

# NEC News

Issue 1, May 2023



Welcome to the first NEC newsletter of 2023. In this issue we are celebrating NEC's 60th birthday in 2023 and highlighting some of our new courses and the opportunities available to students looking to study with NEC.

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## 60 years of life-changing learning

The National Extension College (NEC) was formed on 12th August 1963, meaning this year is our 60th birthday. Throughout 2023 we'll be celebrating the impact that NEC has had over the past 60 years and will be looking ahead to how NEC will be continuing to support students around the globe.

NEC was the brainchild of Michael Young, Lord Young of Dartington, who wanted to expand educational opportunity by giving adult learners a chance to learn while earning or bringing up a family, in their own time and at their own pace.

Over 60 years of life-changing learning, our staff and tutors have supported thousands of learners studying with NEC to achieve their goals. We have worked with many organisations, schools, awarding bodies and other partners to support their students' learning.

Our *expertise, inclusivity, flexibility, quality and dedication* has widened access to education and transformed lives by offering people of all ages access to essential qualifications like GCSEs and A levels, as well as vocational qualifications.

[Find out more about NEC's 60th Birthday.](#)

## New courses

### International A levels

In a world where the nature of education and employment is changing rapidly, NEC is here to help. We have launched a new international curriculum for learners outside of the UK interested in studying towards careers in science, engineering and medicine, who are hoping to progress to study at the best universities around the world. We offer courses in a number of IGCSEs and now have four new International A levels in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Maths. [Find out more.](#)

### Bookkeeping

Bookkeeping skills are incredibly valuable whether running a business or a club, pursuing a career as a bookkeeper, or simply to keep on top of the household budget. Learning bookkeeping skills can help people become more confident working with finances. NEC has two new bookkeeping courses that will develop practical bookkeeping skills - Xero Basic Skills and Quickbook Basic Skills. [Find out more.](#)

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## Information for Learners



## Support for students studying with NEC

At NEC we want to ensure that all of our students have the best possible learning experience. We believe that everybody deserves a chance to achieve their learning goals, no matter their circumstances.

There are many forms of support that we can offer our students, including:

- guidance around booking exams with access to the support they need / access arrangements
- one-to-one pastoral support and tutorials
- support for students under 18
- Wellbeing for Learning sessions open to students and parents.

[Find out about the full range of support we offer.](#)



We have a series of podcasts with an emphasis on distance learning and how we can work towards making education accessible for all students. Download and listen [here](#).



## Returning to learning

The government is keen for over 50s, many of whom reassessed their work/life balance, following COVID-19 and decided to leave work and retire early, to come back to boost workforce participation and to help themselves through the cost of living crisis. A report by the [Learning & Work Institute](#) on Britain's missing workers states that whilst initially driven by a rise in people taking early retirement, people have a diverse range of reasons for not working.

Whatever their age and whatever the reason for leaving, getting back to work after a career break can be hard whether people are looking to relaunch their career but need to upskill or if they are looking for a fresh start in a new sector.

NEC has been supporting students of all ages since 1963 and can help people to gain new skills to get back into work. Our [Career Tracks guides](#) provide advice on the best courses to choose for particular careers and our Course Advice Team can help people make the right choice about the course for them.

Visit our [website](#) to find out about the full range of courses available from GCSEs and A levels to vocational courses in bookkeeping, business and management, counselling and more or call us on 0800 389 2839.

**Give yourself the best chance of success. Get a great qualification and transform your life.**

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## Upcoming events

Throughout 2023 we are working with our partners to host a variety of 'live' events. Every month we have a free webinar that anyone can join 'live' or watch later on our YouTube channel. You can find the full series of past webinars [here](#).

They cover topics including preparing for exams and revision, applying to university, supporting children's learning, and look at careers in areas such as the law, art and art history, bookkeeping, agriculture, space, careers for classicists and much more.

Our May webinar looks at Careers in Space with a geo-physics focus and was co-hosted with the Royal Astronomical Society. [Watch it here](#).



Follow us on social media to ensure that you don't miss out on exciting events and other opportunities to join in.

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Instagram](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[TikTok](#)

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## Bursaries at the University of Cambridge Institute of Continuing Education for NEC students

The University of Cambridge Institute of Continuing Education (ICE) is offering a current or recently completed NEC A level student a 100% tuition fee bursary for the 2023-2024 academic year on a choice of nine part-time Undergraduate Certificates. Closing date for applications is 15th May 2023 and the recipient of the bursary can expect to begin their studies in October 2023.

For more information, details of the undergraduate courses available and details of how to apply students should see [here](#).

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**20% OFF**

**OUR ENTIRE COURSE LIBRARY**  
For all NEC students

[www.connex-academy.com](http://www.connex-academy.com)

### Are you thinking about becoming a teacher?

NEC is delighted to have recently partnered with [Connex Education Academy](#) to provide GCSE and Functional Skills qualifications for people looking to develop their knowledge or gain the skills and qualifications required to train as a teacher.

Connex Education Academy offers a wide range of online learning including formal qualifications to train to become a teacher. They are offering all NEC students a 20% discount on their entire course platform.

[Take a look at their course matrix for details of the courses available.](#)

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## We want to hear about your experience of studying with NEC

We are always happy to hear from students about their experience of studying with NEC. If you would be willing to provide a quote about your study or course, or to provide a case study we'd love to hear from you. You could be a current or a recently completed student or, to celebrate our 60th birthday, we'd be delighted to hear about your experience of studying with NEC at any point over the past sixty years. If you are an NEC student and have a career in sport, we would be particularly interested in hearing how your study and your sport fit together.

