





Educating children and
young people who are
blind or visually impaired

PROSPECTUS



**The whole school
ethos of support and
encouragement means
that every young person
is able to reach their
potential**

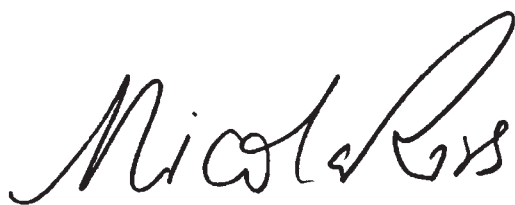
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Welcome from the **Principal**

New College Worcester is proud of its history and heritage; a legacy that has stretched for over 150 years. It is, however, the future of our children and young people that drives our work forward and provides the focus for continual improvement. We aim to provide the highest standard of education for our learners, outstanding residential care and a welcoming and inclusive environment; where our students can thrive, blossom and prepare themselves for a life of independence when they leave the college. Like our impressive period buildings, we have firm foundations in place, so we can move forward with confidence and a determined sense of purpose.

Creating a curriculum that really meets the needs of our visually impaired young people ensures all of them are able to make excellent progress. All of our teaching staff are Qualified Teachers of the Visually Impaired and the broad range of qualifications offered, from entry level to A-Level, results in the majority of young people going on to university. The additional curriculum of Independent Living Skills, Access Technology, Braille and Mobility complements the academic programme, ensuring our young people really are prepared for life beyond NCW. The extra-curricular programme is varied and all-encompassing and is undertaken with inspiring enthusiasm.

Whilst I am proud of all that we achieve at New College Worcester, we refuse to be complacent and aim to constantly develop our provision to ensure that having a visual impairment is not a barrier to our young people achieving their dreams. For many of our students, they are truly included in their education for the first time, they have a peer group and a best friend for the first time and feel that they truly belong. We at NCW refuse to stand still – perhaps you would like to join us on our journey?



Nicki Ross Principal





**Lessons here are
more individualised.
The teacher is able
to focus on our
individual needs**

Carys, Year 13

The Same But Better

At New College Worcester (NCW) there are many things that are similar to any mainstream Secondary School. We teach Key Stages 3, 4 and 5 the National Curriculum; core subjects and a full and diverse range of options for GCSE and A-Level. We strive for the highest academic achievement for all of our students.


Whilst we are residential, the school day is from 8.30am to 4pm with a choice of after school activities, homework support and clubs. PE is compulsory and extra-curricular interests in sport, music and community groups are actively encouraged.

Students at NCW are similar in many ways to all other young people, managing the complex demands of a changing world as well as their own personal development alongside their friends and classmates.

How NCW is better:

- **All NCW lessons are adapted to be accessible to every individual.** This includes those subjects where accessibility can be a challenge such as Mathematics, Science, Art and PE. NCW teachers have expertise in specialist Braille codes such as music.
- **Class sizes are small** – up to just eight students per class – to maximise learning potential.
- **NCW timetables include individually tailored lessons** in Mobility, Braille and Independent Living Skills, which are crucial for young people navigating the world with a visual impairment.
- **Our residential status affords a waking day curriculum,** where skills learnt during the school day can be practised and are embedded in the residential setting with the support of House Parents and Key Workers.
- **NCW students will have a peer group, friends and a community.** It can be difficult in a mainstream setting for young people with a visual impairment to find acceptance among peers and at NCW there is no social isolation, there is no stigma attached to visual impairment and there is an incredibly supportive environment between students across all year groups.
- **All students are visually impaired and each person's visual impairment is different from the next.** This means that no-one is perceived as the different one and students offer one another incredible support and understanding.





My daughter has been at the school for 3½ years and I can honestly say that it's the best thing we have ever done for her. She has never had such good friends and she has never been happier. The education is truly individually tailored to each child and the teaching and the care in the residential setting is first class. I personally believe that NCW is the best opportunity that any visually impaired child could have to give them a future to look forward to

Parent

Aims & Objectives

It is our aim that every student feels part of a happy, safe community where they develop self-belief, are listened to and feel valued.

