

October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Further to our previous update letter, we are pleased to invite you to our Virtual Next Steps Evening for Parents and Carers of Year 13 students.

Y13 Next Steps Evening – Thursday 16th October

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 to 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 to 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 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_YjUwZGI4ZDctMjI1My00Nzk1LTk2YmYtZGY0ZjYzMzRjY2Fl%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 BTECs and other Applied General Qualifications will be sitting external exams in Year 13, often as early as January 2026. 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, particularly as resits are 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 2026. (In 2025, exams commenced at the beginning of 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

You should recently have received a letter from Laura Carlin, SENDCo, with an important update from JCQ (Joint Council for Qualifications) relating to new regulations in the assessment and approval of extra time in exams. If you have any queries about this, please direct them to Laura Carlin at laura.carlin@nclt.ac.uk.

If you have any concerns or you would like advice about supporting your student through their second year of college, please contact the Progress Tutor Team. Please note that this, and all general letters, can be found on our website. <https://ncdoncaster.ac.uk/letters/>

Kind regards



Helen Jackson
Principal