




New College Worcester

Educating children and
young people who are
blind or visually impaired

SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS

Head of Sixth Form: **Mrs Karen Holyoak**

Assistant Head of Sixth Form: **Mr David Hinds**



**Young people
learn essential
independence
skills and feel
more equipped
for the future.**

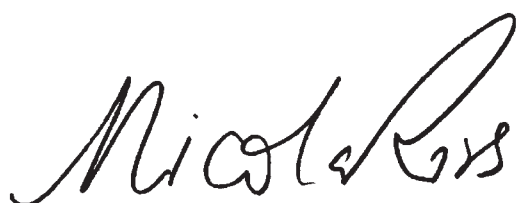
Ofsted 2018

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.

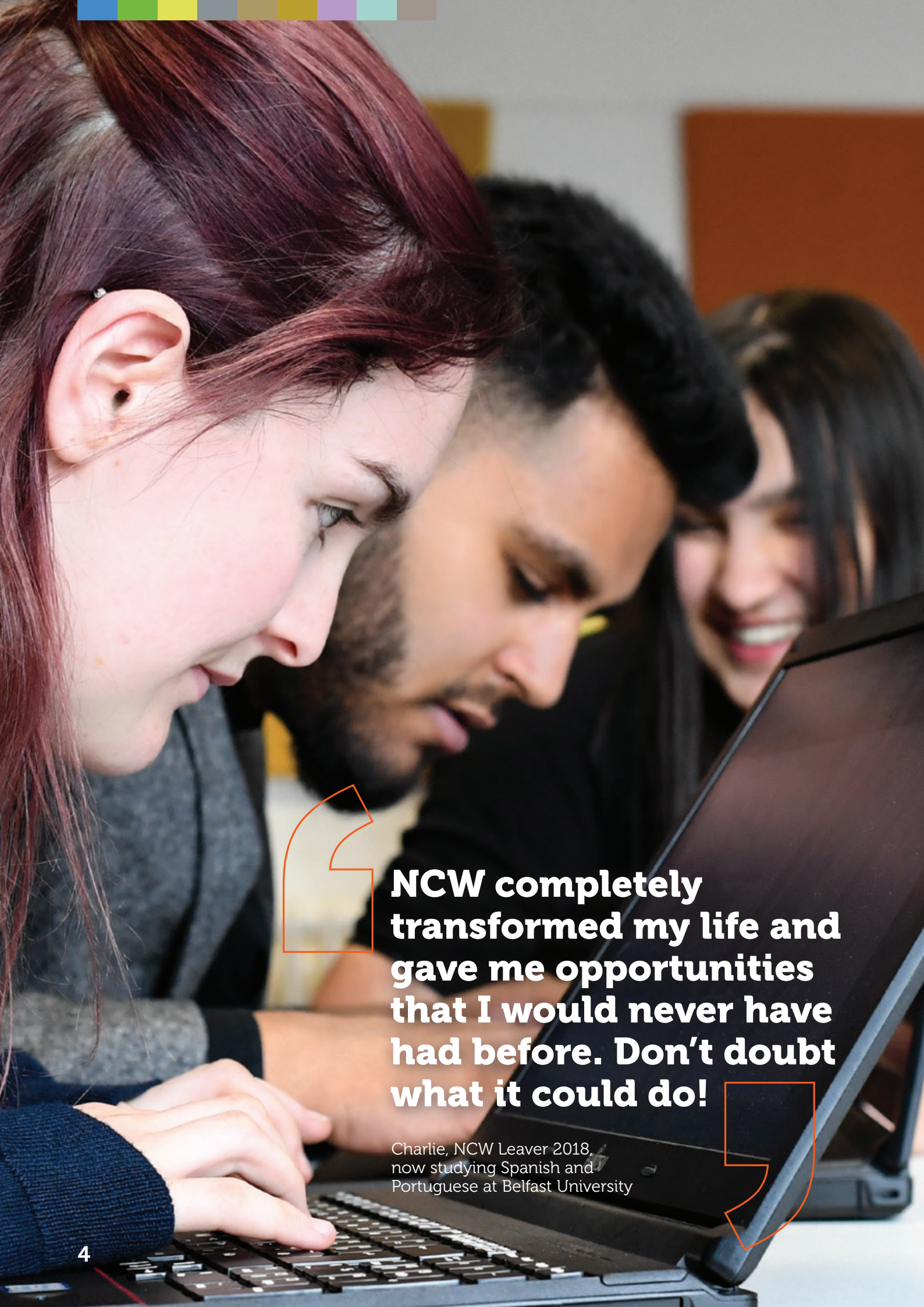
Creating a curriculum that really meets the needs of our visually impaired young people ensures all of them are able to make excellent progress. All of our teaching staff are Qualified Teachers of the Visually Impaired and the broad range of qualifications offered, from entry level to A-Level, results 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



A photograph of three students, two men and one woman, looking intently at a laptop screen. The woman in the foreground has long red hair and is typing on the keyboard. The man behind her has dark hair and a beard. The woman on the right is smiling. The background is slightly blurred, showing an indoor setting with orange and white walls.

