

March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

## RE: Year 13 – The Final Push Towards Success

As we move into the final phase of Year 13, we want to begin by saying how proud we are of the commitment and maturity students have shown so far. We hope that the recent A Level mock examinations went well for our A level cohort; that our AGQ and Creative Arts students are acting on feedback as they work towards the final components of their courses. Over the coming weeks it is a crucial opportunity for all students to reflect, refine and act on feedback. The students who make the greatest progress between now and the summer are those who fully engage with feedback and college support.

For a small number of our year 13 students, AGQ mock examinations will take place week commencing 17 March. These are an important milestone, giving students a clear picture of their current strengths and the specific areas that require further focus ahead of the summer BTEC assessments. We encourage all students to approach these with determination and professionalism.

This week, we officially launched our **“Revision Countdown”** for all Year 13 students studying examination courses. This marks the beginning of a focused and purposeful period of preparation. Throughout this time:

- Staff will share weekly revision strategies and subject-specific guidance.
- Tutors will provide wellbeing support and practical advice to help students manage pressure positively.
- Student-facing staff are wearing “Time to Revise” T-shirts to promote a strong culture of ambition and focus.
- The Juke Box in the Students’ Union has been switched off to create a calm, purposeful environment.
- Students are being directed to high-quality revision resources to help them structure their independent study effectively.
- The Learning Resource Centre (LRC) will have extended opening hours. Students will be able to stay on site studying here until 5.30pm, we will communicate with students the start date of the extended opening hours shortly.

We recommend that students complete a **minimum** of five hours of independent study per subject per week. Consistency from this point forward will make a significant difference. A video outlining the most effective revision strategies has been shown to all students; we strongly encourage you to watch this together using the link below and discuss how best to support a structured revision routine at home:

[Click here for video](#)

### Plans for the End of Year 13

Students are expected to attend all timetabled lessons right up until their final examination in each subject. There will not be a formal study leave period, as experience shows that continued attendance leads to stronger outcomes. That said, the Easter break and May half-term provide valuable opportunities for focused consolidation, and we encourage students to use this time wisely.

In addition, we will be running revision workshops across most subjects, taking place at lunchtimes, after college and during the Easter and May holidays. These sessions are designed to provide targeted support and exam-focused guidance. Your encouragement in ensuring your child/dependent attends regularly can have a real impact. The timetable will be shared shortly.

Finally, we are delighted to confirm plans for our Year 13 Celebration Evening, taking place on Thursday 25 June, 6:00–7:00pm in college. This student-only event will be a special opportunity for the year group to come together one final time. Subject awards will be presented and farewell messages from teachers shared. We hope you will encourage your young person to attend and celebrate everything they have achieved during their time at New College Pontefract.

The weeks ahead are important, but they are also full of opportunity. With focus, resilience and support from home and college, our Year 13 students are well placed to finish strongly. Thank you for your continued partnership at this crucial stage.

Yours sincerely,



Chelsea Branson  
Co-Principal



Vicky Marks  
Co-Principal