November 2024

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 Nelson and Colne College. I must start by congratulating you and your young person for choosing Nelson and Colne College 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 as 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

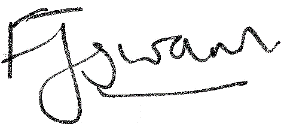
I hope you will find this parent information pack informative and useful. However, if you do have any queries or concerns as the course develops, please do contact your young person’s personal tutor (whose contact details are provided as part of this pack), who will always be willing to help and offer 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 2026.

Yours sincerely,



**Fionnuala Swann Vice Principal – Academic** I **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 2024 - 2025**

**Winter term**

Monday 2nd September 2024 – Start of term

Thursday 17th October 2024 – Classes finish for half term

Monday 28th October 2024 – Students return

Thursday 19th December 2024 – End of term

**2025**

**Spring term**

Monday 6th January 2025 – Start of term

Friday 14th February 2025 – Classes finish for half term

Monday 24th February 2025 – Students return

Friday 4th April 2025 – End of term

**Summer term**

Tuesday 22nd April 2025 – Start of term

Friday 23rd May 2025 – Classes finish for half term

Monday 2nd June 2025 – Students return

Wednesday 25th June 2025 – Students complete (end of academic year)

College INSET days (closed to students):

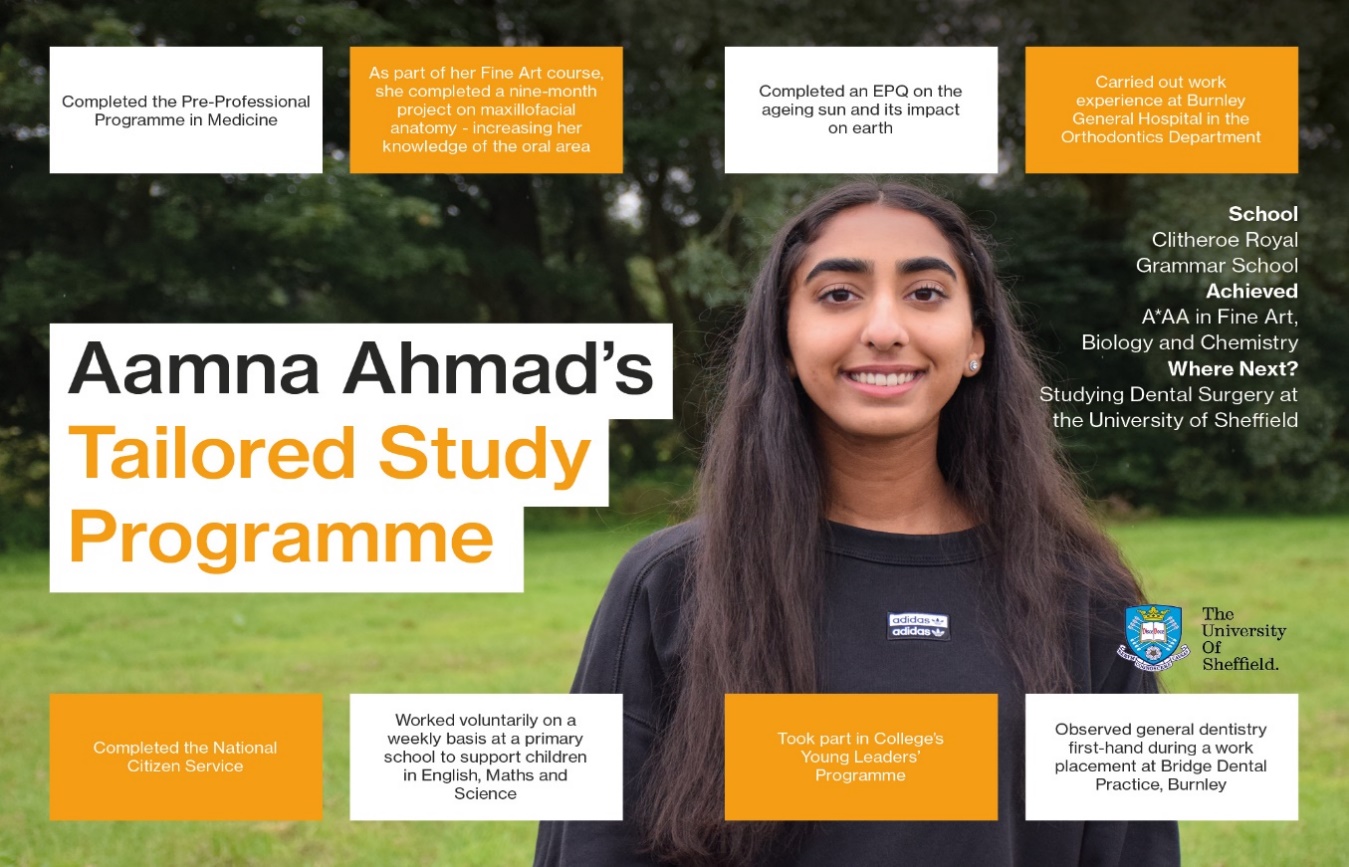
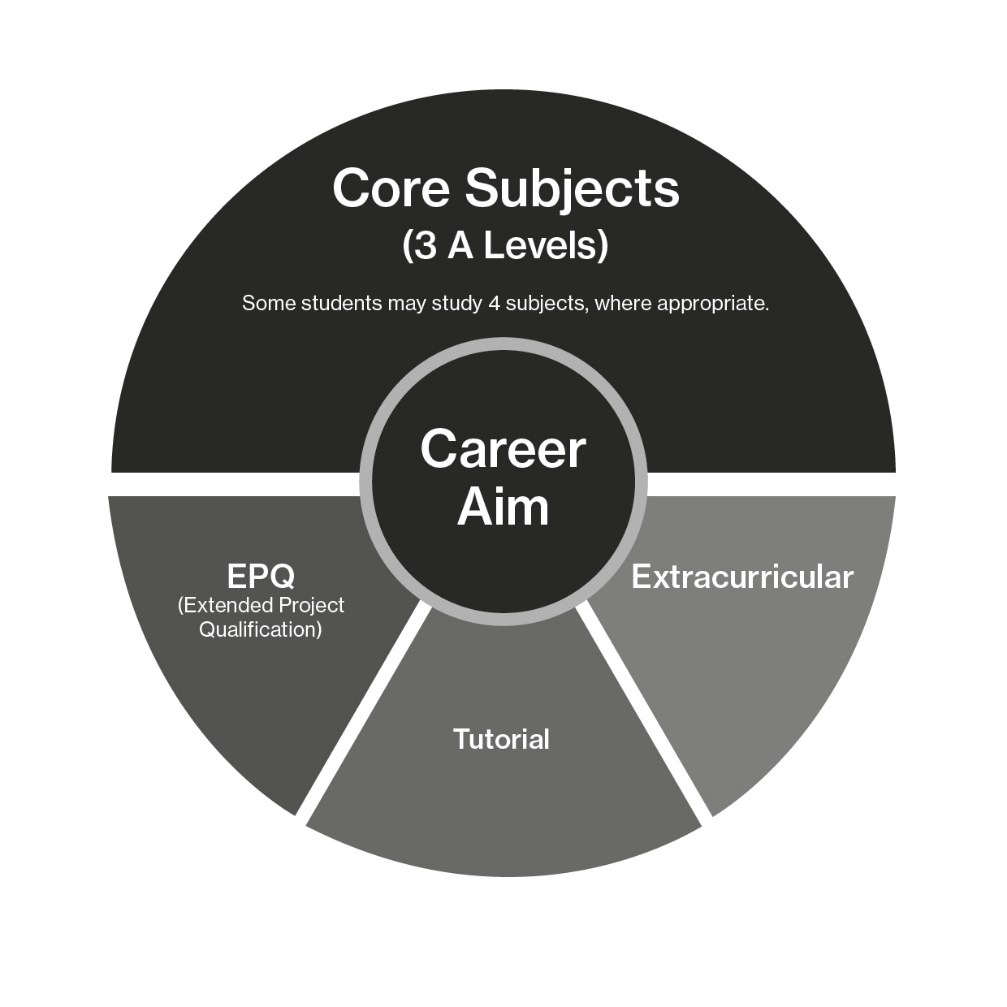
Friday 18th October 2024