NCW completely transformed my life and gave me opportunities that I would never have had before. Don't doubt what it could do!

Charlie, NCW Leaver 2018,
now studying Spanish and
Portuguese at Belfast University

The Same But **Better**

At New College Worcester (NCW) there are many things that are similar to any mainstream Sixth Form. We teach the National Curriculum; core subjects and a full and diverse range of options at A-Level as well as a selection of vocational Level 2 and Level 3 courses. We strive for the highest academic achievement for all of our students.

Whilst we are residential, we work to a school day which runs from 8.30am to 4pm with a choice of evening activities and clubs. PE is compulsory in Sixth Form 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 and preparing for adult life alongside their friends and peers.

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 at A-Level such as Mathematics, Science, Art and PE. NCW teachers have expertise in specialist Braille codes such as music.
- **NCW students will have a peer group, friends and a community.** Senior students play an important role as mentors for younger students who are visually impaired. They grow socially, educationally and individually as they prepare for adult independence.
- **Class sizes are small** – up to just eight students per class – to maximise learning potential.
- **Students have access to specialist counselling, medical care and nursing support** and will benefit from being in a supportive environment with a wide range of specialist staff.
- **NCW timetables include individually tailored lessons in Mobility, Braille and Independent Living Skills,** which are crucial for young adults navigating the world with a visual impairment.
- **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.
- **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 Residential Key Workers.





Mrs Ward rang me from school early this morning to tell me I'd got A*, A, A – which is what I needed. It all feels like a dream, but I know that now I need to get on and prepare for Uni.

Zoe, NCW Leaver 2018 reading
Music at Oxford University

Priorities

- **Academic achievement for all students**
- **Excellence in the field of education for the visually impaired**
- **Inclusion for all**
- **Independence**
- **Safeguarding**
- **Celebration of success**
- **Transition planning**
- **Promoting diversity**

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.

At NCW we aim to ensure that 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.

Accessible Learning

All teachers at NCW are Qualified Teachers of the Visually Impaired.

All lessons are adapted to ensure they are accessible, including those that are more difficult for a visually impaired learner such as Maths, Science and Art.

We offer the best technology and VI resources to facilitate learning at Sixth Form.

Our dedicated Transcription Service ensures student work is available to them in the appropriate medium.

We provide timetabled lessons in Braille, Mobility, Access Technology and Activities for Daily Living.





A Wide Choice of **Subjects**

Students in the Sixth Form have a wide range of academic and vocational subjects from which to select. In order to offer the widest possible choice of courses, we can also support learning at local Worcester Sixth Form College if a subject is offered there that we are unable to provide.

A-Level Subjects

- Art and Design
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Drama
- English Literature
- Film Studies
- French
- Geography
- German
- Government and Politics
- Health & Social Care
- History
- Mathematics
- Music
- Physics
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Spanish



Vocational Courses (BTECs or Applied A-Levels)

- ASDAN Courses (Gardening and Animal Care, Citizenship)
- Customer Service
- Environmental Sustainability
- Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
- Food Science and Nutrition
- Home Cooking
- Music Technology
- Performing Arts
- Physical Education
- Travel and Tourism
- Music

Extended Project Qualification

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is an accredited course that is aimed at developing research skills and independent study. Students are guided towards an area of interest and undertake a period of research and preparation, final presentation and evaluation. The presentation can take many forms - it could be a written dissertation, a musical composition, a play, model or a piece of artwork and can be across any subject area. Universities look favourably upon the EPQ because it demonstrates the independent learning skills that are required at higher education and it is worth half an A-Level in terms of UCAS points.



The education is truly individually tailored to each child and the teaching and the care in the residential setting is first class.

Parent

Skills/Social & Emotional programme

At NCW, we place great importance on developing students' wider skills. They will have a personalised skills programme covering ICT / Assistive Technology, Mobility, Independent Living Skills, Careers Advice and Guidance, Fitness / PE and Study Skills. They will be in a form group where, under the guidance of the form tutor, they will benefit from regular academic mentoring and study skills support and follow a programme of PSCE (Personal, Social, Citizenship and Health Education).

Leadership Opportunities

Each student in the Sixth Form is an important member of the NCW community and is expected to be a positive ambassador for the College. Senior students are crucial role models and mentors for younger students at NCW. There are opportunities to become part of the Senior Student Team and to captain and coach sports teams.

Senior Student Team

The student body is led and represented by two Head Students and the Senior Student Team. Students are elected to these posts annually by other members of the College community. They often represent NCW at internal and external events and plan and implement a range of fundraising campaigns throughout the year.





A Choice of Learning Pathways

PATHWAY ONE

Full programme of three A-Levels or Level 3 BTEC courses plus EPQ

For students achieving 5 GCSEs at Grade 4 or higher, including English Language and Mathematics.

