

May 2022

Dear Year 13 Students,

Your leavers assembly

We are delighted to invite all Year 13 students to join us to celebrate your time with us at New College Pontefract. This will take place on **Friday 27 May** at **2.30pm** in the Students' Union. As well as presenting Year 13 awards, we're also looking forward to sharing with memories of the last two years and special messages from your teachers and progress tutors. We hope you can join us.

Lessons after half term

Formal lessons finish on the last day of half term – Friday 27 May. After half term, your teachers will continue to be available at your timetabled lesson times right up to the date of your last exam for additional support and revision. I'd like to strongly encourage you to take full advantage of this opportunity in the final weeks of your studies. In some cases, your teacher will insist on it.

Good luck with your final exams

A level and GCSE exams start on the 16 May and some applied general exams have already started. We are now firmly in the final exam window and we want to wish you the very best of luck. The year groups that came before you achieved fantastic results and we know that you will too. Students have worked extremely hard despite the challenges of the last couple of years, and we know that all the hard work you've done, and all the hard work you'll do in the next few weeks will pay off. Make sure you see page 2 for details of what to do if there are problems.

To help feel calm and confident, remember:

- Get plenty of **sleep** not just the night before your exam, but from now until all your exams are over.
- Don't forget the positive effect that **exercise** and **diet** can have on your physical and mental health. Keep the sugar and caffeine low, keep the water intake high.
- Keep to a focused and manageable **revision plan** throughout your exams, using the revision strategies you've developed over the last two years
- Remember that **you know what to expect** – you've done two sets of mock exams already and you know how it will all work. There will be no surprises in terms of how the exams will work or the content you will be examined on.

What if there are major problems on exam day?

Guidance from the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ), the exams regulator, sets out that '*As is normal as in a standard examination series, candidates are expected to complete their examinations to receive a grade.*'

In order to complete your qualifications and to achieve the fairest grades that reflect your hard work it is important that you are well prepared and attend all your exams. If you miss a final Year 13 exam there will not be an opportunity to sit it at a later date.

Circumstances in which special consideration can be given where a student has sat an exam but been disadvantaged are very limited. Examples include terminal illness of the candidate or a parent / carer at the time of the exam, life-threatening illness or major surgery at or near to the time of the exam, a recent death of a close friend or relative. Similarly, circumstances in which special consideration can be given where a student has been unable to sit an exam are also limited. These circumstances are determined not by the college but by JCQ. Such situations are exceptional and you **must** contact the

Examinations Officer georgina.lawrence@nclt.ac.uk and your Progress Tutor on the day of your exam or earlier to make the college aware of your circumstances or the reason for your absence. Appropriate advice can then be given, including information about whether or not you need to provide any documentary evidence and whether or not you need to complete any paperwork for the examination boards. Applications for special consideration must be supported by the senior leadership team and it is important that you contact the Examinations Officer on the date of your exam.

Results

Looking ahead, Level 3 results (A level and Applied General) will be available to collect from 8-10am in the LRC on **Thursday 18 August**. We are really looking forward to seeing you in person and there will be support available if you need it. If you are unable to collect your results in person, you can send a representative with a signed letter from you, clearly stating your full name, date of birth and the full name of the person collecting the results. The person collecting them must bring their own photo ID. The grades will show on Cedar on the following morning, Friday 19 August. Your results can also be posted on or soon after 18 August if you provide a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the exams office in advance.

Level 2 results will be on Cedar from 8am on Thursday 25 August.

We have every confidence in you and what you can achieve. Good luck!

Yours sincerely



Vicky Marks
Principal