

NENDRUM COLLEGE COMBER



NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2025

Newsletter

October 2025



PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE



As we come to the end of our first half term and look forward to a well-earned Halloween break, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been a very positive and busy start to the school year here at Nendrum College.

It has been lovely to welcome our pupils back and to extend a special welcome to our new Year 8 pupils and those who have joined us in Years 9 and 10. I hope our new pupils are already feeling very much part of the Nendrum family.

We continue to take great pride in the achievements of our pupils. Our GCSE results this summer were outstanding, with 92% achieving 5 A-C grades* and 62% achieving 5 A-C grades including English and Maths. This is a fantastic reflection of hard work from pupils, staff and parents alike.

Our Parent Teacher Association held its first online meeting on 7th October, and I would encourage more parents and carers to get involved. Your support makes a real difference and helps strengthen the sense of community that defines our school.

We ended the term with two fantastic events, the Year 8 and 9 Halloween Disco and our Annual Prize Day, where we celebrated the successes of our pupils and welcomed Mr David Jeffrey MBE as our guest speaker. It was also great to see so many former pupils return and share their stories.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I wish all our families a safe and enjoyable Halloween break.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

CELEBRATING NURTURE, COMMITMENT AND COMMUNITY AT NENDRUM COLLEGE

At Nendrum College, we take great pride in celebrating the achievements of our pupils not only for their academic success, but for the way they live out our core values of Nurture, Commitment and Community in everything they do. This half term, we're delighted to place a few of our shining stars in the spotlight.



Jodie has consistently shown kindness and care around the College, going out of her way to nurture peers. Helping fellow new pupils settle in, she embodies the spirit of Nendrum by making everyone feel valued and included.



Connie has demonstrated incredible commitment and perseverance, both on and off the field. Her hard work and determination have led to her selection for the Under-15 UEFA Northern Ireland Development Squad.



Zara has shown a remarkable sense of community through participation in our Stepping Stones programme, helping to support elderly members of the local community. Her willingness to give time and energy make our school such a strong and caring community.

KEY DATES FOR NEXT TERM



Upcoming GCSE Exams

November 5th 6th & 7th - Food Nutrition Exam Yr 12
 November 10th - Double Award Science Re-sit Yr 12
 November 11th - Single Award Chemistry Unit 2 Yr 12
 November 12th - Double Award Physics Re-sit Yr 12
 November 14th - English Unit 1 Yr 11
 November 17th - English Unit 4 Yr 12



P7 Taster Day

1 December - All pupils in Yrs 8, 9, 10 & 11 are off for study leave



Internal Exams

2-5 December - All Year 8, 9, 10 & 11 involved



Work Experience Week

1-5 December - All Yr 12 pupils will be involved in work experience

STUDENTS EMBRACE LEARNING

At Nendrum College, we believe that learning is about so much more than lessons and exams, it's about curiosity, growth and a willingness to give your best every day. This half term, we are proud to recognise all our pupils for the positive way they have embraced their learning and engaged with school life.

Across every year group, pupils have shown fantastic effort, enthusiasm and resilience. Whether tackling new subjects, developing new skills or supporting one another through challenges, it has been wonderful to see so many pupils showing pride in their work and a genuine desire to improve. Our classrooms have been full of energy and purpose, with pupils demonstrating great focus and teamwork in their learning.



It has also been encouraging to see pupils making the most of opportunities beyond the classroom, from clubs and sports to music, art and community projects. These experiences not only build confidence and character, but also reflect the Nendrum values of Nurture, Commitment and Community in action.

AT NENDRUM COLLEGE WE EXPECT ALL STUDENTS TO EMBRACE LEARNING

E EQUIPMENT READY

M MINDFUL OF OTHERS

B BEST EFFORT ALWAYS

R RESPOND TO QUESTIONS

A ASK IF UNSURE

C CHALLENGE YOURSELF

E ENGAGE WITH LEARNING

As agreed by staff and Student Council in June 2025.

This term we have introduced our new set of learning expectations for all students in all lessons. These were created by staff and our student council.

The EMBRACE posters are displayed throughout school and will be considered when staff are awarding merit and House points each term.

As we move into the next half term, we encourage all our pupils to keep up this positive attitude towards learning. Be proud of your progress, keep setting yourself new goals, and continue to support those around you.

YOUNG AMBASSADORS PROGRAMME

In October we launched the Young Ambassadors programme which is aimed at young people aged 11-14 and focuses on using alternative education as a tool through a number of different topics. This programme is a team building and multi-sport led personal development programme that combines physical activity with educational workshops. The sessions are split into two parts.

The first part is sport and physical activity based focusing on icebreakers, team building and multi-sports which are used to increase the confidence of the participants and build relationships.

The second part of the session is an educational workshop focusing on a variety of topics including good relations, personal development and active citizenship which will in turn lead to a small intergenerational social impact event between the groups and participants involved. This will in turn promote inclusion, diversity and respect whilst addressing other sensitive issues which will help participants become role models and ambassadors in their local community.



YEAR 12 YOUNG MEN'S GROUP

We're pleased to launch the Year 12 Young Men's Group, a new after-school programme led by NI Alternatives. Running monthly in the College Library, this initiative gives pupils the chance to explore important topics such as cyber safety, mental health, policing and restorative practices.

The first session took place on Tuesday 21st October, and we commend the pupils involved for their commitment to personal growth and leadership.



