

May 2024

Dear Y13 Students,

Your Year 13 Leavers' Celebration

We are delighted to invite all Year 13 students to join us to celebrate your time with us at New College Doncaster. This will take place on **Friday 24 May at 2.30pm** in the Sports Hall. As well as presenting Year 13 awards, we're also looking forward to sharing memories of the last two years and special messages from your teachers and Progress Tutors. Please arrive 2.20pm onwards for a prompt start at 2.30pm. We hope you can join us.

Lessons after Half Term

Formal lessons for Year 13 finish on the last day of half term – Friday 24 May. After half term, your teachers will continue to be available at your timetabled lesson times right up to the date of your last exam for that subject for additional support and revision. I'd like to strongly encourage you to take full advantage of this opportunity in the final weeks of your studies, and some of your teachers may specifically ask you to attend at certain times.

What if there are major problems on exam day?

Guidance from the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ), the exams regulator, sets out that *'As is normal as in a standard examination series, candidates are expected to complete their examinations to receive a grade.'*

If you miss a final Year 13 exam there will not be an opportunity to sit it at a later date.

Circumstances in which special consideration can be given where a student has sat an exam but been disadvantaged are very limited. Examples include terminal illness of the candidate or a parent / carer at the time of the exam, life-threatening illness or major surgery at or near to the time of the exam, a recent death of a close friend or relative. Similarly, circumstances in which special consideration can be given where a student has been unable to sit an exam are also limited. These circumstances are determined not by the college but by JCQ. Such situations are exceptional and you **must** contact the Examinations Officer Jayne.pownall@nclt.ac.uk and your Progress Tutor on the day of your exam or earlier to make the college aware of your circumstances or the reason for your absence. Appropriate advice can then be given, including information about whether or not you need to provide any documentary evidence and whether or not you need to complete any paperwork for the examination boards. Applications for special consideration must be supported by the senior leadership team and it is important that you contact the Examinations Officer on the day of your exam.

Good Luck with your Final Exams

We are now firmly in the final exam window and we want to wish you the very best of luck. The year groups that came before you achieved fantastic results and we know that you will too. I know you'll continue to work hard right through until your final exam.

To help feel calm and confident, remember:

- Get plenty of **sleep**, not just the night before your exam, but from now until all your exams are over
- Don't forget the positive effect that **exercise** and **diet** can have on your physical and mental health. Keep the sugar and caffeine low, keep the water intake high
- Keep to a focused and manageable **revision plan** throughout your exams, using the revision strategies you've developed over the last two years
- Remember that **you know what to expect** – you've done two sets of mock exams already and you know how it will all work. There will be no surprises in terms of how the exams will work or the content you will be examined on
- Please **talk to your Progress Tutor** or your **teachers** if you need any extra support, or if you have any concerns

We have every confidence in you and what you can achieve. Good luck!

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BF', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Brendon Fletcher
Principal