

Year 11 Parent Handbook

What's Next?

A guide to enable you to help your child choose what to do after they leave school



Welcome

At Barnsley College we understand the important role that parent/carers of Year 11 children play in the decision making process when your child is thinking about what to do after they leave school.



Open Evenings

15 October 2014
26 November 2014
15 January 2015

Your child is likely to call upon your help, experience and opinions at some point when they are making this important decision so the more you know, the more assistance you can offer.

This handbook is specifically for parents/carers and will provide you with information about the career pathways available at Barnsley College so that you can help your child make an informed decision on what to do next.

I hope you find this guide useful.

**Colin Booth
Principal**



Choosing the correct pathway for your child



Vocational - A Level - Apprenticeship?

At Barnsley College we have a range of vocational, A Level and Apprenticeship pathways in a wide range of subject areas. The level at which your child enters a pathway depends on their GCSE results and any other qualifications they may have.

In order to help your child choose the correct pathway start by thinking about the subjects they enjoy, the career or job they would like to do and if they would like to go to university.

If your child is a more academic learner who copes well with exams then A Levels may be their best choice. If they prefer to learn by doing practical activities and completing coursework, a vocational course may be a better option. If they want to work and learn at the same time then an Apprenticeship could be the answer.

What is the difference between vocational, A Levels and Apprenticeships?

Vocational

Vocational pathways are related to areas of work like Engineering or Health Care and are excellent if your child knows what kind of career they want. There's usually more emphasis on coursework than exams and it's often about learning practical skills that they can apply to the working world. At Barnsley College there is a vocational

pathway to meet all learner needs. Your child can go to university after studying a vocational pathway.

A Levels

A Levels are more like GCSEs and are exam based with more of a focus on theory. Your child will select three or four choices from a wide range of subjects. This keeps their options open if they want to go to university but aren't sure what career to follow. Also, for some careers, like medicine, A Levels may be the only route.

National A Level reform

You may have seen in the news that A Levels will be changing soon. This reform, driven by the Government, will be introduced gradually from September 2015 and will affect any school pupils currently in Year 11 or below who are thinking about going on to study A Levels after finishing their GCSEs.

For a free information leaflet explaining the reform, please call Barnsley Sixth Form College on **Tel:** 01226 216 123 or read the guide at www.barnsley.ac.uk/alevelreform

Apprenticeships

An Apprentice will learn on the job, build up knowledge and skills, gain qualifications and earn money at the same time whilst working towards a National Vocational Qualification (NVQ). Your child will typically spend four days working with an employer and one day a week in College gaining their qualification.

Career pathways offered at Barnsley College

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We have a range of pathways to suit everyone's needs from Animal Care to Wall and Floor Tiling, A Levels to Apprenticeships.

Vocational

- Animal Care
- Art and Design
- Automotive Technologies
- Business
- Catering and Hospitality
- Childcare
- Computing
- Construction (including Brickwork, Joinery, Painting and Decorating, Plastering, Plumbing, Wall and Floor Tiling, Construction and the Built Environment)
- Engineering (including Electrical and Manufacturing Engineering)
- ESOL (English for Speakers of other Languages)
- Essential Skills (including GCSE English and Maths)
- Fashion
- Foundation Learning
- Hair and Beauty
- Health and Social Care
- Horticulture (professional gardening and landscaping)
- Learning for Living and Work
- Media
- Music
- Performing Arts
- Public Services
- Sport
- Travel and Tourism

A Levels

- Art and Design
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Applied Business
- Chemistry
- Citizenship
- Classical Civilisation
- Computer Science
- Drama and Theatre Studies
- English Language
- English Literature
- English Language and Literature
- Film Studies
- French
- Geography
- Health and Social Care
- History
- Information and Communication Technology (ICT)
- Law
- Mathematics
- Further Mathematics
- Media Studies
- Physical Education (PE)
- Physics
- Psychology
- Sociology

Apprenticeships

- Accounting
- Animal Care
- Automotive Technologies
- Barbering
- Beauty Therapy
- Bricklaying
- Business
- Business Administration
- Children and Young People's Workforce
- Customer Services
- Dental Nursing
- Design
- Engineering
- Hairdressing
- Health and Social Care
- Hospitality
- Horticulture
- IT Practitioner
- IT User
- Joinery
- Journalism
- Leadership
- Management and Team Leading
- Painting and Decorating
- Plastering
- Plumbing
- Production Arts
- Retail Skills
- Sports Activity
- Wall and Floor Tiling
- Warehousing and Storage

The Year 11 application process

Step 1 - Search

Search for a course in the College career guide, Sixth Form prospectus or online at either www.barnsley.ac.uk or www.ucasprogress.com.