- Three A-Levels or Level 3 BTEC courses
- Level 3 Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

PATHWAY TWO

Re-sitting GCSE Mathematics and/or English plus two or three A-Levels or Level 3 BTEC courses

For students achieving a GCSE Grade 3 or lower in Mathematics or English, but with a narrow miss of Grade 4 in at least one of them.

- Maths and/or English GCSE resit
- Two or three A-Levels or Level 3 BTEC courses

PATHWAY THREE

Consolidation of Level 2 (GSCEs or Level 1/2 BTEC courses) before progressing to Level 3 (A-Levels or Level 3 BTEC courses)

A one-year course for students who did not achieve five Grade 4s in GCSEs and have weaker Maths and English results. If at the end of the year, five or more GCSEs at Grade 4 or higher are achieved, there is potential to progress onto Level 3 qualifications. This would require a further two years to complete, so would be dependent on funding which would need to be agreed by the placing Local Authority.

- Level 2 courses (GSCE or Level 1/2 BTEC courses) including English and Mathematics





You are treated like an adult, you are given all the independence you need but there is always someone there if you need help.

Tom, Year 13

The **Additional Curriculum**

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

Activities for Daily Living (ADL)

Each senior student has a personalised programme to identify any gaps in their independence skills and work on them on a one-to-one basis. That might be perfecting folding a T-shirt, developing a signature or changing a duvet cover – their programme will cover all areas for development before that student moves on from NCW.



Training for the Real World

- **Life After NCW**

This module of learning includes future planning, skills and qualities, opportunities for further education (including researching options and applications), CV writing and interview skills.

- **Looking After Me**

This area of learning looks at how to access support as independent adults, from day to day living such as accessing the personal shopping service of a major department store to accessing services for physical, sexual and mental health and wellbeing. Students will also learn financial management, food and nutrition, internet safety and drug awareness.

- **Participation and Meeting Others**

This module includes the importance of socialising and focuses around access to charities and other support networks that can be crucial to a young adult who is visually impaired. It also includes an Enterprise project – planning, implementing and evaluating a business idea.



Carys Year 13 speaking at the Carnegie Children's Book Awards ceremony 2018



Careers Guidance & Work Experience

Careers provision at NCW is different from that in a mainstream school. Our Careers Co-ordinator has personal experience of sight loss, experience of mainstream and specialist education, higher education and the voluntary sector and - of course - paid meaningful employment.

Preparation for work is integrated throughout the students' entire time with us, not just at the end of the year. It forms part of each senior student's personalised learning programme and evidenced studies show great progression by those students who pursue strong skills for the world of work early on.

A visual impairment presents complex challenges for those keen to enter the workplace on many levels. Self-advocacy is one of the most important skills for someone in this position; so confidence-building

exercises, detailed planning sessions for the direction of students' futures and regular, broad-spectrum discussions on all topics relevant to employment are key.

We draw upon the experiences of our former students and successful pillars of the blind and visually impaired community who come and share their own personal, specific journeys with our students. These often show that although low vision can present barriers, once these are overcome, the relationship between blind employee and employer is often stronger as a result.

Practical work experience complements learning in the classroom and all NCW students complete a week of work experience towards the end of Year 12, appropriate to their skills and abilities and in line with their career dreams and aspirations.

Living: Outstanding Residential Care - a home from home

Accommodation for senior students is in our Sixth Form Hostel, where most students have a room of their own and some benefit from a private en-suite bathroom. The accommodation is divided into flats or units, each with a communal kitchen and living area, similar to a hall of residence at university.

Each student has a Key Worker who supports him or her at a very individual level, helping to develop those skills essential for independent living in a protected environment. It is our aspiration that when a young person leaves NCW after Sixth Form they will be able to self-cater – including budgeting, meal-planning, grocery shopping, laundry to take into adult life.

There are communal areas for socialising in downtime and senior students benefit from privileges and independence in accordance with their skills, attitude, behaviour and mobility learning, so that they enjoy the freedom to leave the campus in safety.

Weekends and evenings are spent with friends or getting involved in the sports events and activities organised on and off campus.



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.

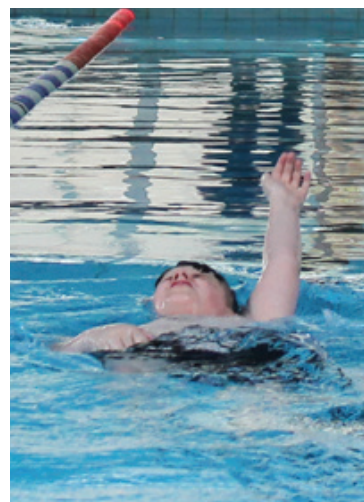
Music – there are many opportunities to learn and participate in music. We have a wonderful choir, rock school, jazz band, guitar club, musical theatre club, folk band and recorder ensemble, alongside a full programme of music lessons to choose from, delivered by NCW and visiting music teachers.

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.





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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E: office@ncw.co.uk

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