

November 2025

Dear Parent / Carer(s)

I am thrilled to welcome you as parents / carers of students who have entered the world of further education, having chosen to study A Levels with us here at East Lancashire Learning Group. I must start by congratulating you and your young person for choosing East Lancashire Learning Group for the place to study A-Level subjects. It really is an extraordinary place to study. Each year, we continue to be a beacon for educational excellence, and this is achieved by combining phenomenal teaching with hard work and high expectations. Now that your young people have been with us for their first half term, it seems an appropriate time to share some key information with you. To date, your young person has settled into college, meeting new teachers and classmates, they have had initial assessments in each of their subjects with targets for what to focus on. They have had the opportunity to change a subject within the first 3 weeks, and they have been asked to sign up to at least one extracurricular activity. More on that below.

The course information contained in this "parent pack" is aimed at giving you useful practical information so that you can support your young person to settle in and make the most of their time here at Nelson and Colne College. If we work together as partners in your young person's further education, they will be more likely to make exceptional progress and achieve their goals.

You will find the following information in this parents' welcome pack:

- Your young person's individual timetable
- Their Tutor contact details
- A calendar of key events
- An explanation of the A Level study programme
- Our college expectations and the A Level mind set

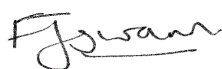
I hope you will find this parent information pack informative and useful. However, if you do have any queries or concerns as the course develops, please do contact your young person's personal tutor (whose contact details are provided as part of this pack), who will always be willing to help and offer guidance where necessary.

During the academic year, there are some planned drop-down days where students access their lessons and learning on Microsoft Teams. This is mainly with the aim of developing and practising key digital skills as well as preparation for Higher Education where online learning is still very much a feature. If our students do not have access to a PC, tablet or laptop and they are in receipt of the college bursary or have additional learner support needs, they may be able to loan a college laptop. Students should speak to their personal tutors in the first instance.

I am extremely confident that your young person will enjoy their A Level studies here at Nelson and Colne College. It is an exciting stage of their lives and the start of their future as a young adult.

We look forward to supporting them on their journey and celebrating their success in August 2027.

Yours sincerely,



Fionnuala Swann Vice Principal – Academic | Centre Principal – Nelson Campus

General Information

Location:

Nelson & Colne College
Scotland Rd
Nelson
Lancashire
BB9 7YT

Absence Line: 01282 440 293

Students Services: 01282 440 209

TERM DATES AND HOLIDAYS 2025 - 2026

Winter term

Monday 1st September 2025 – Start of term

Wednesday 22nd October 2025 – Classes finish for half term

Monday 3rd November 2025 – Students return

Thursday 18th December 2025 – End of term

2026

Spring term

Monday 5th January 2026 – Start of term

Friday 13th February 2026 – Classes finish for half term

Monday 23rd February 2026 – Students return

Thursday 26th March 2026 – End of term

Summer term

Monday 13th April 2026 – Start of term

Friday 22nd May 2026 – Classes finish for half term

Monday 1st June 2026 – Students return

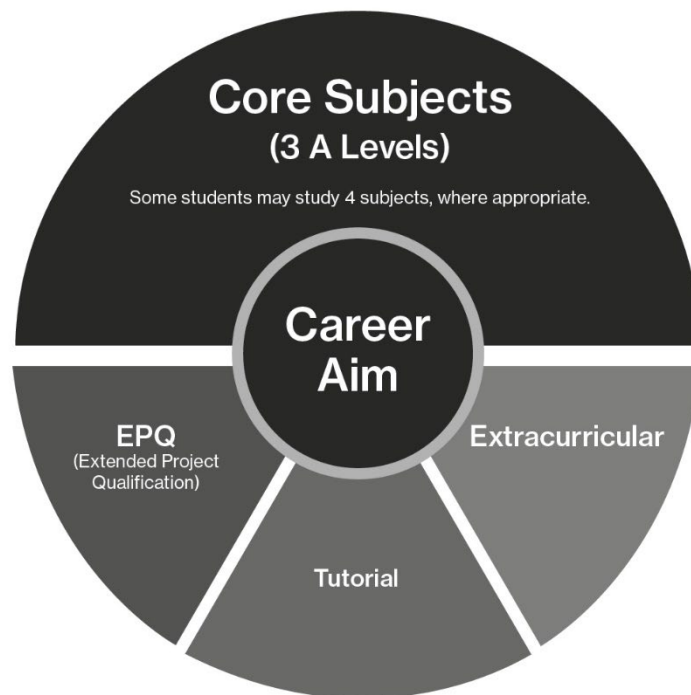
Wednesday 24th June 2026 – Students complete (end of academic year)