Friday 20th December 2024

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Week No.** | **Week Beginning** | **Topic** | **Formative &**  **Summative Assessments** |
| **1** | 02/09/2024 |  |  |
| **2** | 09/09/2024 |  |  |
| **3** | 16/09/2024 |  |  |
| **4** | 23/09/2024 |  | KAP 1 deadline |
| **5** | 30/09/2024 |  |  |
| **6** | 07/10/2024 |  | 7th – DDL day for A level |
| **7** | 14/10/2024 |  | College INSET Day 18th October |
|  | 21/10/2024 | Half Term | |
| **8** | 28/10/2024 |  |  |
| **9** | 04/11/2024 |  |  |
| **10** | 11/11/2024 |  |  |
| **11** | 18/11/2024 |  | MOCK WEEK Y1 and Y2 |
| **12** | 25/11/2024 |  |  |
| **13** | 02/12/2024 |  | KAP 2 deadline (mocks) and ALPS monitoring 1 |
| **14** | 09/12/2024 |  |  |
| **15** | 16/12/2024 |  | College INSET Day 20th December |
|  | 25/12/2024 | Christmas Break | |
|  | 01/01/2025 |
| **16** | 06/01/2025 |  |  |
| **17** | 13/01/2025 |  |  |
| **18** | 20/01/2025 |  | KAP 3 deadline |
| **19** | 27/01/2025 |  | Conference Day 30th January (Thursday) |
| **20** | 03/02/2025 |  |  |
| **21** | 10/02/2025 |  | 12th Feb (Tues) CPD Digital E Learning Day |
|  | 17/02/2025 | Half Term | |
| **22** | 24/02/2025 |  |  |
| **23** | 03/03/2025 |  | MOCK WEEK Y2 |
| **24** | 10/03/2025 |  |  |
| **25** | 17/03/2025 |  | KAP 4 deadline (mock for Y2) ALPS monitoring 2 |
| **26** | 24/03/2025 |  |  |
| **27** | 31/03/2025 |  | 3rd April (Thurs) CPD Day |
|  | 07/04/2025 | Easter Break | |
|  | 14/04/2025 |
| **28** | 21/04/2025 |  | 21st April Bank Holiday |
| **29** | 28/04/2025 |  |  |
| **30** | 05/05/2025 |  |  |
| **31** | 12/05/2025 |  | KAP 5 deadline and ALPS monitoring 3 for Y2 |
| **32** | 19/05/2025 |  |  |
|  | 26/05/2025 | Half Term | |
| **33** | 02/06/2025 |  |  |
| **34** | 09/06/2025 |  |  |
| **35** | 16/06/2025 |  | MOCK WEEK Y1 |
| **36** | 23/06/2025 |  | 25th Y1 conclude (Wed)  KAP 6 Y1 deadline and ALPS monitoring 3 Y1 |
| **37** | 30/06/2025 |  |  |
| **38** | 07/07/2025 |  |  |



**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**

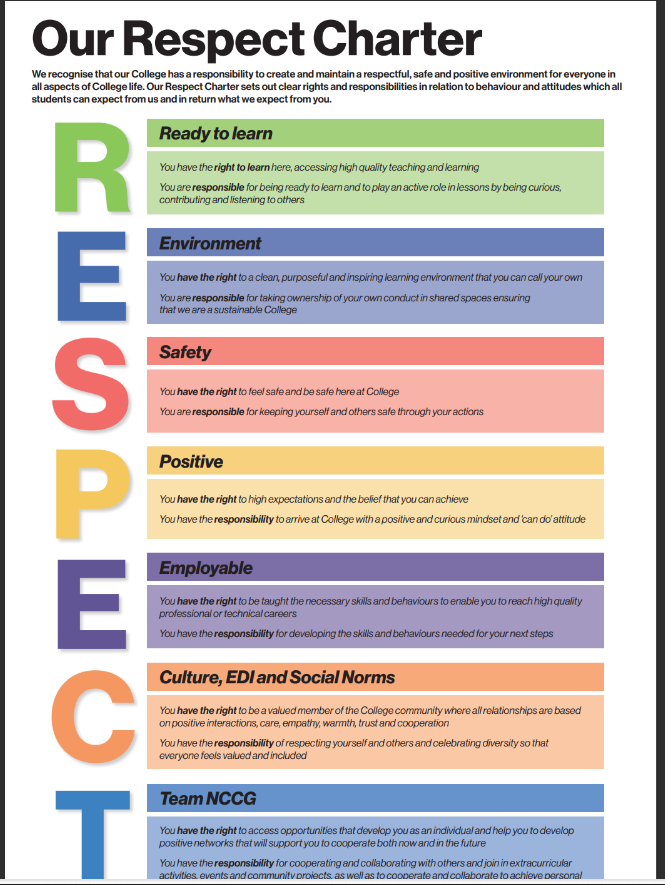
See our prospectus for details of the Scholars’ programme:

<https://www.nelson.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/NCC-College-Guide-25-26-spreads.pdf>

**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.

[A1 RESPECT Poster - August 2024 FINAL.pdf](https://nelsongrp.sharepoint.com/:b:/r/sites/AmandaDi/Shared%20Documents/General/01.%202024-25/A1%20RESPECT%20Poster%20-%20August%202024%20FINAL.pdf?csf=1&web=1&e=z2du94)



**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.

