



Hazel Oak School

Future Destinations

Steps Towards and beyond Post
16/18

2023-24

Introduction

It is understandable why many parents, carers and pupils feel anxious about life after Hazel Oak. There is so much to think about: assessments; funding; further education options; accreditation; careers; continuing to develop independence/life skills.

However, you will find from reading this document that there is a wealth of support available and so many exciting opportunities for our students to pursue. It is also reassuring to consider the high proportion of former Hazel Oak students who successfully venture into employment, further education or both. Many return to Hazel Oak to catch up with staff and peers, and we are always taken aback by their maturity, confidence and independence (many now live independently), which could not have happened without the supportive network around the family.

Services, government policy and provisions are by nature constantly evolving and curricula opportunities are not always known in advance. For example- skills workshops and visits may change from term to term. Therefore, this document is not comprehensive, but will be updated along the way.

Some useful advice from parents, carers, professionals in education and local authorities...

- Avoid last minute visits to colleges
- Avoid being fixated on one college; visit a range
- Continuing academic studies is not the only option. Think about vocational opportunities through schemes such as supported internships.
- Our young people are more likely to find routes/inspiration into work when they are offered a rich variety of occupational experiences. Consider this when choosing FE courses.
- Arrange 'dummy runs' to the college/employer once confirmed.

Finally, the purpose of this document is to support the young person and their families, so we would welcome your feedback if you feel that something is unclear or missing from the document.

A Simplified Overview to the Transition Process

Year 9

An **EHCP review**- it is important to focus on transition and set targets for things that need to happen to ensure the process is as smooth as possible. Timescales for these should be discussed and included, along with who can help these targets to be met.

Begin to discuss Post 16 options as this may influence what you write in the EHCP. Eg. You may need to start thinking about travel training.

Dave Hooley (Independent Careers Advisor) will visit school and introduce himself to year 9 students and he will explain the transition process and present a careers workshop.

Year 9 students will experience a transition week where in their new year 10 class. This takes place in the Summer term.

Parent checklist

Start to think about the future and what your son/daughter may like to do and how they might like to live.
Remember Dave Hooley, Independent Careers Advisor, is available to help.



Year 10

Careers interviews- Dave Hooley (Independent Careers Advisor) will visit school. He will interview students with a legal guardian(s) present. The main action points discussed from the interview will be translated into a Transition Passport. This will contain useful information such as timescales; suggested post 16 provisions; contacts; available funding.

An **EHCP review**- it is important to focus on transition and set targets for things that need to happen to ensure the process is as smooth as possible. You will refer to the Transition Passport in the review.

Parent checklist

- Continue to think about the future and what your son/daughter may like to do and how they might like to live.
- **VISIT OTHER PROVISIONS MENTIONED IN THE TRANSITION PASSPORT**- Even if you have a preference, it's still worth seeing what is out there. This might include supported internships, colleges, residentials, work-based learning, ntheraputic settings, Hazel Oak 6th Form etc.
- If your son/daughter will be leaving school at the end of year 11 you will need to make contact with the Local Authority to begin the application process and inform them of your preference for the next placement.
- Remember Dave Hooley, Independent Careers Advisor, is available to help.



Year 11

Students are able to leave school after they have completed Year 11; however, they are legally obliged to remain in education, employment or training until they are 18.

If you have been receiving support via children's health services, this will transfer across to adult services once a young person is aged 16. This will also happen with respite services you receive. The Transition Family Support Worker can support you throughout the transfer but please remember that there is a process to be followed and we are unable to speed things up and get immediate results. The transfer process can take a long time to complete.

Dave Hooley will check progress against your young person's careers Plan: He will phone families at home at least 2 weeks prior to the EHCP review date (unless parents/carers have opted to organise their own careers advisor).

An **EHCP review**- it is important to focus on transition. You will refer to the Transition Passport during the review and name your preferred Post 16 provision in the EHCP.

By the end of March- The Local Authority transitions team review the EHCP then send the provision a consultation request. Please note- this may not be the 1st choice indicated in your EHCP review meeting.

Parent checklist

- Continue to think about the future and what your son/daughter may like to do and how they might like to live.
- Remember the Transition Family Support Worker and Independent Careers and Transition Advisor are here if you have any questions, worries or queries.

Year 12

Careers interviews- Dave Hooley (Independent Careers Advisor) will visit school. He will interview students with a legal guardian(s) present. The main action points discussed from the interview will be translated into a Transition Passport. This will contain useful information such as timescales; suggested post 18 provisions; contacts; available funding.

It is important for parents to start to think about visiting possible placements for post 18. No final decisions needs to made at this point.

Parent checklist

- Continue to think about the future and what your son/daughter may like to do and how they might like to live.
- Check everything is place for transfer from **Children's Health Services** to **Adult Services** including respite provision, if you receive any services.
- Remember the Transition Family Support Worker and Independent Careers and Transition Advisor are here if you have any questions, worries or queries.



Year 13

This is the year keep in close contact with your Plan Co-ordinator at the Local Authority (LA) to express your preference for which College/next placement you would like your son or daughter to attend.

This process will begin in the summer term of Year 12 when the LA will write to you asking you to state your preference. You do not need to apply to colleges directly as the SEND team at the LA will approach the colleges on your behalf using your son/daughter's Education, Health and Care Plan. It is still important that you visit the colleges yourself so that you can give a preference when asked.