Each individual develops their unique talents and abilities – maximising learning opportunities both within and outside the curriculum.


Young people leaving our care move confidently into the next phase of their lives; further study, employment or involvement in the wider community, equipped with the very best tools for success.



Priorities

NCW has an ambitious development plan to ensure the College is constantly developing. Our priorities will always include:

- **Academic achievement for all students**
- **Excellence in the field of education for the visually impaired**
- **Inclusion for all**
- **Independence**
- **Safeguarding – keeping students safe**
- **Celebration of success**
- **Transition planning – preparation for life beyond NCW**
- **Promoting diversity**
- **Health and wellbeing**



**We always
find a way to
modify every
practical so that
all students
can access
all aspects of
the Science
curriculum**

Will Stark, Head of Science

Teaching & Learning

Learning is the very core of what we do at NCW. Each individual child has a personalised programme of learning to ensure that he or she is making the very best progress they can.

Our specialist subject teachers are Qualified Teachers of the Visually Impaired as well as being qualified to teach the National Curriculum. Each student will have their learning prepared for them in an appropriate medium – whether that is Braille, large print or digitally, using assistive technology.

Class sizes are small, which ensure each student is able to learn. A team of experienced Learning Support Assistants provide support to individual pupils.

Where necessary, lessons are adapted to be accessible – including Science Practicals, PE and Art, using techniques established over many years of teaching young people who are blind or visually impaired.





A Home from **Home**

We realise that contemplating a residential setting for a child is an enormous step for any family. We know that making that sort of decision goes against our instincts as parents, to keep our children close and guide them ourselves through the complexities of life. Because we understand that, we do everything we can to provide a living environment that is a home away from home, to ensure that children are nurtured and encouraged as they would be at home and cared for with the same level of dedication. What we hope is, that the benefits for a child of being here – the learning that occurs both in and outside the classroom, the friendships that will last a lifetime and the opportunity to become independent - will outweigh those difficulties. Students keep in regular contact with families via telephone and home weekends and our on-site guest house is available for families to use if visiting their child on campus.


Younger students are accommodated in our homely lower school houses, which have a layout similar to any home with a kitchen, living room, bathrooms and bedrooms. Each is led by a Senior Houseparent who lives in an adjoining property, plus a small team of staff who care for the students after school and at weekends in the house. The houses are mixed gender and year groups and most rooms are twin rooms, shared with another student. At Sixth Form, the accommodation in the Sixth Form Hostel is arranged like a university hall of residence with students sharing self-catering style units of six students, all assisted by their Key Workers.



A **Holistic** Approach



Being a residential setting affords NCW a cross-campus approach to education and care. This means that learning in the classroom can be reinforced and embedded in the houses and any welfare concerns are shared between teachers and residential staff to ensure a safe and happy environment.



**What we do
here today will
still be making
a difference for
these young
people in 20
years' time. It's
all about the
future**

Karol Keenan, Head of Care

The Additional Curriculum

NCW is unique in being able to offer young people with vision impairment excellent opportunities to develop skills to improve their life chances and employability via the Additional Curriculum.

Braille and Braille Support

Despite the many advances in technology, we believe that learning Braille is still one of the most important things our students can do. Our one-to-one personalised teaching approach can give the confidence and skills to ensure that Braille can be part of their lives. The ability to read Braille fluently and accurately can be life changing and can open up a world of possibilities and safeguard independence for the future.

Mobility

The ability to get around the campus and the wider world with confidence is central to the future success of our students. Each student has their own mobility programme to equip him or her with the skills to travel independently in any setting, supported by our mobility officers and using a range of mobility aids including a cane. As confidence grows, students will learn to navigate busy city centre environments and will travel further afield using public transport.

Access Technology

Technology advances at an astonishing pace and at NCW, our ICT experts are at the forefront of those changes, teaching students how to get the best from technology to enable them to lead independent lives. Whether it is the newest function on a smart phone or the latest accessibility app, we know about it.

