

February 2025

Dear Students and Parents/Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well. As we approach the second half of the academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to update you on some important upcoming events and initiatives.

Our 'Time to Revise' campaign will begin after the half-term break, ahead of the end-of-year external examinations for A level courses and Applied General courses. This campaign is designed to support our **year 12 and year 13** students in their preparation, and they will receive weekly advice and tasks to ensure they are fully prepared for their exams. We encourage all students to engage with this campaign to make the most of the resources and guidance available to them.

A message for all students studying Applied General subjects: You will be working on assignments that could make a difference in securing the best possible overall grade. I would encourage everyone to aim high and to complete your work to a standard that will enable you to leave college with grades that you can be proud of for life. For year 13 students, in a matter of weeks you will have completed your courses and you will never regret the hard work you put in. For year 12 students, you could well be limiting your final grade if you don't put in the maximum effort this year.

For subjects without external exams (most A Levels) the **year 12 students** will sit a progression exam at the end of the academic year. Progression exams will take place from 16th to 20th June and the 'Time to Revise' campaign for these exams will begin around Easter. These exams are an essential part of our students' progression, and they serve multiple purposes: to assess readiness for Year 13; to help teaching staff identify any gaps in learning; to familiarise students with the college's formal exam arrangements; to provide valuable data for UCAS predicted grades. Please note that these UCAS grades will be based on various assessment points and, while we aim to make them as aspirational as possible to support university offers, they must be supported by evidence in assessments to ensure their validity.

Year 12 students will later attend Progression Day on 4th July, where we will deliver key messages ahead of Year 13. On this day, we will review students' performance throughout the year, including discussions on personal development and attendance. This will be a valuable opportunity to reflect on progress and set goals for the coming year. Further details about the arrangements and timings of the day, including college buses, will be provided closer to the time.

In addition to their academic progress, **year 12** students are currently being supported with their progression plans in tutorials. I hope many of them have taken advantage of the recent apprenticeship fair, which has offered excellent opportunities to explore various career pathways. To further support students' development and preparation for their future, we have set aside two days—2nd and 3rd July—for students to organise a short work placement. These placements will provide students with valuable hands-on experience and insight into their chosen fields. During their progression interview on 4th July, students will be asked about their placement, which will be their last college day until Year 13 lessons resume on 8th September 2025.

On a practical note, during the exam season there will be a change to the timing of the college transport to allow all students in afternoon exams to get home. On Tuesday afternoons from 13 May to 17 June, the **buses will leave at 4pm rather than 3pm.**

Should you have any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant Progress Tutor. We are here to support both students and parents/carers as we work together to ensure the best possible outcomes for all our students.

Thank you for your continued support. I'd like to end the letter with a question for parents and carers. **Have you accessed Cedar recently to see attendance, punctuality, progress and commendations?** Please contact ncp-studentservices@nclt.ac.uk if you have problems with access.

Yours sincerely



Vicky Marks
Principal