

December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Principal's Update – Winter 2023

I would like to express my thanks to parents and students for what has been a very positive start to the academic year. Please find below information about the college and dates of key events taking place over the next few months.

Attendance

Overall attendance in college has been very strong this term. Analysis for sixth form colleges nationally demonstrates the significant impact of attendance on student results. Nationally, for students with 95% attendance or above, 22% of all A level grades exceeded minimum target grade. Students whose attendance falls below 90%, which constitutes persist absence, inevitably tend to underachieve.

We have recently written to all parents and carers with details of their child's attendance so far this year, and you can check this yourself throughout the year by logging into Cedar.

Year 12 and Y13 Parents' Evenings

Parents' Evenings for all students will take place on **Thursday 11** and **Wednesday 17 January** and we will write to parents with details of how to make appointments online. You are welcome to make appointments on either of these two dates. Please note that lessons will end after period 2 on the above dates and college buses will depart at 1.00pm.

January External Examinations and Controlled Assessments

A number of courses have external examinations or controlled assessments taking place in January 2024. These are critically important examinations that contribute to students' final grades and are of equal importance to examinations that traditionally take place at the end of the course.

Timetables for these exams are available to students via Cedar. Full details of external examinations and controlled assessments in January are included at the end of this letter.

The college's *Student Code of Conduct* sets out clearly defines failure to attend examinations as gross misconduct. A student missing a January exam or controlled assessment for medical reasons will be asked to provide evidence, such as a note from their GP, so that this can be taken into consideration. Failure to attend an examination may result in a financial charge to students and a high-level disciplinary action, or in some cases the withdrawal of the student's place. Failure to attend an examination or controlled assessment might also result in the outright failure of the course and there may not be further opportunities to sit the examination at a later stage.

Thank you for your support, as parents and carers, in ensuring that your child does attend any exams or controlled assessments they are due to complete after Christmas.

Year 13 A Level Mock Exams

The second and final set of Year 13 mock exams take place between **Wednesday 28 February** and **Tuesday 5 March** (inclusive) and students will be encouraged to develop a 10-week revision plan after Christmas. These exams are important both because preparation for them supports long-term learning, but also because they help students identify strengths and priorities in the time that remains. There are only 14 college weeks from the start of the spring term to the start of the final Year 13 examinations.

Year 12 Progression Exams

Year 12 students will sit larger examinations carried out in formal exam conditions, between **Wednesday 1 May** and **Wednesday 8 May**. These exams are intended to assess whether students are in a sufficiently secure position to continue with their studies at New College Doncaster with their current courses, in Year 13. They help students to prioritise their work and revision as they prepare for Year 13 and help to reinforce learning.

Every student will have a progression interview on Progression Day (Wednesday 3 July) to review how the year has gone and to consider progression into Year 13. We will review results in the Progression Exams as well as attendance, commitment and behaviour. Occasionally, we may ask parents to also attend a meeting in college prior to Progression Day if we have any significant concerns that it would be helpful to discuss with you.

The best way that students can prepare for the final progression exams is to ensure they have worked hard and revised throughout the year, in preparation for the regular monthly assessments. Students will be encouraged to develop a 10-week revision plan after February half-term.

Cedar

Thank you to parents and carers that are regularly logging into Cedar to track student attendance, progress, support and intervention. You can also use the system to directly email a student's progress tutor and teachers.

To either set up your parental account, if you haven't already, or to find the link to log into Cedar, please visit <https://ncdoncaster.ac.uk/cedar/>

For an introductory video about Cedar, please visit: <https://vimeo.com/250277026/c94b7bdab5>

College Training Days

Please note that the college will be closed to students on **Friday 26 January** and **Friday 21 June** due to staff training.

Term Dates 2024-25

Term dates for next academic year can be found at <https://ncdoncaster.ac.uk/term-key-dates/>.

Please note that family holidays in term time are a breach of the college's *Code of Conduct* and are not approved in any circumstances. We appreciate the support and cooperation of parents in ensuring that family holidays are consistently booked during college holidays.

Information for Prospective Applicants

If you have a child in Year 11, we are pleased to remind you that the official deadline for applications this year is Monday 19 February 2024.

