

September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As students are settling into Year 13, I am writing with some important messages about the weeks and months ahead, and please note that this, and all general letters can also be found on our website.

<https://ncdoncaster.ac.uk/letters/>

Y13 Next Steps Evening – Thursday 17 October

We are pleased to invite you to our Virtual Next Steps Evening for Parents and Carers of Year 13 students. The event will provide reminders of the key information we shared earlier this year at our event in April, and will include updates on the next steps regarding UCAS applications. There will be an opportunity for you to ask questions or seek clarification of any queries you may have regarding university, apprenticeships or employment.

Please note, the event will be split into two halves.

6:00pm – 6:30pm - applying to **University**

- What happens after the application is submitted and responding to university offers, including the selection of firm and insurance choices
- Recap of student finance and how to apply
- Additional important dates for those applying to university, including information about accommodation and other living arrangements

This will be followed by an opportunity for Q&A.

6:40pm – 7:10pm - applying for an **Apprenticeship (including Degree Level Apprenticeships) or seeking Employment**

- The different levels of apprenticeships available
- Information about the application process for apprenticeships
- Information about searching for employment and apprenticeship opportunities, including labour market information

This, again, will be followed by an opportunity for Q&A.

Please note that this is a **virtual event**. You can join the event using the following link:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZGFhZmRkMDUtYmMwMi00MjY5LTgzY2ItMGVhZmU0ZGVhNGVj%40thread.v2/0?context=%7B%22Tid%22%3A%22700880c6-b0f8-4548-b517-41ee1279bda6%22%2C%22Oid%22%3A%22100429e5-2aca-42a8-bf97-b90de3b8d284%22%2C%22IsBroadcastMeeting%22%3Atrue%2C%22role%22%3A%22a%22%7D&btype=a&role=a

Exams and assessments

Most students who are enrolled on Applied General Qualifications will be sitting **external** exams in Year 13, often as early as January 2025. Please be aware that external exams cannot be rescheduled and are a compulsory part of the course. Missing an exam will almost certainly result in failing the course unless there are significant mitigating circumstances, or unless the student resits the exam at their own expense later, although this is not always possible.

Looking ahead for **A level** subjects, the awarding bodies have begun to release the dates for the external exams in the summer of 2025. In 2024, the exams started very early in May and ran up to the end of June.

AI (Artificial Intelligence)

Artificial Intelligence is increasingly relevant in education, and staff will be supporting students in the safe use of AI. However, all students are being reminded that any work they produce for assessment must be authentic to them and cannot have been generated using AI. Nationally, the improper use of AI has already led to some students being disqualified from coursework and/or full qualifications, severely impacting their progression to positive destinations.

Study support and access arrangements

It is important that students get the right support and that they only receive access arrangements that have been officially approved. If you are a parent or carer of a student who has study support needs, please log into Cedar with them and check under 'Learner Support' that their implications for teaching and exam access arrangements are accurate. Please note that due to the size of the college, the arrangements for smaller rooms may differ from those experienced at school. If you have any queries about this, please direct them to the SENDCo laura.carlin@nclt.ac.uk

Attendance

Attendance is an extremely high priority here at New College Doncaster, and whilst we encourage students to get the balance right between study and social time, we also advise students that extra sessions and lessons may be added to their timetable if we feel that this is a necessary intervention. Students should therefore be wary of booking regular appointments or part time work around their timetable. It's worth noting that timetables do sometimes change - so again, study periods should not be considered to be free time. Persistent or repeated absence is evidenced to have a negative impact on progress and outcomes and is addressed through the colleges Behaviour and Conduct system. Your support is appreciated in ensuring that students maintain high levels of attendance.

Term dates 2024-25: <https://ncdoncaster.ac.uk/term-key-dates/>

Finally, please contact Progress Tutors if you have any concerns or you would like advice about supporting your student through their second year of college.

Kind regards



Helen Jackson
Associate Principal