Get in touch [here](#) to tell us about your experiences.

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## Parent/Carer survey

NEC is reaching out to parents and carers of NEC's under-18 students. We would like to know how best NEC can help you to support young learners to achieve their learning goals. We are open to suggestions on improvements and would like to know what we are doing well and what we can do better.

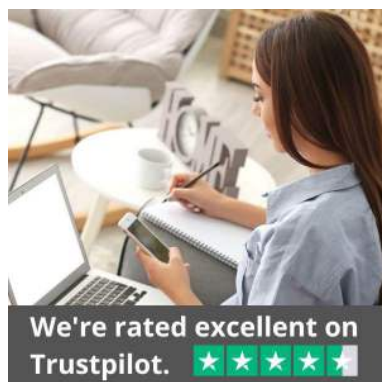
To thank you for taking the time to complete the survey, we will provide a £15 NEC Gift Voucher which you will be able to use as part payment for a range of courses and services for students who are currently enrolled with NEC and planning to sit exams in Summer 2023, Summer 2024 or Summer 2025, and whose enrolment has not expired.

The survey should take no more than 10 minutes and you can find it [here](#).

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## We're rated 'excellent' on Trustpilot

If you are a recent or current NEC student don't forget to leave us a review on [Trustpilot](#). Thank you to one of our students for this great review.



*"I was looking for a way to improve my French, but as I work full time it has to be flexible. So after researching I found NEC's A level French course. The customer service was extremely helpful answering questions I had about the course before I committed. Now I'm on the course I find the materials and exercises really good and easy to follow step by step and the tutor has given me really helpful feedback and tips. I would definitely recommend NEC to others, especially if you need a flexible way to study, or to study at your own pace."*

We're rated excellent on Trustpilot. ★★★★★

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## Information for Schools and partners

### Working with schools - Flexible solutions to support you and your students

With 21 subjects at A level, 16 at GCSE and Functional Skills at Levels 1 and 2 in English and Maths, NEC offers a wide range of options to help your school and your pupils. You can enrol a student at any point in the year and there are no minimum enrolment numbers. Your students can study anywhere - from home or at school and all our courses are designed to be flexible so that your students will be able to fit their NEC study schedule around your timetable and any other commitments. [Find out more about how we can support schools.](#)

If you are an international school please visit our [International Schools web page](#). You can also find out about our new [International Curriculum](#) for international students interested in studying towards careers in science, engineering and medicine.

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### The value of partnership

NEC works in close partnership with a range of organisations to promote and provide educational opportunities. We are the trusted partner of schools, colleges, the armed forces, the prison service, trainers, companies, and the public sector, providing high-quality materials and learning programmes.

We are one of a number of organisations that form the Social Partnerships Network (SPN). The partnership, which currently consists of 15 organisations, has been working together for 10 years. All the partners have a firm commitment to widening access and social inclusion and the combined potential to reach over seven million people. We all share common values related to lifelong learning and social mobility.

Our CEO Esther Chesterman will be speaking at a Social Partnerships event later in May. [Here](#) is a link to the Social Partnerships Network website for more information.

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### New partner



We are delighted to be working with [Connex Academy](#) to provide GCSE and Functional Skills qualifications for people looking to develop their knowledge or gain the skills and qualifications required to train as a teacher.

Connex Education Academy has a wide range of online learning to meet your entire education community professional development needs. These include mandatory courses to support

safeguarding and compliance, keeping school's safe and working environment safe, and formal qualifications to train to become a teacher. They are offering all NEC students a 20% discount to their entire course platform aimed at school communities and individual educators.

[Take a look at the course matrix for details of the professional development learning opportunities available.](#)

The full list of partners we work with is on our [website](#). If you are interested in working with NEC contact our Marketing team at [marketing@nec.ac.uk](mailto:marketing@nec.ac.uk).



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## News

### Scholarship opportunities at the Open University

The Open University (OU) Open Futures Fund is at the heart of the University's mission to make higher education accessible to all. They are currently offering the following scholarship opportunities for the academic year 2023-2024, click on the links to find out more about the scholarship and deadline for applications:

- [Disabled Veterans' Scholarships Fund](#)
- [Black Students Scholarships Fund](#)
- [Carers Scholarships Fund](#)
- [Care Experienced Scholarships Fund](#).

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### Online Education Accreditation Scheme (OEAS)

In March our CEO Esther Chesterman attended the launch of the OEAS which is establishing a voluntary online education accreditation scheme and non-statutory standards for online education provision.

As a fully online distance learning provider NEC welcomes regulation of online learning and supports Ofsted in ensuring that all children receive a high quality and safe learning experience.

You can read about the OEAS and meeting online education standards [here](#).

We have also written a blog post with our thoughts on the OEAS, which you can read [here](#).

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## Study tip

Celebrate your achievements as you progress through your course. This could be as simple as ticking off items on a to-do list or treating yourself to a small reward for completing a particularly challenging assignment. By celebrating your achievements, you'll feel more motivated to continue with your studies and achieve your goals.

[Read our tips for staying motivated if you are learning online.](#)

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## Coffee Break

Back in January our Tweet to celebrate UNESCO World Logic Day proved popular with the opportunity to test your logic skills by trying some logic puzzles. If you missed our Tweet, why not grab a drink, take a short break and try them now [here](#).

You can follow us on Twitter [@NEC Education](#)

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## Contact us

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Visit our website: [www.nec.ac.uk](http://www.nec.ac.uk)

### Follow us on social media



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## Sign-up to our newsletter

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[www.nec.ac.uk/education-newsletter-sign-up/](http://www.nec.ac.uk/education-newsletter-sign-up/)