



Inspiring,
nurturing and
empowering
young people
with a vision
impairment

SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS



Welcome from the **Principal**

NCW has a proud history and heritage; a legacy that has stretched for over 150 years. Whilst that affords us great experience and solid foundations, it is the future of the children and young people in our care 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 in a modern world. 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 our experienced Residential Care teams.

Creating a curriculum that really meets the individual needs of our young people, who are all vision impaired, ensures they are able to make excellent progress. All of our teaching staff, as well as being subject specialists, are also either fully qualified teachers of the visually impaired (QTVIs) or working towards that qualification. A broad range of qualifications is offered, from entry level to A-Level, means that while many of our leavers go on to study at University, others take up apprenticeships, go into the workplace or enrol at a local college of further education to pursue their personal goals. The specialist VI curriculum of skills; Independent Living Skills, Access Technology, Braille and Mobility compliments the academic programme, ensuring our young people really are prepared for adult life beyond NCW.

Whilst I am proud of all that we achieve here, we refuse to be complacent and we aim to constantly develop our provision to ensure that having a vision impairment is not a barrier to young people achieving their dreams. For many of our students, they are truly included in their education, they have a peer group and a best friend perhaps for the very first time and feel that they truly belong. This combination of academic ambition, provision of key life skills and a happy, fun and secure social environment is what truly makes NCW special.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Rachel Perks'.

Rachel Perks Principal

Our Mission:

To inspire, nurture
and empower
young people with
a vision impairment
to achieve their
potential.

Our Vision:

To be a world leader
in education and
care for young
people with a vision
impairment.



Everything is completely different to mainstream school. The progress you make from mainstream to here is amazing.

Student, Year 12

The Same But **Better**

At NCW there are many things that are similar to any mainstream Sixth Form provision. 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 and extracurricular interests in sport, music and community groups are actively encouraged.

Students at NCW are also 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 students according to their needs.** This includes those subjects where accessibility can be a challenge at A Level such as Mathematics, Science, Art and PE.
- **Class sizes are small** – up to just eight students per class and usually less – to maximise learning potential.
- **NCW timetables include individually tailored lessons in Mobility, Braille, Access Technology and Activities for Daily Living,** which are crucial for young adults navigating the world with a vision impairment.
- **Skills learnt during the school day are practised and embedded in the residential setting** with the support of Residential Key Workers.
- **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 students will have a peer group, friends and a community. Senior students play an important role as mentors for younger students who are vision impaired.** They grow socially, educationally and individually as they prepare for adult independence.
- **All students are vision impaired and each person's vision impairment is different from the next.** This means that no-one is perceived as the odd one out because of their vision impairment and students offer one another incredible support and understanding.
- **PE lessons:** All sixth form students have 2 hours of taught PE per week. One hour in the Pool, being taught by specialist swimming coaches and one hour taking part in a wide range of physical activities, VI sports and recreations, which includes using our Fit4Purpose Gym.

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

Parent



Priorities

- Academic achievement for all students
- Excellence in the field of education for the vision impaired
- Outstanding residential care
- Inclusion for all
- Promotion of independence
- Keeping students safe
- 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 Vision Impaired or working towards that qualification.

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

We offer the best technology and VI resources to facilitate learning at Key Stage 5.

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.



Studying in **Sixth Form**

Studying in Sixth Form at NCW aims to prepare young adults for the future not just academically, but in skills for life in a sighted world. Each student aspires individually to reach their potential across a range of courses, skills training and work experience opportunities.

Curriculum Framework for the Vision Impaired (CFVI)

All students will study the Specialist VI curriculum alongside their options. The Specialist VI curriculum will include: – Mobility, Access Technology, Braille, Activities for Daily Living (ADL) as well as PE, Study Skills, Careers Enhancement Programme and PSHE.