Student Support over Christmas

Whilst Christmas is a time of celebration, we recognise that for some people it can be a difficult time of year. External sources of support are identified at <https://ncdoncaster.ac.uk/mental-health-support/>.

May I finish by offering you our very best wishes for the Christmas break and a very happy 2024.

Yours sincerely



Brendon Fletcher
Principal

January 2024 – External Examinations and Controlled Assessments

<u>Qualification</u>	<u>First Entry</u>	<u>Y13 Resits</u>	<u>Exam Title</u>	<u>Pre-Release Date (if applicable)</u>	<u>2024 Exam Date</u>	<u>Exam Duration</u>
Business Extended Certificate		Yes	Developing a Marketing Campaign	10 Jan 24 PM	10 Jan PM and 11 Jan AM	2 hours Part A 3 hours Part B
Business Extended Certificate	Y13		Personal and Business Finance		15 Jan AM	2 hours
Creative Digital Media Production Extended Certificate	1Y	Yes	Media Representations		16 Jan	2 hours
Creative Digital Media Production Extended Certificate	Y13		Responding to a Commission	11 Dec 23	11 Jan AM & PM and 12 Jan AM & PM	10 hours Pre-Release Task and 8 hours supervised
Health & Social Care Extended Cert	Y12	Y13	Human Lifespan Development		12 Jan PM	1 hour 30m
Health & Social Care Diploma	Y12 and 1Y		Human Lifespan Development		12 Jan PM	1 hour 30m
Health & Social Care Extended Diploma	Y12		Human Lifespan Development		12 Jan PM	1 hour 30m
Health & Social Care Extended Diploma	Y13		Anatomy and Physiology for H&SC		18 Jan AM	1 hour 30m
Human Biology (Applied) Extended Cert		Y13	Principles of Applied Human Biology		16 Jan AM	
Human Biology (Applied) Extended Cert	Y13		Human Biology and Health Issues		18 Jan AM	
Law (Applied) Extended Certificate	Y13		Applying the Law	12 Dec 23	16 Jan AM	6 hours Pre-Release Task and 2 hours exam
Psychology (Applied) Extended Certificate	Y13		Health Psychology		18 Jan PM	2 hours
Science (Applied) Extended Certificate		Yes	Principles and Applications of Science		9 Jan AM, 9 Jan PM and 10 Jan PM	3 x 40 min exams. Students to be supervised until 2.10pm for PM exams
Sport Extended Certificate		Yes	Anatomy and Physiology		12 Jan AM	1 hour 30m
Sport Diploma	1Y	Yes	Anatomy and Physiology		12 Jan AM	1 hour 30m
Sport Extended Certificate	Y13	Yes	Fitness Training and Programming	11 Dec 23	10 Jan AM	4 hour Pre-Release Task and 2 hour 30m exam
Sport Diploma	Y12 and 1Y	Yes	Fitness Training and Programming	11 Dec 23	10 Jan AM	4 hour Pre-Release Task and 2 hour 30m exam
Sport Extended Diploma	Y12		Fitness Training and Programming	11 Dec 23	10 Jan AM	4 hour Pre-Release Task and 2 hour 30m exam
Sport Diploma	Y13		Investigating Business in Sport	11 Dec 23	15 Jan AM	6 hour Pre-Release Task and 3 hour exam

Sport Extended Diploma	Y13		Investigating Business in Sport	11 Dec 23	15 Jan AM	6 hour Pre-Release Task and 3 hour exam
Sport Extended Diploma	Y13		Development and Provision of Sport	11 Jan 24	18 Jan AM	4 hour Pre-Release task and 2 hour 30m exam
Uniformed Protective Services Extended Certificate		Yes	Behaviour and Discipline in the UPS		12 Jan PM	2 hours
Uniformed Protective Services Extended Diploma		Yes	Behaviour and Discipline in the UPS		12 Jan PM	2 hours
Uniformed Protective Services Diploma	Y13		Government and the Protective Services		9 Jan PM	1 hour 30m
Uniformed Protective Services Extended Diploma	Y13		Government and the Protective Services		9 Jan PM	1 hour 30m
Introductory Diploma IT	1Y	Yes	Fundamentals of IT		10 Jan AM	1 hour 30m
Introductory Diploma IT		Yes	Global Information	30 Oct 2023	12 Jan PM	1 hour 30m