



23 December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are well.

I am writing to thank those of you who managed to attend our Parents and Carers Evening in November. I hope that you found the opportunity to meet your child's tutors and discuss their progress helpful. We received some really useful feedback which we will incorporate during the next Parent's/Carer's Evening. We'll be in touch in the New Year with dates for the next event.

End of term arrangements

The College will close to students at 12 noon on Tuesday 19 December. Tutors have been asked to provide their learners with independent learning tasks.

Start of term arrangements

The College will reopen to students on Thursday 4 January at the usual time.

Attendance

You will be aware of our important focus on attendance. I know you also understand the really important link for your child between attendance, good progress and success in college. To put it simply, pupils with more than 90% attendance achieve, on average, a grade higher, than a similar student with less than 90% attendance. That can mean the difference in securing a place at University or an apprenticeship - or not. Looking ahead to next year, the college will continue to work in partnership with parents/carers to ensure attendance is as high as possible - we want the very best outcomes for each and every student at NewVIC.

UCAS and Progression

It is pleasing to see that over 800 students in Year 13 (equivalent to college Year 2) are making UCAS applications and others are searching and applying for apprenticeships for September 2024.

Over 50% of students have already sent off their UCAS application and are beginning to get interviews and or offers. Students are advised not to accept any offers yet and should wait to hear from all universities. Students will have time and receive information, advice and guidance when responding to offers in the new year.

Students yet to submit applications, are now in the critical stage as we reach the final UCAS deadline for equal consideration. Please continue to support them to complete their UCAS application, including personal statements and choices during the break. Students should check the Y13 Google Classroom for support resources. Students must complete their application and be ready to submit immediately upon their return.

Other students in term 1 have also been searching and applying for apprenticeships. They should continue to do this given the different recruitment windows by companies.

Exams: Have a Productive Break

Many students will be sitting either external examinations or mock exams for their A-Levels upon their return in January 2024. Students should have a relaxing and equally a productive break. They should continue to adopt a manageable timetable as discussed during one of their tutorials and keep their revision focussed, long term, active and transformative.

Accessing support during the holidays

We recognise that the Christmas holiday is not always a positive time of year for young people or families. Please remember that whilst college is closed, there is plenty of support available for your child or you, throughout the holiday period.

If you have concerns about your child, encourage them to contact one of the organisations below or contact on their behalf:

Samaritans (24/7): 116 123

Childline (24/7): 0800 1111

YoungMinds - Shout (24/7 text messaging) Text YM to 85258

NHS urgent mental health service (24/7): 0808 196 3002

The Mix – support for under 25s: 0808 808 4994

Refuge (domestic abuse helpline – 24/7): 0808 2000 247

Papyrus suicide prevention (9am – midnight) 0800 068 4141

On behalf of all staff at NewVIc, I wish you and your loved ones a peaceful festive break and a happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Susanne Davies,

**Interim Principal and Chief Executive
Newham Sixth Form College (NewVIc)**

