

October 2026

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

**Principal's Update: Assessment Calendar, Y13 Next Steps Evening and Key Dates**

It has been a pleasure to see our Year 13 students start their final college year with such positive attitudes for the important months ahead. A reminder that if you would like any advice about supporting your student through their second year of college, please contact the Progress Tutor Team. We value our partnership with parents and carers and are always keen to work together to support students to achieve their full potential.

**Year 13 Next Steps Evening – Thursday 15 October**

We would like to invite you to attend 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. The internal UCAS deadline this year is **Friday 27 November** and students will receive support through Progress Tutors, teachers and the Careers Team to ensure they are well prepared for this deadline. During the event, there will be an opportunity for you to ask questions or seek clarification on 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://bit.ly/Year13NextSteps\\_Oct2026](https://bit.ly/Year13NextSteps_Oct2026)

**Exams and Assessments**

We are pleased to share with you the Assessment Calendar for Year 13 students, showing when exams and in-class assessments are taking place throughout the year.

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, please ensure that all students are available up to 23 June 2027, which is the contingency day for the summer series of exams.

### **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.

### **College Events and Closure Days**

Key dates and events are listed below, where relevant, more details will be shared as these dates approach.

- **Thursday 21 January:** College will close at 12.45pm due to Y13 Parents Evening online Year 12 Parents Evening appointments commencing at 1.15pm
- **Monday 8 March:** College closed all day due to staff training
- **Tuesday 16 March:** College closed all day due to a Year 10 Taster Day
- **Wednesday 14 April:** College will close at 12.45pm due to Y12 Parents Evening

### **Term Dates 2026-27**

Term dates for the academic year can be found at <https://ncdoncaster.ac.uk/term-key-dates/>.

Please note that family holidays in term time are a breach of the college's *Code of Conduct* and are not approved in any circumstances. We appreciate the support and cooperation of parents in ensuring that family holidays are consistently booked during college holidays.

As we begin this final year, I would like to thank you for your continued support. We are incredibly proud of our Year 13 students and look forward to working in partnership with you to help them make the most of every opportunity available to them.

I wish all our students every success as they embark on the final stage of their New College journey and look forward to celebrating their achievements in the months ahead.

Kind regards



**Helen Jackson**  
Principal

# Year 13

## Assessment Calendar 2026-27

Key periods when students will be completing Formal Assessments, Mock Exams and External Exams.

### Autumn Term

| Date/Period                 | Assessment Activity   | Group / Subjects                                      |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| w/c 21 Sept and w/c 28 Sept | Assessment 1          | A Level                                               |
| October Half Term           |                       |                                                       |
| Tue 3 to Mon 9 Nov          | <b>External Exams</b> | GCSE Resit (Maths & English Language)                 |
| Tue 10 to Fri 13 Nov        | Mock Exams            | Applied General / BTEC<br>(with Jan external exam)    |
| w/c 9 Nov and w/c 16 Nov    | Assessment 2          | Applied General / BTEC<br>(without Jan external exam) |
| w/c 16 Nov and w/c 23 Nov   | Assessment 2          | A Level                                               |

### Spring Term

| Date/Period               | Assessment Activity   | Group / Subjects                                        |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Tue 5 Jan to Fri 15 Jan   | <b>External Exams</b> | Applied General / BTEC                                  |
| w/c 11 Jan and w/c 18 Jan | Assessment 3          | Applied General / BTEC<br>(without a Jan external exam) |
| w/c 1 Feb                 | Mock Exams            | A Level (week 1)                                        |
| February Half Term        |                       |                                                         |
| w/c 22 Feb                | Mock Exams            | A Level (week 2)                                        |
| Tue 8 Mar to Fri 12 Mar   | Mock Exams            | Applied General / BTEC<br>(with a summer external exam) |

### Summer Term

| Date/Period                   | Assessment Activity                   | Group / Subjects                                 |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| w/c 12 April and w/c 19 April | Assessment 4                          | A Level                                          |
| w/c 26 April and w/c 4 May    | <b>External Exams</b>                 | Visual Arts                                      |
| w/c 26 April                  | <b>External Exams</b>                 | Period for Resit Exams<br>(Applied General/BTEC) |
| w/c 4 May                     | <b>Summer External Exams Commence</b> | A Level                                          |

### Key Messages for Parents/Carers

- Assessments 1-4 are used to monitor progress and identify support needs. The assessments are completed during normal timetables lessons, days/times are decided by the subject teachers and communicated with students.
- Mock examinations are designed to replicate external examination conditions.
- Students should aim to avoid appointments during assessment and exam periods wherever possible.