Step 2 - Apply

Your child can apply for the pathway of their choice by completing a paper application, via the College website or UCAS Progress.

Step 3 - College interview

Your child will be invited in to College to attend an interview with a tutor from their chosen pathway(s). Most interviews take place each Wednesday afternoon between 3.30pm and 4.30pm, starting in November.

Step 4 - College place

After the interview, your child will be offered a place on their chosen pathway or referred to a more appropriate pathway.

Step 5 - Subject taster

Your child will be invited in to College to take part in a taster session in the pathway they have chosen.

Step 6 - Enrolment

An invitation and enrolment pack will be sent out at the beginning of August giving your child all the information they will need to enrol onto their course. Enrolment takes place in the last week of August. Please bear this in mind when booking holidays.

Step 7 - Start College

Courses start the first week in September. Please bear this in mind when booking holidays.

For more information contact our Admissions Team on
J Tel: 01226 216 106 or 📧 Email: interviews@barnsley.ac.uk

Course decisions explained

If your child is offered a place at Barnsley College it will be one of the following:

- **Unconditional Offer** - your child has already met the entry requirements for the course and has a confirmed place.
- **Conditional Offer** - your child has a place on the course, subject to achieving the entry requirements e.g. getting the right GCSEs, or passing any entry assessments.
- **Withdrawn** - your child has informed us that they have withdrawn their application for this area.
- **Referred** - needs further advice and guidance or another course may be appropriate. Contact our Information Team on 01226 216 123.

Information, Advice and Guidance

Information about Barnsley College is available at your child's school. We also have a team of College Information Advisers who hold regular information sessions with Year 11 groups within schools.

If you are not sure which career pathway your child wants to choose then have a chat with our Information Team who can provide up to date details on all our pathways.

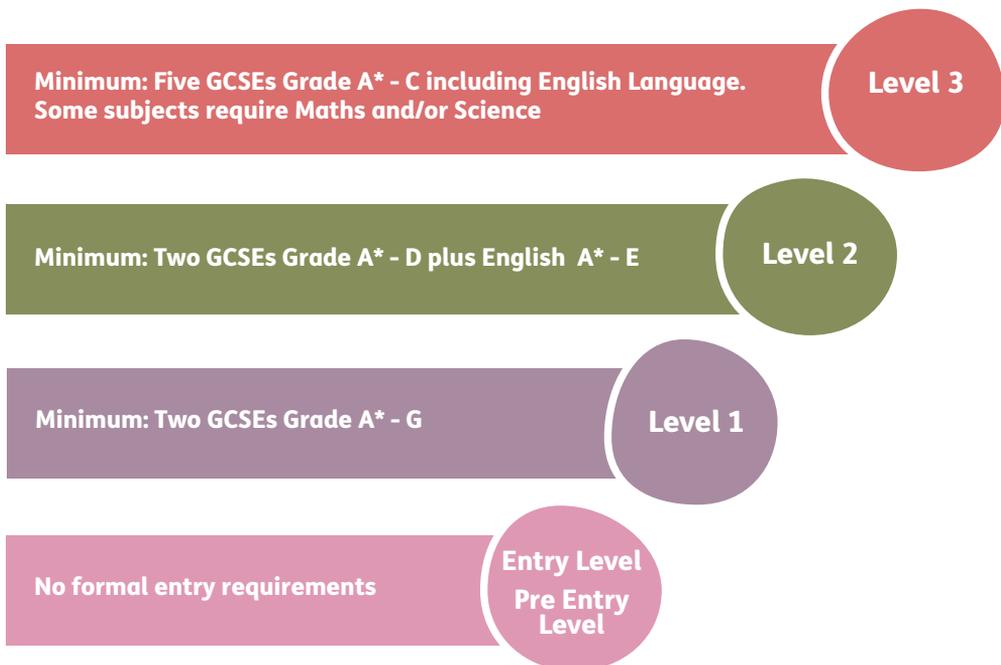
The College holds a number of Open Evenings where you and your child will have the opportunity to come along and chat to tutors, find out more about the College and take a look around our excellent facilities.

