Chief Executive Officer: Richard Fletcher

Principal: Vicky Marks
New College Pontefract, Park Lane, Pontefract, WF8 4QR
(01977) 702139
www.ncpontefract.ac.uk
info@ncpontefract.ac.uk

January 2023

Dear students, parents and carers,

I am writing to wish a happy new year to all of you and to give you some important messages about exams, communication, careers & next steps, Strep A, and some general reminders.

Please note that this, and all general letters can also be found on our website.
https://ncpontefract.ac.uk/letters/

Thank you to students and parents who have taken on board my pleas to park responsibly and to keep our site free of litter and chewing gum. We have had some lovely feedback from residents and other members of our community recently, appreciating the kindness and consideration shown by the majority of college students and their families. Please continue to consider the impression you are giving and your impact on the environment.

Staff consultation event, Cedar and other opportunities to stay informed
For year 13 students, you should have received a letter via email about the upcoming consultation event on 19 January. The year 12 event is on 22 February and you will hear from us with further information closer to the time. Please make every effort to attend this virtual event as the roughly 30 minutes you spend meeting staff from the comfort of your home is an opportunity to be updated on progress as well as receiving important advice. You can find a link to the letter on the letters page mentioned above.

As many of you are no doubt aware, Cedar is a great way to keep a regular eye on students' progress and attendance at college, and also allows you to email teachers. If you haven't created an account, please use this link to do so. You will need a next of kin email address that we have on file and the student's reference number that starts with L00.
https://cedar.ncpontefract.ac.uk/auth/account/create

Exams and assessments
Many of our year 12 and year 13 students completed mock exams before Christmas and the Applied General (eg BTEC) real exams are starting next week for students on relevant courses. Exam timetables are on Cedar for each student and need to be checked regularly in order for venues and seat numbers to be up to date. Please could I urge students to only sit in their allocated seat – this is very important. There is further information about exams, including frequently asked questions, on our website but I would like to wish all students who are involved this month the very best. Hopefully you have put in the right amount of effort to achieve your potential.

The next series of mock exams is 28 February to 8 March inclusive. This will be another opportunity for all those sitting exams in the summer to have a progress check, but it is important to note that for A level subjects, we have been asked by Ofqual to retain evidence in the unlikely event of disruption to exams in the summer. I am therefore giving you advance notice that papers will be scanned during feedback lessons, and the college could be asked to provide these to exam boards at a later date.

10 weeks in advance of the summer exams, including year 12 Progression exams, our revision countdown will start, and students will be provided with reminders, checklists and advice about how to give themselves the best possible chance of success. Year 12 progression exams will take place 5-12 May and the A level and BTEC external summer exam series runs from early May to the end of June. Please check Cedar closer to the time for exact dates. On 23 February we will hold a Revision Evening to support and advise families about preparation for exams.

Enrichment and Next Steps

As I have said many times, achieving good grades is only part of the college journey. Our enrichment programme continues to grow and develop, and there are many opportunities within lessons and tutorials to develop employability skills and gain cultural capital that will help students to be world ready. Please keep your eyes and minds open to the opportunities and if you haven't taken part in an enrichment yet, have a look at what's on offer.

We will be holding an apprenticeship evening on 9 February for Year 13 students and their families to get help with decisions and applications if this is a possible progression route for them. Information about other apprenticeship events and opportunities will be communicated to students via email, so please be vigilant as places can be very scarce. Progress tutors can support with applications and interview preparation. Please use this link to see our latest Careers and Next Steps Newsletter

The deadline for UCAS applications is rapidly approaching and progress tutors need the applications well in advance of 25 January in order to process them. The majority of our students progress to university or other higher education. However, many are convinced at an early stage that university is 'not for them' and whilst we support them with all positive destinations, we would urge them to explore *all* their options and visit universities. For a small fee, an application can be submitted to UCAS so that students retain the option to go to university even if they have doubts. Lots of students make very late applications because of a change of heart, and I would encourage all to keep this door open until after their results next summer. Have a look at the UCAS website for information about funding for university (undergraduate) courses including Disabled Students Allowance, how to apply for Student Finance and short videos to answer common questions. https://www.ucas.com/sfe

Work experience and volunteering

In order to support students with their next steps after education, we are providing opportunities to engage with employers in college as well as encouraging them to visit workplaces as a volunteer or for work experience. Even half a day in a place of work can help with employability skills and decision making, so we are asking all parents and carers to consider whether their place of employment may be able to accommodate students even for a short visit. If you think are able to help or if you could come into college to talk to students about your own work, please complete this brief expression of interest, and thank you in advance.

Attendance and Holidays

Holidays taken during term time cannot be authorised and can have a significant impact on academic progress. In some cases, where attendance is already low, holiday absence will result in escalation of intervention levels. Please support the college in trying to ensure that missed learning is minimised

Chief Executive Officer: Richard Fletcher

Principal: Vicky Marks
New College Pontefract, Park Lane, Pontefract, WF8 4QR
(01977) 702139
www.ncpontefract.ac.uk
info@ncpontefract.ac.uk

and refer to the term dates and exam timetables when booking holidays. Please note that 27 January is a staff training day.
https://ncpontefract.ac.uk/term-key-dates/

I hope you have found the information here useful. Finally from me, please follow this link to a letter about government guidance relating to Strep A.

Yours sincerely

Vicky Marks
Principal

tes fe awards 2020 Winner Sixth form college of the year Overall FE provider of the year
disability confident LEADER
Leaders in Diversity
Quality Mark Distinction 2020 - 2023 Physical Education, School Sport, & Physical Activity
newcollaborative Learning Trust
A charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales (company number: 09257194)
Ofsted Outstanding Provider