

September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Invitation to Year 12 Parents and Carers Welcome Evening

We hope that Year 12 students are settling into New College life and that they are enjoying their experience so far. We are very pleased to invite you to join our welcome presentation for parents and carers on **Tuesday 24 September** at New College Doncaster. The presentation will be delivered twice, so please arrive either for the presentation which starts at **5.30pm** or for the presentation starting at **6.30pm**.

On the evening, Senior Leaders will introduce you to the college's approach to teaching, learning and assessment and the support we provide for students. We will introduce some key people and will outline some of the important elements of our culture and systems. Parents and carers will also be welcome to ask any questions they may have about New College Doncaster at the end of the presentation.

In addition to our invitation to our Welcome Evening, please see below for some other messages about the weeks and months ahead.

Introducing Cedar – Our Online Portal for Parents

Cedar is an online portal accessible to teachers, students, parents and carers and you will find this invaluable over the next two years, helping you to check how things are going at college, and getting in touch with teachers and progress tutors directly if you would like to. We strongly encourage parents to regularly log into this system.

You can access Cedar by visiting <http://cedar.ncdoncaster.ac.uk/>. This web-based portal allows you to see:

- Real-time information about a student's attendance and punctuality.
- Details of how a student has performed in each of their formal assessments or mock exams and how this compares with their minimum target grades.
- A record of a student's pastoral log. This includes commendations – praise and celebration when things are going well. The pastoral log also details any extra help, support or guidance provided to students, and information about any concerns and actions taken to address them.

We have prepared a short video which introduces you to some of the key features which you can access using this link: <https://vimeo.com/250277026/c94b7bdab5>

Setting up your Parental Cedar Account

To set up your parental account please visit: <https://cedar.ncdoncaster.ac.uk/auth/account/create>

The email address used to create your account must be the same parental email address we have for you in our records – this will usually be the parental email address included in the student's original application. You will also need the student's reference number which starts with **D00** and is printed on every student's college ID card. If the email address and student reference match our records, an email will be sent to you with a link to finalise creating your account by setting a password.

If you are having difficulties, in the first instance it would be a good idea for the student to log into Cedar to check that the name of their next of kin / contacts and their email addresses recorded in the system are correct. Students can update this information by completing a 'Change of Details Form' at College Reception.

Study Support and Access Arrangements

Please check on Cedar that any implications for teaching and exam access arrangements are accurate. It is important that students get the right support and that they only receive Access Arrangements that have been officially approved. If you have any queries about this, please contact our SENDCo, Laura.carlin@nclt.ac.uk

Work Experience and Volunteering

In order to support students with their next steps, we provide opportunities for students to engage with employers in college as well as encouraging them to visit workplaces as a volunteer or for work experience. Even half a day in a place of work can help with employability skills and decision making. With this in mind, we are always looking to expand the range of opportunities available to our students and are asking all parents and carers to consider whether their place of employment may be able to accommodate students, even for a short visit. If you think you are able to help support this, please complete this brief [Expression of Interest](#).

Advisory Group member

Our New College Doncaster Advisory Group provides oversight, support, guidance and challenge to the Senior Leadership Team. The group meets four times a year to consider and discuss teaching and learning, student progress and outcomes, and progress with respect to the College's Improvement Plan. If you are interested in becoming a member of this group or finding out more information, please email clerk@nclt.ac.uk.

Student Bursary Fund

We would like to draw your attention to the Student Bursary Fund. Eligibility is assessed on household income and support may be available to assist with access to IT, assisting with transport to and from college, and costs associated with college materials etc.

More information can be found on the college website <https://ncdoncaster.ac.uk/supporting-you-financially/>

Yours sincerely



Helen Jackson
Associate Principal