You will have focussed support from the Transition Family Support Worker throughout this year.

Your son/daughter will also be referred to Adult Social Care for allocation of a Transition Social Worker. You will be allocated a social worker at some point throughout the year who will continue to work with you once your son/daughter has left Hazel Oak.

Parent checklist

- The Transition Family Support worker will be in touch to discuss options and any help support they can offer. They will also ask permission to make a referral on your behalf for allocation of a Transition Social Worker.
- Applications to local (Solihull and South and City) and the local specialist colleges (Queen Alexandra College and Hereward) need to be made this year. You will be placed on the waiting list for an assessment.
- Remember the Transition Family Support Worker and Independent Careers and Transition Advisor are here if you have any questions, worries or queries.



Hazel Oak School

Applying for Hazel Oak 6th Form

Visit other local provisions, considering advice provided by Dave Hooley. These options may include: Hazel Oak 6th Form, therapeutic; supported internships; alternative colleges and courses; residential provisions.



Attend year 11 or 13 EHCP review. If Hazel Oak agree they can meet need and our 6th Form is the preferred option, then Hazel Oak 6th should be named on the EHCP paperwork. You will receive a Notice of Amends email shortly after the review where you will have an additional chance to name Hazel Oak. **Unlike previous years, Hazel Oak will not be sending 6th Form applications to families.**



Hazel Oak will wait for the consultations from the Local Authority.



Hazel Oak will contact families once all consultations have been agreed. This is likely to be in March (although we will endeavour to contact families earlier should all pupil destinations be confirmed)



NB- Hazel Oak 6th Form places are limited. It is therefore important that parents/carers research alternative provisions. 6th Form candidate decisions are primarily based around the following criteria:

- Student safeguarding profile
- Attendance data
- Best curriculum pathway for the individual

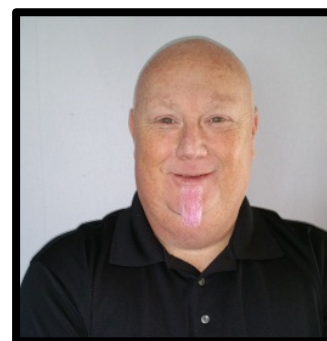
A Guide to Transition- Message from Dave Hooley, our Independent Careers Adviser

What is Transition?

Transition means change. There are many transitions your child will go through as they move through school, some will happen smoothly without too much disruption, whilst others require lots of thought and preparation and can have a huge impact on each student and their families.

Year 9 is a good time to start thinking about transition. Within school we use a document called a Transition Passport with all pupils from Year 9 onwards. Pupils who are able to, can contribute their own thoughts and feelings about each section. There is also a section for those who know the student well to fill in important information. This document will go through school with each student and will be updated regularly to reflect changes.

Where appropriate, students will be invited to their annual review each year to present key parts of their transition passport.



Transition – why is it important?

Transition is important because you may need to start planning early, even though it can be overwhelming for you to think about the future, especially when it seems to be so far away.

Starting to think about options available and what your son/daughter might like to do upon leaving school can be really useful. This is especially true when you are unsure as to what they want to do or if your son/daughter will require a specialist provision. No decisions need to be made early on but beginning to think about it will help the process.

What are the options after leaving school?

- Continue in education and go to college
- Train to do a job, possibly through a supported internship
- Voluntary work
- Supported activities with help from Social Services
- Supported living arrangements

Our Independent Careers and Transition Advisor – Dave Hooley and your transition Social Worker will be able to go through options in more detail with you.

If you need further help and advice, please contact:

Dave Hooley

Independent Careers and Transition Advisor
drhooley@outlook.com

Dave Hooley- Support Process		
Date	Year Group	Action
September	9	Letter to parents/carers: Dave will introduce himself and explain the transition process from hereon via letter to parents/carers.
September	11 and 13	Dave will check progress against your young person's careers Plan: He will phone families at home at least 2 weeks prior to the EHCP review date (unless parents/carers have opted to organise their own careers advisor).
October	Year 9	Q&A session with pupils: Dave Hooley will introduce himself to the students, explain/visualise timescales and show examples of colleges/courses and vocational options. Pupils will take part in a careers workshop. There will be time at the end for Q&A.
January	10	Careers interviews Dave will spend 2 days in school. He will interview students with a legal guardian(s) present.
January	12	Careers interviews Dave will spend 2 days in school. He will interview students with a legal guardian (s) present.



Transition to post-16 placement for young people with an education, health and care plan

Taken from Solihull Local Authority website <https://www.solihull.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2021-11/Transition-to-Post-16-FV-1.pdf>

Information for young people

We know that when you move from school onto further education it can be an anxious time. This information sheet has been put together to help guide young people who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) through the post-16 transition process.

It includes details on where to find the information about post-16 education providers in Solihull and about how to express a preference for the college or establishment that you wish to go to.

In your EHCP Annual Review you can discuss the right post 16 provision for you and this may be a local post-16 school or college where your needs can be met with additional support. You will still be able to access the post 16 pathway, even if you do not have an EHCP.

Sometimes a mainstream provision is not suitable, so there is also information about local specialist post-16 schools and colleges.

The Local Authority will decide what type of provision is required to meet your needs but will do this after considering your views and those involved in supporting you with your EHCP.

If you are seeking work (vocational) based training or an apprenticeship, information is available on the Local Offer website <https://socialsolihull.org.uk/localoffer> giving details of relevant training providers. These routes provide good options for a number of young people who do not wish to stay in a more formal education environment.

You will have been given advice on the type of programme/course that is suitable for you through discussions with your current school at your transfer review meeting. If you are interested in a particular post-16 provider/college, you will need to contact them directly to arrange a visit. If you have an EHCP Co-ordinator, you, and your parents, can also talk to them about the different options available to you. Discussions about your Pathway to Adulthood will start at your Year 9 review and there will be opportunities for you to discuss this at subsequent Year 10 and Year 11 reviews, with professionals who know you and are involved with supporting you.

When you visit, be prepared to ask questions about the type of support you need. Take your EHCP with you and ask to meet with the Additional Needs Manager. The Local Offer website at; <https://socialsolihull.org.uk/localoffer/support-for-adults-and-young-people-aged-14-and-over/> has a list of useful questions and things to look out for when visiting a college or training provider. The support you receive in settings for Post 16 learners could look quite different to your experience of school but this to reflect you becoming older and to help your independence.

Please be aware that this is a dual process, which means that as well as giving your post- 16 preferences to the Local Authority, you must also apply directly to the post-16 setting.

We would advise that you seek support from your school SENCO (Special Education Needs Coordinator) and school careers adviser to help you make an informed decision about your future options and express suitable preferences.

You will also need to consider how you will get to and from the college/post-16 provider, as there is no free travel assistance. For more information on post 16 transport see the Solihull Post 16 Transport Policy Statement at; <https://www.solihull.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2020-12/Post-16-Transport-Policy-Statement-2020.pdf>

If after reading this you need further help or advice then you can contact the 0-25 SEND Team on 0121 704 6690.



Autumn term onwards	You should attend open days at local colleges/post-16 providers and apply directly to them. Colleges and providers need to inform the 0-25 SEND team of all applications received from young people with SEN/EHCP .	
Between November and December	<p>School careers adviser arranges a full careers guidance interview and draws up a career plan. School/placement SENCO arrange the EHCP transfer review meeting (in order to complete the transition review form and to update the EHCP).</p> <p>You complete the post-16 preference form and send it to the 0-25 SEND team: edsen@solihull.gov.uk (deadline the Monday before half term in December) and make direct applications to your preferred schools/colleges</p> <p>Current school/provider sends the updated EHCP, career action plan, up-to-date school reports, transition review and your preference form to the 0-25 SEND team: edsen@solihull.gov.uk</p>	<p>NB- Hazel Oak discovered that preference forms are no longer sent. Instead, Solihull Local Authority refer to the preferred placement stated in the updated EHCP. If a placement was not included in the EHCP, parents/carers will need to state their preference on the Notice of Amends which is emailed to families shortly after the EHCP review meeting.</p>
Between December, February and March	<p>The 0 - 25 SEND team will consult with post-16 college/provider about your preferences – to find out whether they can meet the needs in the EHCP.</p> <p>If necessary, the SEND team may also consult with other appropriate providers that are in your local community.</p> <p>Notice of Amendment and letter of intent will be sent to you, identifying any proposed amendments to the EHCP and the intended post-16 setting to be named in Section I of the EHCP. You will have 15 days to make written representations to the proposals. The 31 March is an important deadline if you have an EHCP and are due to transfer to the post 16/19 phase of your education. This is because we, the Local Authority have to legally issue an amended final plan by 31 March naming the placement or type of school you will be attending from the September.</p>	

The numbers of places in all educational settings are limited, which means that it may not always be possible to allocate you a place at your preferred school or college. Places do get filled up so we recommend a minimum of 2 preferences are given on the preference form.

We must comply with your preference for a local college or local sixth form unless: the placement is unsuitable to your age, ability, aptitude or additional needs, or

- the placement would be incompatible with the efficient education of the other young people with whom you would be educated, or
- the placement would be incompatible with the efficient use of resources.

Meeting your needs

We believe in the principle of students being educated or trained in their local community, as close to home as possible.

There are different types of mainstream post-16 provisions in Solihull including:

- Local general further education colleges (GFEs) which can offer all kinds of additional support.
- Mainstream sixth form colleges and school sixth forms.

More specialist types of provision

In addition to mainstream providers, there are special school sixth forms at Hazel Oak, Forest Oak, Merstone and Reynolds Cross Schools. The Local Authority would need to agree that your needs require a specialist setting.

These specialist colleges are within 12 miles of Solihull town centre:

- Hereward College
- Queen Alexander College
- Argent College

Occasionally special school sixth forms and colleges may not be able to meet a young person's needs. There are a number of independent specialist providers meeting a variety of specialist needs. For more information visit <https://socialsolihull.org.uk/localoffer>.

Finding out about the options

All General Further Education Colleges, sixth forms and special post-16 colleges have their own prospectus that explains what subjects/courses they offer, the facilities they have and what they aim to provide for their students. Contact these providers directly to request a copy. However, many educational establishments will have a copy of the prospectus on their website for you to download. Further information can also be found at <https://socialsolihull.org.uk/localoffer>.

Open days

It's a good idea to go along to open days so you can talk to tutors and explore choices before making a decision. Check college websites and social media for dates of open days. During COVID this has been more difficult but schools and colleges have produced online resources and staff will be available to talk to you and your family.

Providers Guide to Transition

Support into Employment

Careers Adviser Dave Hooley

Dave Hooley is Hazel Oak's designated Independent Careers Adviser.

About Dave Hooley:

- Dave trained to become a careers adviser in 1985 and as you can imagine things have changed a bit in the 30 or so years since!!!
For the last twenty one years, Dave has worked in special schools and has helped to formulate transition strategies for students with additional needs.
- Having worked for local authorities for most of his career, seven years ago he became an Independent Adviser, and therefore works for himself.
- This is Dave's seventh year supporting students at Hazel Oak School, a role which he is honoured and proud to hold.
On a personal note, you will find Dave watching Aston Villa home and away most Saturdays (and Tuesdays!)
- He is also into his music; his major influences being punk and ska, hence the coloured beard.
- You can contact Dave Hooley via email on: drhooley@outlook.com

Local Authority Support into Employment (Local Offer)

Employed For Success (Solihull Council)

Employment and Skills Team

If you are looking for work, the Employment and Skills Team at Solihull Council can point you in the right direction. We can help you put a great CV together, give you advice on how to do well at interviews and talk to you about where and how to look for jobs that suit your skills and experience.

If you're not quite ready for employment, we can help you to find training courses or work experience which will help to make you more employable.

Email: employmentteam@solihull.gov.uk

Tel: 0121 704 8076

ReCOM service

ReCOM is providing an opportunity for people to improve their IT skills to help bring them closer to employment. We offer a FREE service at three libraries across Solihull offering one-to-one sessions and short courses.

We can help with:

- using email
- putting together a CV and letter
- registering on job sites and uploading a CV
- completing on-line job applications and forms
- general IT skills for the workplace

Universal Credit and Universal Jobmatch accounts

This is available at Chelmsley Wood, The Core and Shirley Libraries.

To book a place or find out more call 0121 663 0335 or email admin@recom.org.uk.

Colebridge Trust

The Colebridge Trust Ltd. is a not for profit Community and Enterprise Development organisation. Our mission is to build the capacity of Solihull's borough-wide communities, addressing social, economic and environmental deprivation and improving the life chances of its people.

We provide support, development and representation to the local Voluntary sector.

We provide front line services in health & well-being and in pre-employment support.

Our Social Enterprises provide work experience, training and employment by providing a range of products and services.

Call 0121 704 7860 or use the arrows to find out more

Colebridge Trust is also affiliated with **Solihull SUSTAIN** who provides support, development and representation for all Voluntary & Community Sector organisations serving the people of Solihull. There provide employment, volunteering opportunities for young adults. Visit here for more information: <http://solihull-sustain.org.uk>



VOLUNTEER WORK EXPERIENCE

Warwickshire & Solihull Community and Voluntary Action

We are the local VCS Infrastructure Organisation for Warwickshire & Solihull, providing vital support to the volunteers, groups, organisations, enterprises and charities who are working to strengthen all of our communities across the county.

Every year our dedicated teams of staff and volunteers help lever in significant investment into the county. In 2018/19 the collective value of funding secured and volunteering opportunities developed was worth £2.7 million to the local economy.

We were formed in 2008 through the merger of separate 'Councils for Voluntary Service' and 'Volunteer Centres' to provide a single point of access for everyone who wants to engage in community and voluntary action. We have a collective history of over 200 years of supporting local communities to thrive.

We are committed to providing all of our services locally and accessibly. Whether you need support accessing volunteering opportunities, developing a community group, accessing funding or strengthening your governance, we have a local office and dedicated team near you.

<https://www.wcava.org.uk/volunteering>

Further Education

Colleges offer a wide range of courses including some that are specially designed for people with moderate to severe learning difficulties and physical difficulties. Before applying to a college the following points need to be considered

- What are the entry requirements for the course, and can they be met
- What kind of support is available and does it meet the needs of the applicant
- How easy is it to get to the college and what are the transport arrangements if required
- What have previous students gone on to do after the course has ended

There are two main types of college that previous Hazel Oak students have moved onto:

1. **Local Further Education Colleges**
2. **Independent Specialist Colleges**

This following information is aimed at helping young people and their families know what provision is available when they leave school. There are a number of options available and provisions are changing and increasing each year.

The main destinations that students from Hazel Oak progress on to are:

- Go to a local Further Education College
- Go to an Independent Specialist College
- Access Social Services Provision

Many colleges offer Supported Internships

Supported internships are a structured study programme based primarily at an employer. They enable young people aged 16-24 with a statement of SEND, or an Education, Health and Care plan to achieve sustainable paid employment by equipping them with the skills they need for work, through learning in the workplace. Supported internships are unpaid, and last for a minimum of six months. Wherever possible, they support the young person to move into paid employment at the end of the programme. Alongside their time at the employer, young people complete a personalised study programme which includes the chance to study for relevant substantial qualifications, if appropriate, and English and maths.

Colleges

Specialist Colleges tend to cater exclusively for students who have additional needs whereas local FE colleges will have courses for all abilities. You have to apply for additional funding for specialist colleges and a place will only be awarded if the Local Authority feels the student's needs can not be met in a local college.

Below you will find a list of Local FE colleges followed by a list of the most popular specialist colleges within easy access. To find out more about specialist colleges use the Natspec directory as listed below or talk with Dave Hooley.

All of the Local FE colleges offer a range of Entry Level courses in a range of vocational areas. A lot of the colleges will offer Pre-Entry courses aimed at students who need a lot of additional support. These courses focus on life skills and personal development skills that the students will need in order to lead as independent a life as possible.

To access any college provision either local FE or specialist students will need to have an Education, Health and Care Plan. **N.B. Specialist provisions are dependent on local authority funding and space.**

Solihull College

Offer a range of courses for students with moderate to severe learning difficulties from Pre-Entry through to Level 1. Students with an Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP) are able to access mainstream learning within the College. Learning Support Assistants will help students with additional needs to access appropriate courses. The college is situated over two campuses' listed below

Blossomfield Campus,
Blossomfield Road,
Solihull B91 1SB

Woodlands Campus,
Auckland Drive, Smith's Wood,
Solihull B36 0NF

Contact

Telephone: 0121 678 7000

Email: community@solihull.ac.uk

Website: www.solihull.ac.uk



Warwickshire College

Warwickshire College has several campuses around the County. All have access to the inclusion team. The Inclusion Team's role is to ensure students with an education, health and care plan (EHCP) get support from Learning Support Assistants and Educational Communicators who signpost supported students to appropriate progression routes. The College Dyslexia specialists work with a number of students for support interviews, Dyslexia screening, full Dyslexia assessments for students applying to university and 'one-to-one' support for Dyslexia.

General enquiries for all Campuses

0300 456 0047

info@warwickshire.ac.uk

Fax: 01926 318111

Website. www.warwickshire.ac.uk

South and City College have merged with Bournville College

South and City College (Birmingham)

The college offers a wide range of both Pre-Entry and Entry level course across its range of locations.

Location:

Programmes are based at the following centres:

Hall Green Centre, Cole Bank Road, Hall Green, Birmingham B28 8ES

Ladywood Centre, 46-68 Stour Street, Ladywood, Birmingham B18 7AJ

Fordrough Centre, Bordesley Green, Birmingham B9 5NA

Golden Hillock Centre, 103-105 Golden Hillock Road, Small Heath, Birmingham B10 0DP

Handsworth Centre, Soho Road, Handsworth, Birmingham B21 9DP

Contact

Telephone: 0121 694 5016 or 0121 702 1028 (extension 6122)

Email: tina.bassett@sccb.ac.uk or punam.sarna@sccb.ac.uk

Website: www.sccb.ac.uk

Bourneville College

The college offers a range of courses from Entry level 1 to Level 1 in a range of vocational areas

1 Longbridge Lane, Longbridge,

Birmingham B31 2AJ

Telephone: 0121 477 1530

Website: www.bournville.ac.uk

Stratford College

The college offers both pre-entry and entry level courses. It runs courses on life skills and personal development.

Address: The Willows North, Alcester Rd, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 9QR

Phone: 01789 266245

Website www.stratford.ac.uk



Specialist and Residential Colleges

Natspec is the membership association for Specialist Colleges. The colleges give young people with a learning difficulty or disability the chance to become more independent and to learn in an exciting environment with personal support. The Natspec Specialist College Directory and College Finder will show you where each college is located and how they can support students. College websites and admissions teams can also help you to understand what the college offers.

www.natspec.org.uk/

Below are listed some of the more local Specialist colleges

HEREWARD COLLEGE

Brief Description:

A further education college based in Coventry for young people with disabilities and additional needs

Course Length:

36 weeks per year

Residential or Day:

Residential and day

Maximum Number of Students:

300

Age Range:

14+ years

Hereward College

Bramston Crescent

Tile Hill

Coventry

CV4 9SW

Telephone: 024 7646 1231

Email: admissions@hereward.ac.uk

Website: http://www.hereward.ac.uk

Queen Alexandra College

Brief Description:

QAC supports people with a wide range of disabilities including visual impairment and autism, (including individuals with Asperger's syndrome) those with moderate to severe learning difficulties, students with physical disabilities and those with other needs.

Course Length: 38 weeks per year

Residential or Day: Residential and day

Course Dates: Courses start in September, however we may be able to accommodate new starters throughout the year dependent on programme choice

Maximum Number of Students: 200

Age Range: 16+ years

Queen Alexandra College

Court Oak Road

Harborne

Birmingham

B17 9TG

Telephone: 0121 428 5050

Email: enquiries@qac.ac.uk

Website www.qac.qc.uk



Work Based Learning

Newlands Bishop Farm

Facilities at Newlands Bishop Farm

On site, we have a range of facilities that our project workers can use and experience. In the modern barn, there is a woodworking unit where people can make items out of wood and practice their carpentry skills. This building is also where we keep all of our safe, modern machinery. To learn more about our wood work please click [here](#)

In 2008, Newlands Bishop Farm was awarded a grant to build a stable block and we've since secured a Riding Establishment Permit. This allows project workers attending the farm to get involved with all aspects of horse care including lunging, long lining and grooming.

In 2011, we opened a new building that contains a training kitchen and working café, called Berry's. This is a state-of-the-art facility that gives our project workers the chance to gain commercial catering and retail skills and qualifications.

Work-based learning for people with learning disabilities in Solihull

Our project workers come from all across Solihull and the Midlands to take part in the work-based learning opportunities at Newlands Bishop Farm.

Through our partnership with Birmingham Metropolitan College, which we've had since 2005, we can offer project workers the chance to gain qualifications in ICT, numeracy and literacy. In 2009, the college presented us with an Excellence Star Award for our outstanding service to training and development of our project workers.

In 2014, we joined up with Solihull College to offer City and Guilds skills for working life in either horticulture or animal care at Newlands Bishop Farm. It's been a huge success and the project workers are now able to work towards a certificate in the practical skills they carry out at the farm on a regular basis.

Business and community partnerships in Solihull

Newlands Bishop Farm has many partnerships with local organisations who often visit us to help with our farm work or take part in outdoor education activities, using the fields, woods, pond or the forest school sites.

At weekends, the farm is open to the public and is becoming a popular Solihull wedding venue for couples looking to have an outdoor marquee or tipi wedding. For more information about weddings please click [here](#)

Argent College

Established in September 2015, Argent College resides in a former Victorian factory in Birmingham's historic Jewellery Quarter. Our curriculum is centred on the creation of jewellery – using metal or leather – and useable craft items – such as textiles and candle making, performing arts, horticulture, and catering.

They have a unique urban rooftop micro farm, where biodynamic produce is grown by students to use in the colleges canteens and onsite social enterprise provision – The Hive Organic Cafe and Bakery. The Hive also comprises a gallery and community craft space, providing outstanding work experience opportunities for our students and services for the local community.

Call 0121 663 1270 or email enquires@ghc.rmt.org today to discuss any other queries you may have.

Vittoria Street
Jewellery Quarter
Birmingham
B1 3PE

Website www.rmt.org/argent/

Transport Assistance for Post 16- Solihull

Solihull Council wants all young people to have the same access to opportunities in life: to travel, to get a job, have friends and relationships, to live as independently as possible, to have a good social life and to be valued in their community.

Learning to travel on public transport is an essential skill. We actively promote independent travel so that all young people can access their community, training and learning opportunities as well as social and leisure activities.

Applicants with severe mobility or learning difficulties may apply for discretionary travel assistance by filling in the Request for Travel Assistance Post-16 form. Criteria for determining eligibility are as follows:

The student must

- 1 - live permanently in Solihull
- 2 - attend a full-time, suitable course at a suitable school, further education college or institution or 16-19 academy
- 3 - be aged 16-18 at the time of application, or have started the course before their 19th birthday
- 4 - be unable to travel to their course independently

Independent travel training

Solihull's Independent Travel Trainers offer personalised training to teach a young person to travel to and from school or college on their own, usually using public transport.

Appeals

If you are unhappy with the outcome to your request for assistance you have the right of appeal against the decision. First, your request will be reviewed by a senior officer. If you are still not happy your request will be considered by a panel of council members.

If you would like an appeal form you should phone School Transport on 0121 704 6610.

NB: For Birmingham transport arrangements, follow this link:

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/50052/school_travel/900/specialised_transport_for_pupils_with_learning_difficulties_or_disabilities

Travel Training

Solihull Council's Independent Travel Training Team work with individuals who are currently travelling to school on a Solihull Council provided taxi and teach them how to travel from home to school and return journey using public transport. This service is completely free of charge.

The process

First of all, we have a discussion with the school to discuss each pupil we have on our database. The school will let us know if they think the student is suitable to be travel trained. This is based on the pupil's ability, maturity and behaviour.

Once a list of suitable students has been collated with schools agreement, we will call each pupils parent/carer to introduce them to the travel training scheme. If the parent/carer decides that they would like the pupil to receive travel training, we will then arrange to meet the pupil in school to have a very informal discussion around travel training.

A travel trainer will then visit the home address to talk about the scheme and everything the team has to offer. There are many additional areas that we need to cover during travel training; stranger awareness, general road safety, who to ask for help in an emergency etc. If the meeting is successful and parent/carer wants to go ahead with travel training; all paperwork must be completed. After this meeting, a date will be set to begin travel training.

Travel training will commence every day; morning and afternoon. The trainer will closely support the pupil by walking side by side. When appropriate, support will gradually reduce throughout each session, to encourage the pupil to become more independent. Once the trainer feels that the pupil is ready to travel independently, an assessment will be carried out by another travel trainer for the entire route. If the student passes this assessment, a sign off meeting will be signed by parents/carer and then the pupil can be signed off as an independent traveller. The student may be entitled to a free bus pass, please speak to your travel trainer about this.

During travel training, the pupil's taxi space will be put on hold. This does not mean that the taxi is gone forever! If the pupil is not successful with travel training, they will be put back onto their taxi.

To sign up for travel training, please call us on; 0121 704 8069 or fill out an online referral form.

Social Services Support (Solihull)

Care and Support Plan, Adult Social Care and the Personal Budget

Support for adults and young people aged 18 and over

Young people aged 18 and over who have additional needs are entitled to an **assessment** under a law called **The Care Act**. During the assessment the young person will be supported to identify if they have care and support needs. If the young person identifies any care and support needs they will be assisted to develop a plan outlining how those needs can be met. This is called a **Care and Support Plan**. The plan may include details of support from family and friends, information and advice that has been given and how they will access existing community and universal services.

If the young person's care and support needs are eligible under **The Care Act**, part of the plan may include funding from **Adult Social Care** to purchase services. If the young person receives funding as part of their Care and Support Plan this is called a **Personal Budget**.

If the young person has a personal budget there are a range of services they can purchase to meet their individual needs. Parents and carers of young people who have care and support needs are also entitled to an assessment and support plan.

Preparing for Adulthood- Solihull Local Authority Guidance



We understand that becoming an adult can be an anxious time. This is even more of a concern if you have care and support needs as a result of a physical or mental impairment or illness.

To try and support you through this time we have developed a pathway to enable us to get to know you and your needs better by the time you are 18 and to help you to know what support you are likely to receive as an adult and the options available to you. Our plan is by doing this we will provide a smooth transition into adulthood, where you and your family feel supported and in control of your future.

If you receive support from Children's Social Care you can expect at around 14 years of age that your social care worker will have discussion with you and the people important to you about the future. This discussion will then be shared with the transition's team so that they are aware of you, your wishes and aspirations. You and the people that are important to you will be asked if you are happy for this to happen.

At around 16 you will be allocated an adults worker from the SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) Social Care Team. This worker will attend important meetings, get to know you and the people that know you best and start to gather information for your assessment. By the age of 17 your assessment will be completed and you and your adults worker will start to plan how your care and support needs are going to be met as an adult. When you are around 18 your children's worker will stop working with you and your adult's worker will be the person you contact for support.

If you do not have any support from Children's services your school will have discussions with you at year 9 about your future and the help and support that you may need. Around year 11 they will ask you if it is ok to let us know about you and make a referral to us. At around the age of 16 we will allocate you an adult's worker from the SEND social Care team to start gathering information and getting to know you and the people who are important to you, they will attend important meetings with you. This will enable us to complete your assessment by the age of 17 ½. We will then look at planning what care and support you may need as an adult.

Personal Budgets and non-residential care and support

For more information see our [leaflet on Personal Budgets](#) including frequently asked questions.

Documents

- [What is the Care Act](#)
- [Benefits and direct payments](#)
- [Eligibility Criteria](#)

Day services for people with disabilities

There are a range of day services and opportunities in Solihull if you are aged 18 or over and are living with a physical or learning disability.

Many of the day services in Solihull are provided in **leisure facilities** that are available to everybody in the borough. Other day services are specifically tailored to meet your needs and help you get the life you want.

If your care and support needs have been assessed by Solihull Council and you are entitled to support. The day services can ensure you get the practical support, emotional care and personal attention that is essential to your health and wellbeing.

If you are over 18 and live in the borough you may be entitled to day care following a care and support needs assessment if you have:

- Learning disabilities
- Physical disabilities
- Sight loss
- Hearing loss
- Dual sensory loss

Recognising the importance that an independent lifestyle has on your health, wealth and wellbeing, you will be supported to use community services wherever possible and whenever it is appropriate to you and your needs. Day services can take place in small groups or individually to provide:

- A choice of activities inside and outside the centre
- Care and support

You will also be encouraged to make your own choices, be treated with dignity and respect and your family, friends, advocates, carers will all be involved.

If you would like more information or are paying for your own care and would like to use the service, you can call Solihull Connect on 0121 704 8007.

Solihull Family Information Service

This information should help you to know what support and services are available in Solihull and to make informed choices about your education, health, care and **transition to adulthood**.

Solihull has a SEND 0-25 service based at Elmwood Place, 37 Burtons Way, Smiths Wood, Solihull, B36 0UG. This service brings together key professionals to provide services for eligible children and young people with SEND.

The SEND 0-25 service includes:

- [StART](#) (Statutory Assessment and Review Team) - lead the assessment of young people for an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC Plans)
- [SISS](#) (Specialist Inclusion and Support Service) - provides specialist teaching, assessment, advice to inform EHC Plans, training and sensory support services, for children and young people, their families and their educational setting. Services can be offered from point of diagnosis until a young person leaves school. Some SISS services are traded services and are purchased by Schools.
- [EPS](#) (Educational Psychology Service) - provides educational psychology support, support to Schools, assessment and input to EHC Plans
- [CYPSPDS](#) (Children Young People's Specialist Disability Service) - is a Social Care service for children, young people and transition. The team assesses, provides services, monitors and reviews support plans and supports the transition of young people to Adult Social Care.
- [BU](#) (Business Support Unit) - provides specialist administrative support for all SEND 0-25 service functions.

The Solihull local offer tells parents and young people what they are entitled to, what services are available to them and how to access them.

Adult Social Care contact

Suzanne Collinson:

Suzanne.collinson@solihull.gov.uk

Solihull Council House

Manor Square

Solihull

B91 3QB

SEND contact

Penny Browne:

pbrowne@solihull.gov.uk

SEND 0-25 team

Elmwood place,

37 Burtons Way

Smiths Wood

Financial Support

Financial support is available for young people and their families assuming the criteria is met.

Universal Credit

You may be eligible for universal credit if you are:

Moving from Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)

You can make a new claim for Universal Credit if you're in full-time education and all of the following apply:

- you're entitled to Personal Independence Payment (PIP) or Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
- you've already been assessed as having limited capability for work
- you make a new claim before your ESA ends or as soon as you're notified that your ESA claim has ended

16 or 17

You can make a new claim for Universal Credit if any of the following apply:

- you have medical evidence and are waiting for a Work Capability Assessment
- you're caring for a severely disabled person
- you're responsible for a child
- you're in a couple with responsibility for at least one child and your partner is eligible for Universal Credit
- you're pregnant and it's 11 weeks or less before your expected week of childbirth
- you've had a child in the last 15 weeks
- you do not have parental support, for example you're estranged from your parents and you're not under local authority care

Studying full-time

You can also make a claim if you're in full-time further education and any of the following apply:

- you do not have parental support and you're not under local authority care
- you have limited capability for work and you're entitled to Personal Independence Payment (PIP) or Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
- you're responsible for a child
- you're in a couple with responsibility for a child and your partner is eligible for Universal Credit

For more information, go to <https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit/eligibility>

16-19 Bursary

The 16 – 19 bursary can be applied for from the September after your son/daughter turns 16. **If you are eligible** for the full bursary, school could draw down £1200 worth of funding that can be used in many ways which can include transport costs, school trips, school lunch costs and specific equipment purchases.

Your son/daughter must be in receipt of Universal Credit (UC) and DLA/PIP to be eligible for the bursary and it is not means tested. There is no cost to apply for either yourselves or school. The bursary money comes from a specific fund that is not connected to the school budget. There is potentially a pot of money waiting to be accessed so don't delay.

Both DLA/PIP and UC need to be in place before an application can be made and this can take time to arrange, so if you can get this in place before the September you wish to apply, that would be beneficial.

Claiming UC for your son or daughter can affect some of the other benefits the household currently claim and you will need to consider which works best for you and your family. For more information or advice, you can contact DIAL (Disability Information and Advice Line) and they can give you more information. They can be contacted on 0121 770 0333 or via email manager@dialsolihull.org.uk. Alternatively, you can contact the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) directly.

Once eligible, applying for the bursary is easy, just complete the Vulnerable Learner application and send in the relevant supporting documents. Please be aware that you may be required to return to Hazel Oak School any items purchased using the bursary fund at the end of your child's course of study, if the items are deemed to be useful for other students at the school. This is at the discretion of the governors and the Head Teacher.

If your son/daughter is not eligible for the full, Vulnerable Learner bursary, there is a discretionary element that you may be eligible for. This is a smaller pot of money that is set aside to cover the requests of a number of students so the amounts that can be paid out are smaller, one off payments. If there is a specific item that you would like to purchase, you may be able to receive a grant for part of the full cost.

There are priority groups Discretionary Bursary for applications, these are:

1. Students in receipt of free school meals

or

2. A low income family where someone is in receipt of one of the following:

- Income support
- Income based Job Seekers Allowance
- ESA (income related)
- Support under part VI of the immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guarantee element of Pension Credit
- The maximum level of working tax credit with zero reduction due to income
- Child tax credit if it is the only benefit received, and where annual income, as assessed by the Inland Revenue does not exceed £16,190
- Universal Credit

Applications can be made at any point in the year for both the Vulnerable Learner and Discretionary elements, however, if they can be completed earlier in the academic year, the more scope there is to use the money effectively across the year, as needed.

For more information, go to <https://www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund>

Personal Independence Payment (PIP)

What PIP is for

Personal Independence Payment (PIP) can help with extra living costs if you have both:

- a long-term physical or mental health condition or disability
- difficulty doing certain everyday tasks or getting around because of your condition

You can get PIP even if you're working, have savings or are getting most other benefits.

You can also read about [PIP in Welsh \(Cymraeg\)](#).

How PIP works

There are 2 parts to PIP:

- a daily living part - if you need help with everyday tasks
- a mobility part - if you need help with getting around

Whether you get one or both parts and how much you get depends on how difficult you find everyday tasks and getting around.

If you have less than 6 months to live, you'll automatically get the daily living part. Whether you get the mobility part depends on your needs. Find out [how to claim and how much you'll get if you have a terminal illness](#).

Daily living part

You might get the daily living part of PIP if you need help with:

- eating, drinking or preparing food
- washing, bathing and using the toilet
- dressing and undressing
- reading and communicating
- managing your medicines or treatments
- making decisions about money
- socialising and being around other people

Mobility part

You might get the mobility part of PIP if you need help with:

- working out a route and following it
- physically moving around
- leaving your home

You do not have to have a physical disability to get the mobility part. You might also be eligible if you have difficulty getting around because of a cognitive or mental health condition, like anxiety.

How difficulty with tasks is assessed

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) will assess how difficult you find daily living and mobility tasks. For each task they'll look at:

- whether you can do it safely
- how long it takes you
- how often your condition affects this activity

whether you need help to do it, from a person or using extra equipment

Your carer could get [Carer's Allowance](#) if you have substantial caring needs.

Help with PIP

If you need help understanding or applying for PIP you can:

[get help from Citizens Advice](#)

watch [PIP video guides with British Sign Language](#)

use [easy read guides which explain PIP](#)

If you get Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

[Disability Living Allowance \(DLA\)](#) is being replaced by PIP for most adults. You'll keep getting DLA if:

- you're under 16
- you were born on or before 8 April 1948

If you were born after 8 April 1948, DWP will invite you to apply for PIP. You do not need to do anything until DWP writes to you about your DLA unless your circumstances change.

For more information, go to <https://www.gov.uk/pip>