Broad Spectrum of Expertise

While NCW is a school for students with a vision impairment primarily, it is not just VI needs that we can cater in our specialisms; many young people present with other additional needs and staff are trained and experienced across a range of needs such as:

- Hearing impairment
- Multi Sensory impairment (deafblind)
- Neurodivergent differences such as Autism and ADHD
- Social, emotional, and mental health needs
- Speech, language and communication difficulties
- Medical and physical needs
- Mild to moderate learning difficulties
- Specific learning differences such as – dyslexia, dyspraxia or dyscalculia
- Basic skill areas such as IT, literacy and numeracy

Staff within education and residential settings have received training in these areas including:

- Intervenor training for MSI students
- Autism and ADHD awareness
- Mental health first aid
- Word aware – speech and language intervention

We have a number of educational programmes which can be weaved into student pathways at NCW which cater for these needs alongside the CFVI supporting all VI specific needs.

Don't See it? Just Ask!

We have listed our main courses on our website, but if you want to do a course you don't see listed just ask! It may well be possible for us to provide the course.



Choice and Flexibility

At NCW we are able to offer a vast number of courses at different levels so that students can create a programme that suits their skills and learning requirements.

For some it might be a traditional Sixth Form route comprising three A Levels or other Level 3 qualifications, while others may select one Level 3 qualification to study alongside perhaps GCSE retakes, other Level 2 qualifications or vocational courses.

Typically an A level or equivalent subject is taught over six hours a week and students are expected to do additional private study for each subject. Assessments are largely through examinations.

Individual Solutions

At NCW students are able to study at levels to suit them and every individual is different. A mixed programme of study could look like:

- Joining Year 10 and 11 for some GCSE classes for catch up study
- Vocational course combinations such as BTEC (Level 2 or 3) or an Extended Project Qualification
- Social Skills enhancing ASDAN programme – Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network. It is a UK-based education charity and awarding organization that provides qualifications and curriculum programs to develop personal, social, and employability skills for education, work, and independent living, particularly those facing barriers to traditional learning settings.
- Vocational English, Maths, Arts or Business Administration
- Thematic and multisensory learning options
- Music and Singing Lessons – all students at NCW are able to benefit from a fabulous range of musical instrument and vocal tuition (extra cost unless studying music)

Please note: Whilst we try to accommodate everyone's preferences, courses will run subject to numbers.



// NCW has a very good transition programme to assist with moving on to the real world, whether that be learning to write a CV or Personal Statement or registering with UCAS and getting that up and running. //

Student Leaver

Skills/Social & Emotional programme

At NCW, we place great importance on developing students' wider skills. They will have a personalised skills programme covering Assistive Technology, Mobility, Activities for Daily Living, 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 PSCH (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 Student Council and to captain and coach sports teams. Senior students have the potential to effect change on behalf of their student peers.

Ambassadors

Senior students often also act as ambassadors for NCW at internal and external events. They are able to gain valuable experience in dealing with members of the public and professionals from different organisations so they can gain social skills and grow in confidence.





// The relationships between staff and pupils are built on mutual respect and nurturing. Interactions are filled with smiles, laughter, and joy. //

Ofsted, November 2024

Preparing for **Adulthood**

Promoting Independence and Preparation for Adulthood

Some students will benefit from a more thematic and multisensory educational experience with a keen focus on developing communication, basic skills, social skills, accessing the community and 'growing' towards independence. This may be due to Multi Sensory Impairment needs or a mild to moderate learning difficulty. Our carefully balanced approach gives students time to spend with their year group peers whilst following a more independence based programme.

There is a focus on the fundamentals of multisensory education– communication, access to information and the environment and mobility.

Year 13+ Programme – Employability and Employment

A transition year course focusing on readiness for work. Students build on independence skills and develop transferable skills that will support them into work or further study.

Curriculum Framework for Vision Impaired

All students will study the Specialist VI curriculum alongside their other studies. The curriculum is woven into all lessons and as well as via specific skills lessons:

Mobility, Access Technology, Braille, Activities for Daily Living (ADL)

Health and Wellbeing

Students in Key Stage 5 are also included in Core PE lessons, Study Skills, Careers Enhancement Programme and PSHE.



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 Specialist VI Curriculum.

We follow the CFVI. The Curriculum Framework for Children and Young People with Vision Impairment (CFVI) has been developed to support children and young people with vision impairment to access an appropriate and equitable education. The framework presents outcomes within 11 teaching areas. It provides a vocabulary to be used by children and young people, their families and professionals in the UK who work with them.