**For more information call
Tel: 01226 216 123**

Open Evenings

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Entry requirements explained



LEVELS	P PRE ENTRY	E ENTRY LEVEL	L1 LEVEL ONE	L2 LEVEL TWO	L3 LEVEL THREE
EXAMPLES OF NATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS	Pre-Entry Level Qualifications: Learning for Living and Work	Entry Level Qualifications: Positive Moves, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), Entry Level Diploma	Level 1 Qualifications: Positive Moves, Level 1 Diploma	Level 2 Qualifications: NVQ Level 2, City & Guilds Level 2, Apprenticeship Level 2 Diploma	Level 3 Qualifications: NVQ Level 3, A Levels, Diploma, Advanced Apprenticeship, Extended Diploma

Why choose Barnsley College?

100%

pass rate in 14 A Level subjects including English, Further Maths and Classical Civilisation**

95%

overall Apprenticeship success rate - that's 21% above the national average***

97%

A Level pass rate**

Barnsley College is rated outstanding by Ofsted

95%

of students would recommend Barnsley College to a friend*

£50m

spent improving our buildings and facilities for students over the last two years

90%

overall learner success rates which is 6% above the national average***

Student Profiles

**Open
Evenings**

15 October 2014
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**Ben
Carter**

College course:
**Achieved an A*
in Biology, A in
Chemistry and B in
Physics**

"I liked studying here as I was treated as an adult and it was good being able to focus on the subjects I am interested in. I'm now going on to study Aerospace Engineering at the University of Sheffield."

**Former Kingstone
School pupil**



**Aleysha
Stead**

College course:
**Level 3 Construction
and the Built
Environment**

"I want to become an Architect and I chose this course as it covers a range of subjects that will help me to get to university to study Architecture. I really enjoy my course, have made lots of friends and the tutors are great."

**Former Horbury
Academy pupil**



**Sammy
Colvin**

College course:
**Business
Administration
Apprenticeship**

"I really enjoy coming to College and the support I get from all my tutors and other staff is very friendly and helpful."

"During my time here I have learnt a lot, from customer service to business management."

**Former Willowgarth
High Pupil**



Financial Support

There are many types of financial support available including:

16-18 Student Support Fund

If your household income is below £35,000 your child can get support with travel. If your household income is below £20,000 your child can get support with travel, essential equipment and trips.*

Guaranteed Bursary

16-18 year olds who currently live on their own, are in care or have recently left care could be eligible for a bursary (a non-repayable fund to cover costs) of up to £1,200 per year.**

Care to Learn

Childcare support and funding* for students aged under 20 with children.

Earn to Learn*

Your child could get involved with our Earn to Learn scheme. This provides excellent work experience opportunities within College departments including Marketing, Administration and Catering. Your child will be 'paid' via a range of rewards including help with the cost of travel, trips, equipment or high street vouchers.

Additional Learning Support (ALS)

Our ALS team can provide the support your child needs to achieve their potential. The team assess students who have:

- Dyslexia
- Dyspraxia
- Autism or Asperger Syndrome
- ADHD/ADD
- Learning difficulties/disabilities
- Mental health conditions
- Sensory impairments
- Medical conditions
- Temporary disabilities

Barnsley College offers discreet provision for learners who have learning difficulties and disabilities.

For more information contact ALS on

Tel: 01226 216 311

Email: als@barnsley.ac.uk

**Conditions apply

Up to £700 to pay for travel to Barnsley College*



*Conditions apply



Transport

FREE Bus Services

We realise that getting to and from College may not be easy for everyone so we have funded the following return bus routes for our students:

- **Stocksbridge > Penistone > Barnsley College, Old Mill Lane campus**
- **Shelley > Barnsley College, Old Mill Lane campus**
- **Barnsley College, Old Mill Lane campus > Wigfield Farm**

The bus routes are FREE for our students and operate on a first come, first served basis. Each route will operate in the morning in order to get students into College before lessons start and a return service will be provided after lessons finish.

