

September 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are delighted to invite you to our “Achieving success in Year 13” Evening on Monday 13 October at 6.30pm here at college.

In previous years, we have run a Revision Evening in February. However, following valuable feedback from parents, we have decided to hold this session earlier in the academic year and reshape it into a more holistic event designed to help you support your young person in their final year of study with us. The evening will provide an opportunity to share key information at the start of Year 13.

During the evening, we will cover:

- Year 13 expectations and how to ensure success
- Revision techniques and strategies for independent learning
- The impact of smartphones and digital distractions on education
- Next steps and destinations after Year 13

To enable us to select the most suitable venue within college, we kindly ask that you complete the following form to confirm whether you will be attending. <https://forms.office.com/e/gTxawuerWa>

We have two car parks you can use for this event: Car Park 1 and Car Park 2, either side of the reception entrance. However, spaces are limited, so we advise where possible that you use alternative parking in Pontefract. Please do not park in the ‘permit only’ streets opposite college. One option is parking at Pontefract Collieries Football Club on Beechnut Lane. If you require disabled parking, please contact Reception (ext. 2201) in advance, and we will be happy to arrange this for you.

We know that the partnership between home and college is vital in helping our young people to achieve their full potential. We greatly value your ongoing support and hope that this evening will provide a useful opportunity to work together to ensure a successful and positive Year 13 experience.

We very much hope you will be able to join us for what promises to be an informative and supportive evening. In the meantime, please find more general information below on Cedar, holidays and next steps.

Cedar

As many of you are no doubt aware, Cedar is a great way to keep track of students’ progress and attendance at college and 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. Please note that the Progress Tutor is usually the first port of call for queries or problems. <https://cedar.ncpontefract.ac.uk/auth/account/create>

Attendance and Holidays

Attendance is an extremely high priority here at New College, and whilst we encourage students to get the balance right between study and social time, we also tell them that extra sessions and lessons may be added to their timetable so they must be wary of booking regular appointments or part time work around their timetable.

It's worth noting that timetables do sometimes change - so again, study periods should not be considered to be free time. 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 and refer to the term dates and exam timetables when booking holidays. Recent statistics show that attendance of less than 75% leads to one grade lower achievement. <https://ncpontefract.ac.uk/term-key-dates/>

Next Steps

Students are currently being supported with decisions and processes relating to their progression to university, apprenticeships or employment. The internal UCAS deadline is Friday 12th December. Students will be supported through tutorials and the careers department in college over the next term to meet this. 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 we would encourage all to keep this door open until after their results next summer. A useful resource is <https://www.unialliance.ac.uk/unimythsbusted>

Please take 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/money-and-student-life/money/student-finance/student-finance-england>

We look forward to seeing you on 13 October,

Yours sincerely



Vicky Marks
Co-Principal



Chelsea Branson
Co-Principal