Independent Living Skills

Independent Living Skills (ILS) are activities that are necessary to take care of oneself, family and home and to live as independently as possible. They involve the teaching of processes and methods that those with sight often take for granted. Recent research has found that those who master the key skills of ILS will be more successful in other parts of their lives. At NCW it is part of the curriculum and is timetabled for all students. The College has across campus targets for each learner to ensure that their ILS needs are met, developed and monitored to ensure that progress is made. As well as teaching nutrition, preparing food and cooking dishes, students are also taught laundry and clothes care, safety and first aid, the use of technology to aid identification and personal skills such as signature development and methods for money management.





Health & Wellbeing

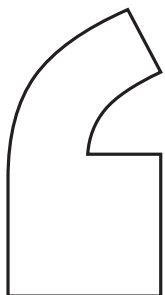
The health and wellbeing of students are an absolute priority.

Social inclusion – friendships formed at NCW often last a lifetime and bonds are formed between students which offer them support and confidence extending far beyond their years at NCW.

Contact with home is actively encouraged, between the students and their families and between NCW staff and parents.

Health Care – the NCW Nurse and Health Care Assistant ensure that all medical requirements are met and form a hub of care between parents, the student, families, teaching staff and outside healthcare agencies to ensure that all students are kept safe and well. Students also have access to a Counsellor.

Safeguarding is a top priority both during the school day and in the evenings and weekends, with a robust and active Safeguarding Policy in place.



I have lots of friends – we're all so close it's amazing, we're like sisters really

Kendal, Year 13





Extra-Curricular Activities

One of the unique aspects of NCW is the access to a programme of extra-curricular activities which will challenge, excite and entertain.

Music – there are many opportunities to learn and participate in music. We have a wonderful choir, rock school, jazz band, guitar club, musical theatre club, folk band and recorder ensemble, alongside a full programme of music lessons to choose from, delivered by NCW and visiting music teachers.

Sport – there is a choice of many sports to get involved with, as part of an NCW team or a team in the community. Goalball, VI cricket, athletics, football and even rugby are all made accessible and participation is encouraged.

Action and Adventure – our Activities department organises trips and outings that will challenge the most adventurous! Residential and camping trips, surfing weekends, rock climbing, indoor skydiving, tandem riding and water ski-ing are just a few regular activities.

Travel – travel to support cultural learning and for pleasure is also on offer, including foreign exchange trips, ski trips and long haul adventure travel.

Clubs and Societies – alongside NCW's own mix of clubs, groups and societies students are also supported to get involved in community groups such as Youth Theatre, Scouts or Faith groups. If a student has an individual talent or interest they will be supported to get involved or continue with that activity.



There are lots of activities going on at the weekend and in the week. I do tandem riding, cricket, goalball and choir

Sophia, Year 8

Sixth Form

The Sixth Form at NCW offers an unrivalled centre for young people with a visual impairment to study at A-Level, alongside a programme of learning that will prepare for transition to the next phase of their lives.

A wide range of subjects is available at A-Level as well as a selection of BTech qualifications, additional GCSEs and other Level 2 qualifications.

The Sixth Form at NCW is the perfect place to access subjects that can be challenging to learn at A-Level – such as Maths, Music and Art – with adapted materials available and qualified expert teachers. The NCW Exams Officer is highly experienced in ensuring that exams run smoothly with all papers presented in the appropriate format.

Alongside lessons, the Sixth Form is ideal preparation for the next phase of life – whether that is university, other further education or the world of work – providing the chance to perfect skills for living independently. Senior students will be taught crucial living skills including using public transport, assistive technology, banking and finance, self-care and nutrition.

NCW offers careers education and guidance, together with work experience opportunities to ensure that each student can look towards a fulfilling future with confidence.



**I'm a lot more
independent
since I came
to NCW**

Abbie, Year 11





Get in Touch

If you are interested in NCW you can find out more information on our website

www.ncw.co.uk

You can also find us on Social Media:

 @NewCollegeWorcester

 @newcollworc

 @NCW1866

 New College Worcester

If you would like to arrange a visit at any time, please contact us by telephone or by email and ask for the Liaison Officer:

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