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.





**// There is an impressive
range of opportunities
for pupils to develop
their interests
and talents. //**

Ofsted 2022

Preparation for the Real World

At NCW, learning and success amongst our students is underpinned by the Curriculum Framework for Children and Young People with Vision Impairment which has been developed to support children and young people with vision impairment to access an appropriate and equitable education. The framework presents outcomes within 11 teaching areas. It provides a vocabulary to be used by children and young people, their families and professionals in the UK who work with them.

1. **Facilitating an Inclusive World**

Recognising the role of educators (including specialist practitioners) and parents/carers as facilitators and advocates for children and young people with vision impairment in education and society.

2. **Sensory Development**

Working with children and young people to maximise use and development of the senses.

3. **Communication**

Working with children and young people to develop their social communication skills.

4. **Literacy**

Working with children and young people to develop literacy skills.

5. **Habilitation: Orientation and Mobility**

Supporting children and young people to be able to move safely through their world as independently as possible.

6. **Habilitation: Independent Living Skills**

Supporting children and young people to develop the day-to-day skills they need in order to live as independent a life as possible.

7. **Accessing Information**

Teaching of methods children and young people can use to access, produce and manage information independently.

8. **Technology**

Providing training and opportunity for children and young people to use technology with as much independence as possible.

9. **Health: Social, Emotional, Mental & Physical Wellbeing**

Providing targeted teaching and support to facilitate the development of the mental, emotional, social and physical wellbeing of children and young people.

10. **Social, Sports and Leisure**

Supporting children and young people to have opportunities to participate in social, sports and leisure.

11. **Preparing for Adulthood**

Supporting children and young people to prepare for their lives after compulsory education and make decisions for their future.

Transition Year (Year 13+)

For some students, after Sixth Form, an extra year of study and work experience can be a crucial part of their journey, transitioning into the world of work or onto further education. Our 13+ Transition Year is designed to teach Employability Skills alongside individualised Skills training that will fully prepare our young adults for their next step.

Employability and Employment Course

The Employability and Employment course will provide Year 13+ students with a transition year which has a focus wholly on preparation for work. Students will be able to build independence and develop transferable skills that will support them into work, or enhance their skills to support them through university. Students will also benefit from the other advantages of being at NCW; access to the Fit4Purpose multigym, group physical exercise sessions, evening and weekend activities programme, swimming pool and pastoral and wellbeing support. The course provides a Level 2 qualification in Employability alongside Practical Work Experience and skills for living and working independently. The course features three elements:

1. **Employability Qualification**

The academic part of the course sees students learning in the classroom key skills needed for the world of work. Examples of the modules covered might be: Job Search Skills, Job Application Skills, Interview Skills, Managing Your Time, Presenting Yourself, Understanding Work Principles, Business and Customer Awareness and Working in a Team.

2. **Skills for Independence Package**

This academic study is supported with a bespoke skills package tailored to the student and their requirements in preparation for living and working independently. Activities for Daily Living focuses on advocacy in the workplace, accessing relevant

financial support, skills in self-care and self-catering for a working adult. Mobility officers will work with students specifically to develop skills and practise getting to their work experience placement independently. Access technology sessions focus on skills needed for work.

3. **Work Placement**

The third part of the course is having hands-on practical work experience. Placements are provided for students according to their aspirations, skills and interests. This may be at one or more local businesses, organisations or settings able to offer students meaningful and appropriate placements.

Living: 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 its own kitchen and living area.

Additionally there is a large three-bay communal kitchen and dining area where students can mix with other senior students outside their own unit. It is in these kitchens that Residential Key Workers practise with students their independence skills.

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 and laundry.

Senior students benefit from privileges and independence in accordance with their skills, attitude, behaviour and mobility learning, so that they are able to 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.





Subject leaders are experts in their curriculum. They make sure that a range of resources enable pupils to access their learning. These include braille, enlarged texts and the use of technology.



Ofsted, November 2024

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, 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 skiing 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.

Youth Club – the NCW Youth Club is open in the evenings and weekends for students to engage in activities, enjoy movie nights, games and social gatherings.





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**

 **@newcollegeworcs**

 **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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