September 2026

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 via 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 2028.

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 2026 - 2027

2026 | Winter term

Tuesday 1st September 2026 – Start of term

Thursday 22nd October 2026 – Classes finish for half term

Monday 2nd November 2026 – Students return

Thursday 17th December 2026 – End of term

2027 | Spring term

Monday 4th January 2027 – Start of term

Friday 12th February 2027 – Classes finish for half term

Monday 22nd February 2027 – Students return

Thursday 24th March 2027 – End of term

2027 | Summer term

Monday 12th April 2027 – Start of term

Friday 28thMay 2027 – Classes finish for half term

Monday 7thJune 2027 – Students return

Friday 18th June 2027 – Students complete (end of academic year)

College INSET days (closed to students)

Friday 23rd October 2026

Friday 18th December 2026

FE LEARNER TOPIC AND ASSESSMENT PLAN
A LEVEL SUBJECTS 2026 - 2027

Week No.	Week Beginning	Topic	Formative & Summative Assessments
1	01/09/2026	Bank Holiday Monday 31st August 2026	
2	07/09/2026		
3	14/09/2026		Sat 26th Sept open day
4	21/09/2026		KAP 1 deadline
5	28/09/2026		
6	05/10/2026		DDL day for A level – 5th October
7	12/10/2026		
8	19/10/2026		

26/10/2026 Half Term

9	02/11/2026		
10	09/11/2026		
11	16/11/2026	Conference Day Tuesday 17th November	
12	23/11/2026		
13	30/11/2026		
14	07/12/2026		KAP 2 deadline and ALPS monitoring 1
15	14/12/2026	Get Yourself Sorted Day 18th December	

21/12/2026 - 28/12/2026 Christmas Break

16	04/01/2027		
17	11/01/2027		
18	18/01/2027		
19	25/01/2027		Mock week Y1 & 2
20	01/02/2027		
21	08/02/2027	Digital/E Learning CPDL Day Wed 10th Feb 2027	KAP 3 deadline

15/02/2027 - Half Term

Week No.	Week Beginning	Topic	Formative & Summative Assessments
22	22/02/2027		
23	01/03/2027		
24	08/03/2027		
25	15/03/2027		KAP 4 deadline ALPS monitoring 2
26	22/03/2027	Staff Strategy Day 25th March 2027	

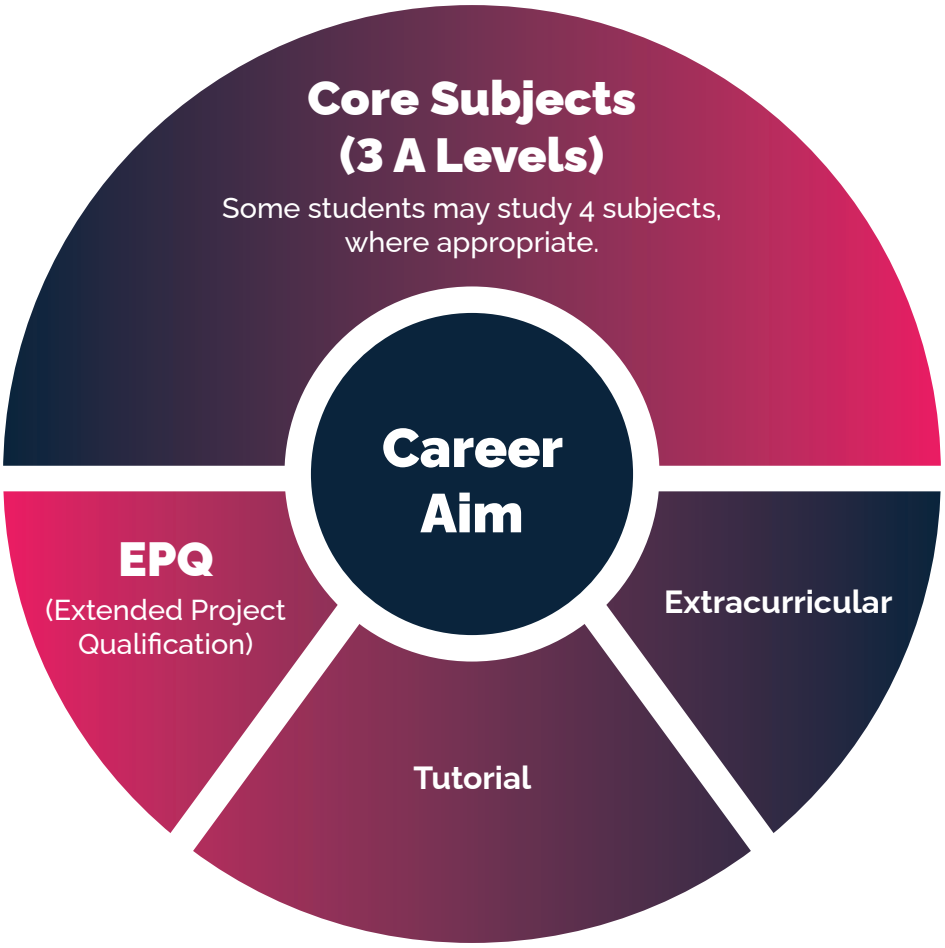
29/03/2027 - 05/04/2027 Easter Break

27			Mock Y2/KAP5 Y2
28			KAP 5 deadline (Yr2)
29			
30	Bank Holiday 3rd May		
31			KAP 5 deadline (Yr1) and ALPS monitoring 3 for Y2
32			
33			

31/05/2027 Half Term

34	07/06/2027		
35	14/06/2027		MOCK WEEK Y1
36	21/06/2027	A level students conclude Wed 23rd June	KAP 6 Y1 deadline and ALPS monitoring 3 Y1

ncc.
Nelson & Colne College



AAMNA AHMAD'S TAILORED STUDY PROGRAMME

Achievements and experiences

- 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.
- 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.



School
Clitheroe Royal Grammar School

Achieved
A*AA in Fine Art, Biology and Chemistry

Where Next?
A*AA in Fine Art, Biology and Chemistry

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 timetabled DDL. This stands for Directed Digital Learning; students are expected to work through Online courses using the platform Skills Network to identify and develop their essential digital skills. 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

Our Scholars' Programme is designed for ambitious and highly academic students who aspire to progress to competitive universities and high-level careers. The programme broadens students' horizons through university-style seminars, debates and academic enrichment activities that challenge them to think critically and engage with complex ideas. Alongside developing key skills such as independent research, presentation, communication, critical thinking, resilience and resourcefulness, students benefit from personalised support with university applications, additional stretch and challenge opportunities, visits to leading universities, guest speakers and access to a range of academic enrichment experiences. All students who have an average minimum target grade of an A will be invited to join the Scholars' programme. If any other student is interested, please ask them to speak to their personal tutor in the first instance.

See our prospectus for details of the Scholars' programme.

ncc.
Nelson & Colne College

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.

R E S P E C T

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

TEAM ELLG.

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 or shared goals.

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 the country 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.

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.

Statement	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: