

## Learning Support at Halesowen College

### **Are you thinking about coming to Halesowen College and want to know a bit more?**

This is a quick guide of what we can offer you if you have additional support needs and/or have a Statement or Education, Health and Care Plan.



## **Open Events**

If you are leaving school in the next year or two a great starting point is to attend one of our Open Events. Each year there are a number of Open Days which are a great opportunity to spend time making sure that Halesowen is the right choice for you. It is a fun day when you can come with your family and spend as much time as you need looking around. You can talk to the staff, look at the great facilities, watch demonstrations and performances, listen to college bands and maybe even visit the college refectory for lunch or a snack. There are also Open Evenings throughout the year. Have a look on the College website for dates and times. [www.halesowen.ac.uk](http://www.halesowen.ac.uk)

Most students attend the main site at Whittingham road but if you are doing Hair and Beauty you would usually be based at Shenstone House site in Halesowen town centre. For students undertaking Apprenticeships you would usually be based at our Coombs Wood site located at the nearby Coombs Wood Business Park.

If you are a wheel chair user there is good access for you to get around all of the sites. Wheel chair users or anyone who has a mobility difficulty will have a Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan or PEEP for short. A member of staff will meet you when you start college to plan your PEEP together. This tells you what would happen if you had to leave the building quickly, for example if there was a fire alarm or other emergency.

## **Getting ready for College**

Moving on from school to college is a big step, especially if you have been at a small school for quite a few years. We try to help you with this in a few different ways. If you need more support when you start college you will be invited in for a planning meeting with Learning Support and curriculum staff to look at your specific needs.

In Year 10, students often come on taster sessions with their school. In year 11, once you are accepted onto a course, you will be invited to further transition sessions to give you the chance to meet your teachers and new class mates and ensure we can fully meet your needs when you start college.

### **Successful learning**

If you had extra support with your learning at school then you might need to continue this when you come to college. You will be seen by one of the friendly and helpful staff in Learning Support along with a member of staff from the curriculum area who will discuss the course you are going on and what support might be required. Once you have started college we will meet you again to see how you are coping and whether you want to make any changes to the planned support. Support can range from your teachers in the class who know about your additional needs and regularly check you are OK, to having a Learning Support Assistant helping you in or out of class.

If you had any special exam access arrangements made for you at school we will look at these and see if anything needs to be arranged for college examinations. We will always keep in touch with parents and carers if there are any concerns and to check everything is going well. At school there will have been reports and Parent/Guardian Evenings, these will continue at college to keep your parents or carers up to date with your progress.

### **Safe and happy**

At Halesowen College we think it is really important that you are not only learning but that you also feel safe, happy and enjoy your time with us. There are retail outlets and social areas across the college and there is always a member

of staff around if you need any help. Every student, visitor and member of staff wears an ID card on a lanyard so we know that everyone who is around college is allowed to be here and that no strangers are on the site. The college has lots of ways to help you feel safe and settled but if you do ever feel worried or upset about anything you can talk to your Personal Coach.

At Halesowen College, there are many enrichment activities and things to do when you are not in class. These include access to our well-equipped college gym, outstanding sports facilities and a wide range of cross-college team sports, including football, netball and wheelchair basketball.

Other activities outside the classroom include opportunities for you to join our active Student Union, become a tutor group representative and attend student council meetings, along with the potential to become a student ambassador for the College!



## **Travelling to and from college**

Halesowen College has special buses which many students use to travel on and these operate on 18 different routes to College within the area. Please visit our website for full details on bus routes: [www.halesowen.ac.uk](http://www.halesowen.ac.uk)

Some students require specialist transport which is organised and provided by the local authority. If you need to be met or taken to a taxi a learning support assistant will do this and make sure you are in the right place at the right time.

## **Care at College**

If you need to take any medicine at college, or need any special personal care during the day, you and your parents will be able to meet with a member of the Learning Support team before you start so this can be sorted out. We will also talk to you about what will happen if you are ever taken ill or have an accident whilst you are with us.

## **Student Services**

We try to think of everything to make sure you have a great time at college and are kept up to date with everything available to you. Student Services have information and advice on lots of things such as information and guidance on

- Completing forms
- Careers advice
- Financial support
- Free meals
- Counselling

## **Moving on**

During your course there will be lots of opportunities to talk about what you want to do next. This might be moving on to a higher course at Halesowen College or University or looking for a job. You will not only get advice and guidance on where to go from your personal coach in your tutorial sessions

## **Still want to know more?**

There is more information about the college on the below web site including a more detailed version of this information for parents/guardians. You will also find details on all of our courses and see pictures of students enjoying themselves and studying on our College website.

**<http://www.halesowen.ac.uk/>**

If your questions are not answered on the college website or you just want to talk to someone, please telephone our friendly and helpful Admissions team on 0121 602 7777