

Y12 to Y13 Progression Policy Academic Year 2018/2019

Our aim is that all students enrolled at the NCS should complete their two-year Study Programme successfully. The purpose of this policy is to set out the criteria that might prevent a student from progressing from Y12 to Y13 and to outline what the NCS will do to alert a student and their parents to the fact that they are performing below expectation and could therefore be at risk of not completing.

Y12 Study Programmes and Internal Examinations

1. 16-19 students are enrolled at the NCS to follow a full-time Advanced Level Study Programme.
2. Our aim is to support progression to Year 13 by offering guidance to all students before and after the publication of internal examination results in August of Year 12. This is to enable students to review their Year 13 Study Programme in the light of their results and progression plans.
3. Students have a right to continue on Year 13 courses provided they meet all the following criteria:
 - a) Demonstrated attendance, punctuality, effort and behaviour in line with sixth form expectations including completing set tasks and assessments in each subject; and
 - b) Gained a minimum of three passes in their end of Y12 Summer Examinations in the A level subjects they wish to continue into Y13; and
 - c) They have the support of the relevant subject department.
4. If a student does not meet all the above criteria, the NCS reserves the right (in its absolute discretion) to decide whether or not a student may progress to the second year, taking into account all relevant circumstances.

Y12 Spring Progress Review

If, following the Mock Examination in Year 12, there is concern over a student's commitment and/or suitability for continuation to Year 13, it may be appropriate to issue a progression contract letter outlining clear expectations to be met and specific targets to be achieved before the end of the Year 12 academic year in order to allow progression. The contract letter will be signed by the student, and parents will be invited to sign and return it. Such students will be monitored closely by the Head of Year 12 alongside their tutor. Failure to meet the criteria stipulated on the progression contract may result in the student not being able to continue into Y13.

Y12 Internal Examinations

1. Internal Y12 Examinations will be set and marked by the NCS. These examinations will be taken in a formal examination setting with invigilation replicating an external examination experience. All subjects will be setting Advanced level equivalent papers for the proportion of the full A level course content that has been covered by the examination date.
2. The minimum Study Programme in Year 13 will consist of three full A level courses.
3. Where doubt arises over a student's suitability for progression in an individual subject a decision will be taken by the Principal or Deputy Principal in consultation with the tutor, Head of Year and relevant heads of department before the end of the Summer term of Year 12 and students will be notified on A level Results Day.
4. In exceptional circumstances, individuals may be allowed to continue to Y13 of a particular A level subject without having passed the internal examination, for example, where significant illness has led to a poor mark (or to examination units not being taken) but where the subject department supports continuation due to a strong set of in-year recorded assessments or other significant evidence base.
5. In some circumstances, it may be possible, and where available, for a student to complete a one year fast-track A level course to complete their Study Programme if they have otherwise successfully met the progression criteria as set out but not achieved a pass in one of their subjects. Such decisions will be at the absolute discretion of the Principal or Deputy Principal after consideration of each individual case. Likewise, the Principal or Deputy Principal may authorise a student to follow a Study Programme below the normal minimum requirement if there are extenuating circumstances.
6. All Year 12 students who do meet the progression criteria will be offered the opportunity to enrol onto alternative two year A level courses in Year 13 provided they meet the NCS entry criteria and there were no concerns regarding their behaviour, effort and attendance/punctuality.

7. Students who do not have a viable Year 13 programme will be offered guidance by their tutor or the Head of Year 12 in order to enable them to decide whether to seek an alternative course in full-time education or employment with training.