

September 2026

Dear Parent and Carers,

I am delighted to welcome our new cohort of Y12 students to New College and would also like to take this opportunity to welcome you into our New College community as a parent/carer. We are excited that your young person has chosen to join us and look forward to working in partnership with you throughout their time at college.

Invitation to Year 12 Parents and Carers Welcome Evening

We are pleased to invite you to join the above event for parents and carers on **Tuesday 22 September** at New College Pontefract. During the evening, you will have the opportunity to attend a presentation delivered by the Senior Leadership Team, which will introduce you to the college's approach to teaching, learning and assessment and the support we provide for students.

After the presentation, Progress Tutors will be available to meet parents, if you have any urgent concerns. If you do not have any concerns at this point, you can always contact them via Cedar or by telephone at any time in the future. In addition, you may be contacted in advance to speak to a member of the Senior team during the evening, if there are any issues that we want to discuss at this early stage.

The evening provides an opportunity to learn more about life at New College, our expectations of students, and the ways in which we will work together to support their success. This year, due to building work on site which is temporarily reducing the capacity of the Students' Union, the evening will be delivered across two venues onsite: The Students' Union and The John Godber Theatre.

To ensure that all parents and carers can attend, some elements of the presentation will be live streamed between the venues, with members of the Senior Leadership Team presenting in person in both locations. Due to the temporary reduction in capacity caused by the ongoing building works, all parents and carers wishing to attend the Welcome Evening must reserve a seat/s using the link below. Two identical sessions will be available:

- **Session 1:** Doors open at 5pm, 5.30pm start
- **Session 2:** Doors open at 6.45pm, 7.00pm start

Booking Information

To enable us to plan a successful evening, we would be grateful if you could complete the form below to indicate the number of guests and your preferred session time. Please submit your booking by **Friday 18 September**.

<https://www.ticketsource.com/nclt>

Places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. If both sessions reach capacity, you will automatically be added to a waiting list. Should this be necessary, we will seek to identify and open a third venue on site to accommodate additional attendees.

Following your booking, you will receive confirmation of your allocated session. Please note that seats are restricted to 2 per booking. **You will be required to show your ticket on the evening.**

There is no expectation for Year 12 students to come along, the evening is planned for Parents and Carers.

Parking and Safety Information

There are three college car parks available for visitors attending the Welcome Evening:

- Car Park 1
- Car Park 2
- Rugby Field

As spaces are limited, we encourage visitors to make use of alternative parking options within Pontefract where possible. If you require disabled parking, please contact Reception (ext. 2201) in advance and we will be happy to make appropriate arrangements. To help us maintain positive relationships with our neighbours and ensure the safety of students, visitors and residents, we kindly ask that parents and carers **do not** use the residential streets off Park Lane for parking during this event. **We also ask that these streets are not used for dropping off or collecting students at any time.** Parking in this area is restricted to permit holders and alternative arrangements should be made for dropping off and picking up students, including during periods of poor weather. Please do allow yourself time to park, locate the venue and scan your tickets prior to the start of the session.

Work Experience and Volunteering

A college priority is for all students to engage in work experience as this is key in helping students develop employability skills and be ready for their next steps. With this in mind, we are always looking to expand the range of work experience opportunities available to our students and 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 you are able to help support this, please complete this brief [Expression of Interest](#)

Introducing Cedar - Our Online Portal for Parents

Cedar is an online portal accessible to teachers, students, parents and carers and you will find this invaluable over the next two years, helping you to check how things are going at college, and getting in touch with teachers and progress tutors directly if you would like to. We strongly encourage parents to regularly log into this system.

You can access Cedar by visiting <https://cedar.ncpontefract.ac.uk/auth/login>. This web-based portal allows you to see:

- Real-time information about a student's attendance and punctuality.
- Details of how a student has performed in each of their formal assessments or mock exams and a comparison to their minimum target grades.
- A record of a student's pastoral log. This includes commendations – praise and celebration when things are going well. The pastoral log also details any extra help, support or guidance provided to students, and information about any concerns and actions taken to address them.

We have prepared a short video which introduces you to some of the key features which you can access using this link: <https://vimeo.com/250277026/c94b7bdab5>

Copies of college letters are also published on our website and can be viewed at:

<https://ncpontefract.ac.uk/letters/>

Study Support and Access Arrangements

Please check on Cedar that any implications for teaching and exam access arrangements are accurate. It is important that students get the right support and that they only receive Access Arrangements that have been officially approved. If you have any queries about this, please contact our SENDCo, sarah.oneill@nclt.ac.uk

In addition to the Year 12 Parents/Carers' Welcome Evening, we would also like to highlight our SEND Welcome Evening, which will take place on **Tuesday 29 September**. This event is specifically for parents and carers of students with identified additional needs and will provide an opportunity to learn more about the support available at college, meet key members of staff and ask any SEND-related questions. Further information and booking details will be communicated separately by the SENDCo.

Student Bursary Fund

I would also like to draw your attention to the Student Bursary Fund. Students may be eligible for financial support if their household income falls below the qualifying threshold. Further information can be found on our website: <https://ncpontefract.ac.uk/supporting-you-financially/>

We look forward to working in partnership with you over the next two years.

Yours sincerely



Chelsea Branson
Principal