

Dear Parent / Carer

Well that's one term done already this year... and how fast did that go? I would like to start with saying a big thank you for all of your support for New College this term and personally, for the words of support and encouragement and your engagement with New College during my first term as Principal.

I have done lots of observing, listening and engaging with stakeholders this term to get a sense of the school and the community and I am excited about what the future holds for us on our journey to become transformational.

Many amazing things happen at New College and so many opportunities and experiences for our young people, which will be shared with you via our newsletter over the next few days, but I know we can always do things better too and hopefully you can see some of the small changes we have made this term in response to feedback you have given. Thank you to parents and carers that have attended our engagement events too this term. There will be plenty more in the New Year.

I will find further opportunities for you to provide solution focussed feedback to help shape what we do and how we do it.

As you are aware, in the last academic year, Mrs Brown wrote to you with information and a consultation about joining NOVA academy trust. Very recently, this application was approved and so after Christmas, work will start on the conversion process with a view to being part of NOVA academy trust from 1st April 2025. Early next term, I will be inviting parents in to a presentation where you can learn more about what this means and to meet representatives from the academy trust.

One of the elements of joining an academy trust is the ability to change the school name. Whilst I know that people will have a real affinity with a name of the school, it also brings opportunities for a fresh start. I am keen to listen to stakeholders' opinions on this and the decision will be made based on the feedback I receive. If you would like to contribute to this consultation then please click this link <https://tinyurl.com/mutr8ddk> and complete the short questionnaire by **Wednesday 8th January 2025 at 9am.**

School will finish for the Christmas break on **Wednesday 18th December at 12:30** and will re-open to students on **Tuesday 7th January 2025** at the usual time. Year 11 should go straight to the theatre for assembly as usual and all other students to their tutor rooms. There will be an extended tutor time to enable students to receive their new timetables. As a reminder, below is the format of the school day for January. Students should be in school in advance of tutor time to commence at 9am.

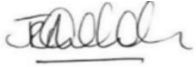
9.00am – 9.15am	Tutor time
9.15am – 10.15am	Lesson 1
10.15am – 11.15am	Lesson 2
11.15am – 11.30am	Break
11.30am -12.30pm	Lesson 3
12.30pm – 1.00pm	Lunch
1.00pm - 2.00pm	Lesson 4
2.00pm – 3.00pm	Lesson 5

We have made some tweaks to our systems and processes over the last few weeks and feel it is important that you are aware of these. Over the next couple of weeks, we will send out a parent handbook to support with this.

It is always sad to say goodbye to colleagues, but it is always inevitable when you have a staff team of 180 colleagues, that from time to time we have to send colleagues off with our best wishes, to pastures new. At Christmas we say goodbye to Ms Mandalia who is part of our premises team. To Mr Chamberlain who has been with us as a cover supervisor for a short time and to Miss Cave, one of our science teachers. Thank you for all of your hard work and commitment to New College and best wishes for the future.

Finally, on behalf of the staff, students, governors and trustees at New College, I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and look forward to continuing our partnership into 2025.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Aldred', with a horizontal line underneath.

Mr J Aldred
Principal