Bus Pass

Students that are in full-time education, under 18 years of age on 1 September 2015 and live in South Yorkshire, could be entitled to a free student bus pass. Application forms are available online at www.travelsouthyorkshire.com/sixteen

For more information call Student Services on Tel: 01226 216 267.

Get involved

Enrichment

The College offers a comprehensive enrichment programme where your child will have the opportunity to take part in fun activities outside of class as well as getting the chance to meet people who are not on their course. Activities vary and there is something for everyone including: sports, Nintendo Wii, trampoline sessions, Capoeira, graffiti art, ceramics, plus many more.

Visits at Barnsley College

Our students get the chance to go on a range of visits which are organised through their studies or as part of an enrichment programme. Previous visits have included trips to New York, Barcelona and Pompeii.

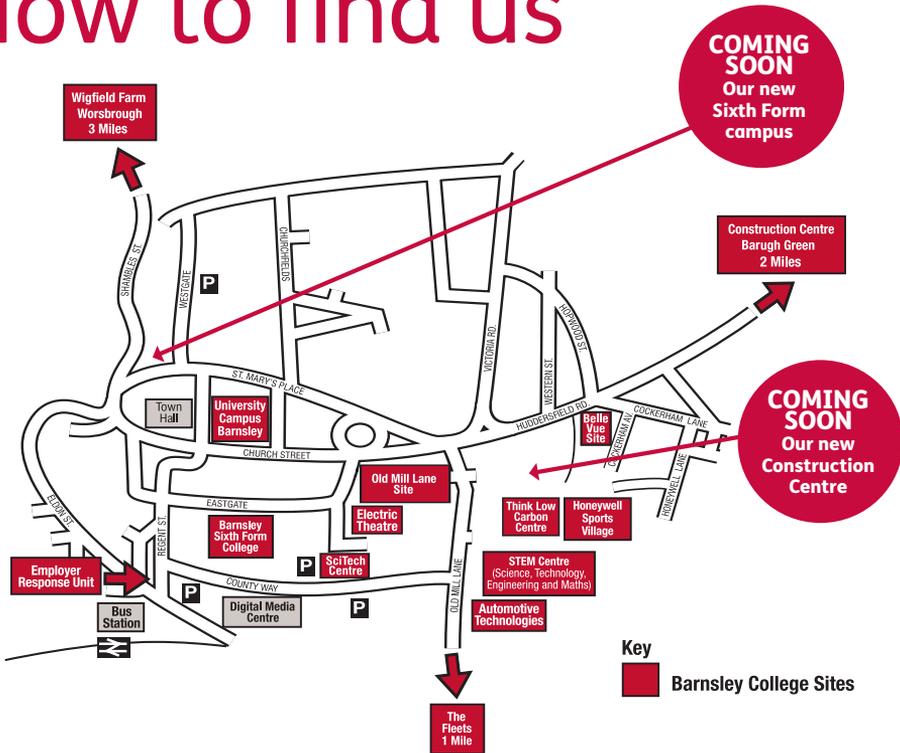
UCAS/University and careers advice

The College provides careers advice, guidance and support on the choices available for our students after they leave college. This includes help with UCAS applications for higher education courses, career choices, job searches, CV writing, work experience, volunteering and employment opportunities.

Useful Contacts

Main College Reception Tel: 01226 216 216	Financial/Careers Advice Tel: 01226 216 267	Student Services Tel: 01226 216 267
Information Unit Tel: 01226 216 123 Email: info@barnsley.ac.uk	Honeywell Sports Centre Tel: 01226 216 676	Student Union Tel: 01226 216 610
Additional Learning Support Tel: 01226 216 76	Images Hair and Beauty Tel: 01226 216 328	UCAS Tel: 01226 216 182
Apprenticeships (Employer Response Unit) Tel: 01226 216 166	Images Professional Hair and Beauty Salon Tel: 01226 216 273	Crumbs Café Tel: 01226 216 204
		Zest Restaurant Tel: 01226 216 365

How to find us



Postal address:
 Church Street, Barnsley, South Yorkshire, S70 2YW
 (If using sat nav please use S70 2AX)

Tel: 01226 216 123 **Email:** info@barnsley.ac.uk
 Follow us on Facebook and Twitter