FE Learner Topic and Assessment Plan

A Level Subjects 2025 - 2026

Week No.	Week Beginning	Topic	Formative & Summative Assessments
1	01/09/2025		
2	08/09/2025		
3	15/09/2025		20 th September – Sat open day
4	22/09/2025		KAP 1 deadline
5	29/09/2025		29 th Sept DDL day for A level
6	06/10/2025		
7	13/10/2025		
8	20/10/2025	Staff Strategy Day 23 rd Get Yourself Sorted Day 24 th October	
27/10/2025		Half Term	
9	03/11/2025		
10	10/11/2025		
11	17/11/2025		
12	24/11/2025		MOCK WEEK Y1 and Y2
13	01/12/2025		
14	08/12/2025		KAP 2 deadline (mocks) and ALPS monitoring 1
15	15/12/2025	Get Yourself Sorted Day 19 th December	
22/12/2025		Christmas Break	
29/12/2025			
16	05/01/2026		
17	12/01/2026		
18	19/01/2026		KAP 3 deadline
19	26/01/2026	Conference Day (Thurs 29 th January)	
20	02/02/2026		
21	09/02/2026	CPDL Digital E Learning Day 11 th Feb (Wed)	
16/02/2026		Half Term	
22	23/02/2026		
23	02/03/2026		MOCK WEEK Y2
24	09/03/2026		
25	16/03/2026		KAP 4 deadline (mock for Y2) ALPS monitoring 2
26	23/03/2026		
30/03/2026 06/04/2026		Easter Break	
27	13/04/2026		
28	20/04/2026		
29	27/04/2026	CPDL Day 30 th April (Thurs)	
30	04/05/2026	Bank Holiday 4 th May	
31	11/05/2026		KAP 5 deadline and ALPS monitoring 3 for Y2
32	18/05/2026		
25/05/2026		Half Term	
33	01/06/2026		
34	08/06/2026		
35	15/06/2026		MOCK WEEK Y1

36	22/06/2026	24 th All SP16 – 18 conclude (Wed)	KAP 6 Y1 deadline and ALPS monitoring 3 Y1
37	29/06/2026		
38	06/07/2026	8 th Festival of Learning 9 th Health and Wellbeing Day 10 th Get Yourself Sorted Day and All sites close at 12noon	



Aamna Ahmad's Tailored Study Programme

Completed the Pre-Professional Programme in Medicine

As part of her Fine Art course, she completed a nine-month project on maxillofacial anatomy - increasing her knowledge of the oral area

Completed an EPQ on the ageing sun and its impact on earth

Carried out work experience at Burnley General Hospital in the Orthodontics Department

School
Clitheroe Royal Grammar School

Achieved
A*AA in Fine Art, Biology and Chemistry

Where Next?
Studying Dental Surgery at the University of Sheffield

Completed the National Citizen Service

Worked voluntarily on a weekly basis at a primary school to support children in English, Maths and Science

Took part in College's Young Leaders' Programme

Observed general dentistry first-hand during a work placement at Bridge Dental Practice, Burnley

The University Of Sheffield.

Developing Skills

In addition to the three A Level subjects, all A Level students have a compulsory "APPS" session every week with their tutor. This is designed to support the students' career aim and includes a focus on wider academic skills such as teamwork and communication, problem solving, and developing extended writing. From term 2, students will be given the opportunity to work on completing a research project which leads to an Extended Project Qualification (the EPQ). This will be an independently created project on a subject of the student's choice. The EPQ can be a dissertation, a field study, an artefact or even a performance. The project is designed to equip students with the 'little bit more' which is highly valued by universities and even carries UCAS points to support students in their progression to higher education.

Developing digital skills

You will notice on your young person's timetable that there is 1.5 hours of timetabled DDL. This stands for Directed Digital Learning; students are expected to work through MOOCs (through open learn) in term 1 and then develop their essential digital skills in term 2 and 3. They are not actual timetabled sessions as the emphasis is on "independent" work. Tutors will, however, check completion and certificates are required to be uploaded to their tutorial Teams site.

Extra-curricular Programme

To help students secure the best place at university and develop the skills that employers and universities are looking for, as well as support our students' health and well-being, we ask that all students sign up to at least one extra-curricular activity. These activities are designed to help students stand out from the crowd, build confidence and independence as well as gain new hobbies and interests. For example, students may wish to improve leaderships skills, volunteer for a good cause, or develop skills for public speaking. Please do discuss this with your young person and find out which activity/activities they are participating in.