CANTEEN MENU

Our new canteen menu for this year is available to view on our website under "School Meals": www.nendrumcollege.co.uk

NENDRUM COLLEGE COMBER				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Sweet Chili & Cheese Cakes Sweet & Sour Chicken with Rice Breaded Fish Tastes Good! Beef Burger in a Bun Cheese Pizza Chips / Baked Potatoes Peas / Beans / Corn / Salad Yoghurt / Dessert / Fresh Fruit	Tuna & Prawn Pasta Bake Pasta Bolognese with Chilli Sauce Chicken Korma with Peas & Noodle Stir Fry Chicken Burger in a Bun Cheese & Tomato Puffs Margherita Pizza Savoury Puffs Peas / Salad / Cornish Cheese / Vegetables Yoghurt / Dessert / Fresh Fruit	Vegetable Curry with Rice & Noodle Stir Fry Chicken Curry with Rice & Noodle Stir Fry Breaded Shrimp Beef Burger in a Bun Cheese & Tomato Puffs Chips / Baked Potatoes Peas / Salad / Cornish Cheese / Vegetables Yoghurt / Dessert / Fresh Fruit	Baked Quorn Dippers with BBQ Sauce Prawn Salad, Yorkshire Pudding, Stuffing Breaded Shrimp with Tartar Sauce Beef Burger in a Bun Cheese Pizza Chips / Baked Potatoes Peas / Salad Yoghurt / Dessert / Fresh Fruit	Beef Burger in a Bun with Mayo Chicken Dine with Rice and Chilli Sauce Breaded Shrimp with Tartar Sauce Beef Burger in a Bun Cheese Pizza Chips / Baked Potatoes Peas / Salad Yoghurt / Dessert / Fresh Fruit

FLAVOURS OF THE WORLD

Monday
1 - Pulled Beef with 5 spice, Hoisin Sauce
2 - Chicken Katsu

Tuesday
BBQ Pulled Beef & Cheese Loaded Fries/Nachos

Wednesday
Kung Pao Chicken & Noodles

Thursday
1- Korean BBQ Glazed Wings
2- Bangkok Wings

Friday
South African Bunny Chow

STAFF NEWS

This year we are excited to welcome several new staff members.

HoD Mathematics, Mr Agnew - We are delighted to appoint and welcome Mr Agnew to Nendrum College as our new Head of Mathematics. His wealth of expertise and leadership will be a fantastic addition to our Mathematics department, and we look forward to the positive impact he will have .

SEN Support Teacher, Miss Peters - We're pleased to welcome Miss Peters to Nendrum College as a newly qualified teacher with specialist training in Special Educational Needs (SEN). Miss Peters will be supporting our statemented pupils through targeted withdrawal sessions, offering a nurturing and personalised approach to learning.

Science & RE Teacher, Mrs Dalzell - We also extend a warm welcome to Mrs Dalzell. A local to Comber, Mrs Dalzell returns to the classroom after spending time working with the Church, bringing a wealth of experience, insight and enthusiasm to both subject areas. We're excited to have her join our team and look forward to the valuable contribution she will make to our school community.

Family Liaison Officer, Steph Doherty - We are excited to welcome Steph to our College community as our new Family Liaison Officer. She brings a wealth of experience in youth work and counselling, and will play a key role in supporting pupil and family wellbeing, strengthening home-school links.

Classroom Assistants - We're delighted to welcome a number of new Classroom Assistants to the College this term (Ms Millar, Mr Lynn and Miss Taylor). They will play an important role in supporting our pupils' learning, wellbeing and success across all areas of College life. We're excited to have them join our team and look forward to the positive difference they will make within our classrooms and wider College community.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

If you would like to recognise any of the staff or the College as a whole for the hard work, dedication and commitment to our community. There are a number of national awards some of which are listed below:

Pearson Teaching Awards - Send a Thank You

The Thank a Teacher campaign recognises ALL staff working in UK early years, schools and colleges; school leaders, teachers, teaching assistants, and all support staff such as lunchtime supervisors, caretakers and cleaners. If you're feeling shy you can send a card anonymously. Follow the link below:

<https://thankateacher.co.uk/thank-a-teacher/thank-a-teacher-form/>

Person Teaching Awards - Nominate Your 2026 Unsung Hero

Do you know someone in your school who always goes the extra mile? The lunchtime supervisor who makes everyone feel cared for, the caretaker who brings a smile to everyone's face, or the office star who keeps everything running smoothly? Now's your chance to say thank you in the biggest way possible!

The 'Unsung Hero' Award celebrates the incredible people behind the scenes who are making a real difference in schools and colleges across the UK. It's the only Pearson National Teaching Award open to parents, carers, and pupils. Follow the link below:

<https://thankateacher.co.uk/the-unsung-hero-award/>

Nominate your school for Derrytrasna Pastoral Care Awards

The Derrytrasna Pastoral Care Award provides recognition to school communities that have demonstrated exceptional co-operative effort in supporting the pastoral care of pupils and their families. Nominations should open around early November.

THANK YOU! LOCAL BUSINESS SPONSORSHIP

The College would like to extend our sincere thanks to the local businesses who have generously supported our College Rewards Programme through the donation of vouchers and financial contributions. Your generosity helps us to recognise and celebrate the achievements, effort and positive contributions of our pupils throughout the year.

Your continued partnership strengthens the link between our College and the wider community, and we are truly grateful for your support in helping to inspire and reward our young people.

