

6 December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

RE: University Applications and Next Steps

Many students at New College Pontefract choose to apply to university and we wanted to let you know about the support they have been receiving in college as well as providing you with some further information about their next steps.

Year 13 students have been receiving help with completing their application and redrafting their personal statement during their weekly tutorial session. Students should have now either sent their application or be in the process of completing this.

Now that the internal college deadline of 24 November has passed, there are still a number of students who have not yet submitted their UCAS application. It is not too late!

Your young person's Progress Tutor will look through their application and personal statement to check for any errors before their reference is attached and send their application to UCAS. Your young person's application is then submitted by UCAS to each of the universities they have applied to (can be up to 5 choices).

We are now aiming to send all applications before the end of this term (19 December) in order to provide Progress Tutors with enough time to check applications, attach a reference and predicted grades before submitting to UCAS.

We would therefore appreciate your support with encouraging your young person to finalise their personal statement and application in order to give them the best chance to send it off as soon as possible.

Whilst the UCAS external deadline is 31 January, we cannot guarantee that Progress Tutors will be able to submit applications in time for this deadline if students leave it until late on in January.

UCAS provide a Parent/Carers Guide with useful information about the process which you can access here:

<https://www.ucas.com/file/715336/download?token=iNdDS9YI>

The Careers Team at college are also available to provide support through Careers appointments and checking of personal statements for courses which are competitive (such as Teaching, Social Work, Health related courses and Russell Group/selective universities). We also have some in-person drop in sessions and appointments available with The University of Hull and Huddersfield University where students can receive general advice on their personal statement.

What are the next steps after my young person has submitted their application?

- Students will start to receive offers from universities.
- Students may have to submit a portfolio/attend an audition/interview
- Students will be invited to attend 'Offer Holder Days' at their university choices
- Student Finance applications will open in Feb/March 2024
- Students will make their Firm and Insurance choice
- Students will book accommodation with their first choice

Support available at college.

- Advice is available via Progress Tutors and the Careers team for interview preparation, choosing their firm and insurance places and meeting UCAS deadlines.
- Students are given permission to attend offer holder days, by informing their Progress Tutor in advance.
- There will be a tutorial session about student finance applications around February time.
- We have a Parent/Carer event to prepare for next steps at university, including advice on Student Finance, Accommodation and other top tips on **Wednesday 6 March 6-7.30pm** (more information to follow).

Non-University support

We appreciate that not all students want to go to university or are looking at several options, therefore we have recently held our first Apprenticeship fair in college and we want to make you aware of 2 further events you may be interested in attending.

Leeds Apprenticeship Fair - Monday 5 Feb 1-7pm at Leeds Arena.

There will be a trip from college, however students can attend this independently and parents/carers are also welcome to attend. More information will be sent out to students about the college trip available (please see attached flyer for more information).

Parent/Carer & Student Apprenticeship Recruitment Fair – Thursday 8 Feb at New College Pontefract 6-7.30pm.

There will be a short presentation from an employer and apprentice as well as the opportunity to speak with a variety of employers who will be exhibiting to find out about current apprenticeship opportunities (more information to follow).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch as we are happy to help.

Best wishes,



**Helen Lonsdale
Progression Lead**

EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS LEEDS

LEEDS APPRENTICESHIP RECRUITMENT FAIR

Leeds first direct arena #LARF24

Monday 5 February 2024

1pm - 7pm



Over 100 exhibitors will be there on the day offering information, advice, guidance and live vacancies. You'll have the opportunity to find out about apprenticeships, including what they involve and how they work. Everyone is welcome and the event is free to attend.



Scan QR code to book your free
ticket

APPRENTICESHIP



Leeds
CITY COUNCIL

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first direct arena