Professional Skills

Pre-Professional Programmes

We also offer a range of pre-professional programmes which students can take alongside their A Level studies. These unique and innovative schemes are career focused programmes aimed at helping students to make an informed choice about their future, while encouraging breadth and depth of study and research in your chosen career path.

The Pre-Professional programmes offered currently at NCC are:

- Pre-Law
- Pre-Med
- Pre-Psychology
- Pre-Teaching

Studying Pre-Professional courses alongside your core study programme is designed to give you the edge for university applications in what are quite often extremely competitive and challenging degree and career pathways. Do please speak to your young person and discuss whether this is something that they could be doing.

Raising Aspirations & Applying for the Best Universities

We have excellent links with universities and other partners, offering a range of additional admissions opportunities for students, to support them in their applications to the best universities in the country.

Your young person's tutor will provide information about the various different partnerships and discuss eligibility criteria. Just some of these opportunities include:

Scholars' programme

See our prospectus for details of the Scholars' programme:

College Expectations and Code of Conduct – our “RESPECT” Charter

At college, we have high expectations of our learners. We explain to them that they are in an adult environment and that they have an obligation to behave like young adults, now that they have moved away from the school environment. It would be really helpful if you could help us reinforce these expectations to ensure that we continue to exhibit an exemplary learning environment.

The infographic is titled "Our Respect Charter" and features a large vertical word "RESPECT" on the left side. Each letter is a different color and is positioned to the left of a corresponding horizontal bar. The bars are: 'R' (green), 'E' (blue), 'S' (red), 'P' (yellow), 'E' (purple), 'C' (orange), and 'T' (blue). Each bar contains a title and two lines of text describing rights and responsibilities.

Our Respect Charter

We recognise that our College has a responsibility to create and maintain a respectful, safe and positive environment for everyone in all aspects of College life. Our Respect Charter sets out clear rights and responsibilities in relation to behaviour and attitudes which all students can expect from us and in return what we expect from you.

R	Ready to learn You have the right to learn here, accessing high quality teaching and learning You are responsible for being ready to learn and to play an active role in lessons by being curious, contributing and listening to others
E	Environment You have the right to a clean, purposeful and inspiring learning environment that you can call your own You are responsible for taking ownership of your own conduct in shared spaces ensuring that we are a sustainable College
S	Safety You have the right to feel safe and be safe here at College You are responsible for keeping yourself and others safe through your actions
P	Positive You have the right to high expectations and the belief that you can achieve You have the responsibility to arrive at College with a positive and curious mindset and 'can do' attitude
E	Employable You have the right to be taught the necessary skills and behaviours to enable you to reach high quality professional or technical careers You have the responsibility for developing the skills and behaviours needed for your next steps
C	Culture, EDI and Social Norms You have the right to be a valued member of the College community where all relationships are based on positive interactions, care, empathy, warmth, trust and cooperation You have the responsibility of respecting yourself and others and celebrating diversity so that everyone feels valued and included
T	Team NCCG You have the right to access opportunities that develop you as an individual and help you to develop positive networks that will support you to cooperate both now and in the future You have the responsibility for cooperating and collaborating with others and join in extracurricular activities, events and community projects, as well as to cooperate and collaborate to achieve personal

The A Level Mind Set

At Nelson & Colne College, we absolutely believe that intelligence is not fixed; that our students could all potentially achieve 3 A* grades, as long as they embrace a growth mind-set. The fact that we are the top college in Lancashire for the progress that our students make is a reflection of this belief in the growth mind-set. Ask your young person to complete the questionnaire below and try to encourage them to adopt a growth mindset.

Growth Mind-set

MINDSET QUIZ

1. Circle the number for each question which best describes you
2. Total and record your score when you have completed each of the 10 questions
3. Using the SCORE chart, record your mindset

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Your intelligence is something very basic about you that you can't change very much	0	1	2	3
No matter how much intelligence you have, you can always change it quite a bit	3	2	1	0
Only a few people will be truly good at sports, you have to be born with the ability	0	1	2	3
The harder you work at something, the better you will be	3	2	1	0
I often get angry when I get feedback about my performance	0	1	2	3
I appreciate when people, parents, coaches or teachers give me feedback about my performance	3	2	1	0
Truly smart people do not need to try hard	0	1	2	3
You can always change how intelligent you are	3	2	1	0
You are a certain kind of person and there is not much that can be done to really change that	0	1	2	3
An important reason why I do my school work is that I enjoy learning new things	3	2	1	0

SCORE CHART

22-30 = Strong Growth Mindset
 17-21 = Growth with some Fixed ideas
 11-16 = Fixed with some growth ideas
 0-10 = Strong fixed mindset

MY SCORE:

MY MINDSET:

