey and we ask for your honest feedback, as they will help inform our Term 3 plans along with District health guidance.

**Please mark your calendars and note these important upcoming dates:**

<b>Wednesday, October 21</b>	<b>Final day of Term 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grades available by the end of the day in PowerSchool</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday, October 22 &amp; Friday, October 23</b>	<b>No GEC classes</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A 2-day break in between terms where GEC staff will be preparing for Term 2 with scheduling and curriculum</li> </ul>
<b>Monday, October 26</b>	<b>Term 2 begins!</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schedules will be available on both Teams (check the calendar for your class times) and PowerSchool</li> <li>Look out for schedule communication from your coach on Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup> / Tuesday, October 27<sup>th</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Tuesday, November 3</b>	<b>ELECTION DAY! Vote! <u>NO</u> live classes today, but your teachers will be posting lessons and assignments and GEC staff will be available throughout the day.</b>
<b>Thursday, November 5</b>	<b>GEC Term 1 Excelebration Awards Ceremony</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We will also celebrate our Term 1 graduates!</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday, November 11</b>	<b>Veteran's Day- <u>NO</u> classes (GEC closed for students)</b>
<b>Wednesday, November 25 – Friday, November 27</b>	<b>Thanksgiving break -<u>NO</u> classes (GEC closed for all students and staff)</b>
<b>Thursday, December 17</b>	<b>Final day of Term 2</b>

Your health and safety is always our primary focus. Please continue to follow the guidance of the CDC and the DC Health guidelines during this time and maintain the social distancing protocols. If you have any further questions, please email me at [Chelsea.Kirk@goodwillexcelcenter.org](mailto:Chelsea.Kirk@goodwillexcelcenter.org) or call me at (202)-309-6615. Also, our GEC website has been updated and we will be sharing important updates here as well. Please do check it out! Here is the link to our website: <https://www.goodwillexcelcenter.org/>

Again, we are so proud of your courage in continuing your education in these challenging times. You are doing a phenomenal job and we are here for you each step of the way! Continue to reach out to your coach and any member of the GEC team if there is anything you need or if you need any support. Our GEC community is stronger than ever. Celebrate all that you have accomplished this first term!

Sincerely,

Dr. Chelsea Kirk  
School Director

Cc: Catherine Meloy  
Colleen Paletta  
Nicholas Paczkowski