newcollege Pontefract

Chief Executive Officer: Richard Fletcher

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to let you know about some of the upcoming careers events at college, aimed at supporting students with their next steps. Parents and carers play a crucial role in a young person's career plans and we would therefore like to work alongside you by providing information about university, apprenticeships and employment options. We work closely with a number of partner organisations and employers who attend our events in order to answer any questions you may have. Please see below dates for your calendar, important deadlines and other external events we recommend to you.

Autumn Term – September to December 2026	
Date	**Event and Deadlines**
14th October	Access to Leeds talk (University of Leeds) A scheme aimed at supporting students to go to university
On a weekly basis (until 11th December)	Appointments with staff from Leeds Trinity, Leeds Beckett, Huddersfield, Northumbria, York St John, Nottingham Trent, Academy of Live Technology, Bradford University, Lancaster University offering general advice on personal statements (applicable to any course/university). Students can book sessions via their Progress Tutor
15th October	Deadline for students applying for Oxford, Cambridge, Medicine, Dentistry and Vet Medicine courses
21st October	Open Day trip to Huddersfield University – students can apply via the email invitation
10th November	Teesside American Bus coming into college to offer support for Personal Statements and general advice
17th November	Primary Teaching and Social Work applicant mock interview preparation with a number of local universities
19th November	Health Care careers application support and interview preparation workshop with Huddersfield University and Yorkshire Ambulance Service
7th December to 11th December	Employer Takeover Week - Employability workshops held in Year 13 tutorials to support students' success with future employment - a range of local employers will be supporting this event
11th December	UCAS College deadline to send applications
Spring Term – January to March 2027	
13th January	UCAS external deadline to send applications
11th February	Parent/Carer and student event: Apprenticeship Evening at New College Pontefract
8th -14th February	National Apprenticeship Week – focus in tutorials and lessons on options for apprenticeships
9th Feb 12-6pm	Leeds Arena Apprenticeship Fair. Students and parents/carers can attend this event individually or there may be an option to attend as a trip from college
1st – 6th March	National Careers Week – focus in lessons on next steps
2nd March	Prepare for University Event – evening event for Parents/carers and students about student finance and transition to university

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MDV/Oxbridge support

For students who are applying to study Medicine, Dentistry, Vet Medicine or Oxford/Cambridge, there are members of staff in college who support them through this very competitive process. Such students will be receiving support in college with personal statement advice and interview preparation.

Careers Guidance appointments

Students have access to a booking system to access careers guidance appointments with one of our fully qualified Careers Advisers. These appointments are available for students who are unsure of their next steps, would like some guidance their choices, need help with interview preparation, application forms and C.V.s to name a few common queries. Students can book an appointment here:
Appointment Booking System

University events

Students and families can attend university open days to help them decide where to apply. Such open days are advertised on the university websites and opendays.com. Many universities offer travel bursaries to support with the cost of travel, and often don't require any specific criteria to receive a reimbursement for petrol or public transport. Students can apply for a travel bursary via the university website.

Hull University are offering free train tickets for their open day on 10th October, departing from Doncaster Train station – please email opendays@hull.ac.uk if you would like to receive these.

Webinars

Sheffield Hallam University have a number of parent/carer webinars available on a number of topics.
The first three webinars in the series are available to book now:

- 6th October – Degree Apprenticeships vs Undergraduate Degrees
- 7th October – Personal Statements: Beyond the Grades
- 8th October – Settling in: Student Accommodation at Hallam

Students can book their places on our website here.

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are a very popular option for our students and applications have already begun for some companies with a start date of September 2027. We promote vacancies to the students via our Apprenticeship Bulletin on SharePoint and will send out further details of apprenticeship fairs which we recommend for you to attend. We will also support with applications, C.V. writing, interview practice and invite in employers to college who are looking to recruit Year 13 students in the future.

Tutorial Support

Your young person's Progress Tutor is also able to support with their next steps. During Year 13, there will be a number of tutorials where they will receive information and support in completing university, apprenticeship and job applications, student finance information, employer workshops and talks from ex-students about their journey. If you have any queries regarding your young person's next steps, please do get in touch with the careers team via: ncpcareers@nclt.ac.uk

Yours sincerely

H. Lonsdale

Helen Lonsdale
Careers and Destinations Lead