

Dear Year 13 Students,

As you move into the next stage of this academic year all students are finding themselves at different stages of their assessment schedule. For students studying applied general courses you may have already completed some of your external examinations and have already begun the final assessments and assignments as part of your course. For students studying one or more A level qualifications (except in Visual Arts courses), your A level mock examinations are approaching.

For all of you it is an important time to pause and recognise just how far you have come — and how much you can still achieve.

Whether you study applied general qualifications, A levels or a mixture of both, your wellbeing is important. You can find links to wellbeing support at the end of this letter.

Mock examination structure for A level qualifications (except in A level Visual Arts courses)

- You will sit two mock papers per subject
- Paper 1 will take place in the week before February half term, week commencing 9 February
- Paper 2 will take place in the week after February half term, week commencing 23 February

Your teachers will have been supporting you with your revision planning. This should be making you feel prepared and ready for your mock exams. This is also good practice in your preparation for your final exams in the summer.

Attendance expectations during mock exam weeks for students studying one or more A levels (except in Visual Arts courses)

- During the first mock week (w/c 9 February), you are expected to attend lessons as normal, alongside sitting your mock examinations
- During the second mock week (w/c 23 February), you will not be required to attend any A level lessons (unless they are a Visual Arts course)
- Applied general lessons will continue as normal
- There will be no tutorials in either week, this is to provide extra revision time

Further details, including individual exam timetables, will be available on Cedar shortly. Mock examinations are a vital opportunity to measure your progress, identify strengths and areas for improvement, and build confidence ahead of the summer exams. Your subject teachers will provide tailored guidance, and further general revision tips and advice can be found on the [Study Advice](#) page on our website.

We would also like to remind you that throughout your time at New College there has been a clear expectation that you spend at least the same amount of time on independent learning outside of lessons as you do in timetabled lessons — a minimum of 5 hours per subject each week.

These are the final months in which you can make a meaningful difference to your A Level results, and those results will shape your future pathways and next steps. What you commit to now truly matters — every focused hour counts.

Wellbeing and Support

Throughout the year, we have spoken to you about your wellbeing and managing distractions, especially digital ones. We have encouraged you to reflect on your screen time. You are now entering the most important phase of your post-16 journey, and we urge you to apply these strategies, stay disciplined, and focus your energy on what will have the greatest impact: your learning and your outcomes.

While hard work and commitment are essential, your wellbeing remains a priority. Successful revision is about balance — maintaining healthy routines, getting enough sleep, eating well, staying hydrated, and taking short, purposeful breaks to stay focused and motivated.

If at any point you feel overwhelmed, anxious, or unsure how to manage your workload, please reach out. Your tutors, subject teachers, and study support teams are here to help you with planning, managing stress, and staying on track. Seeking support is a strength and an important skill as you prepare for life beyond college.

Wellbeing support can be found on the student SharePoint hub under Safeguarding, Counselling and Wellbeing Support - <https://ncltd.sharepoint.com/sites/NCD-Student/SitePages/Safeguarding,-Counselling,-Wellbeing-and-Support.aspx>

If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to your tutor or subject teacher. We believe in your potential and wish you every success as you prepare for your mock exams. Good luck — now is your time to make it count.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'HJ', is placed above the printed name.

Helen Jackson
Principal