

School Leavers Guide



Inspiring Futures.
 Changing Lives.





Open Evening Showcase

Attend an open day here



- 20 November 2024 / 4-7pm
- 4 February 2025 / 4-7pm
- 30 April 2025 / 4-7pm

- Tour our amazing facilities
- Chat to tutors
- Meet current students
- Receive impartial careers guidance
- See what apprenticeships are on offer

Getting to College

As our name suggests, we are based right at the centre of Chesterfield. With our large campus and tall south block tower, it's hard to miss us.

If you need support to get to college, please contact the Specialist Transport Services department at your local authority.

Whether you live just around the corner or a little further away, there are plenty of ways to get to college.

Transport Routes



Bus - There are a number of public transport companies that have buses running directly into the town centre, which is just a short walk from college.

Students who are eligible for a bursary may get support with travel costs. For more information about subsidised travel and our bus pass visit our website.

Train - Our campus is just around the corner from Chesterfield train station. You can catch regular trains from Sheffield, Derby, Nottingham and surrounding areas.

Car - We have a large, free carpark available to students, staff and visitors which is offered on a first come, first served basis.



Studying at College

There are lots of different options available to you at college so we understand that it can be a little overwhelming deciding what to do after school. Whether you want to be an accountant or an artist, beautician or builder; we have the study programme to help you get where you want to be in life.



Take a look at our quick quiz: start here

Do you prefer traditional classroom learning such as sitting exams and writing essays?

YES:

Do you want to study more than one subject?

YES:

A Levels

A Levels are academic qualifications which are traditionally used to progress to university-level study but can provide a route into apprenticeships as well. With A Levels you can choose to study three or four different subjects at a time. A Levels are studied over two years and are assessed by exams and coursework. At Chesterfield College we have over 15 different A Levels to choose from.

NO:

Do you feel ready to go straight into the world of work and start earning a wage?

NO:

Vocational Qualifications

Vocational qualifications are study programmes which focus on one subject area. At college we have a huge range of vocational qualifications to choose from including art, hair and beauty, business, construction, sport, vehicle technology and many, many more. A vocational study programme is often divided into hands-on industry experience and theory work in the classroom.

T Levels

(Also known as technical qualifications) are a new type of qualification which will soon be rolled out in colleges across the country. T Levels are designed for 16-18 year olds who prefer to take a practical approach to learning and will, over time, replace vocational study programmes.

YES:

Apprenticeship

An apprenticeship is essentially a real job where you'll work towards a nationally-recognised qualification, gain vital industry experience and earn a wage. If you have a particular career in mind and prefer to take a more hands-on approach to education, then this type of on-the-job training is ideally suited to you.

NO I'M UNSURE WHAT I WANT TO DO:

Speak to our careers advisors.

Email advice@chesterfield.ac.uk or call **01246 500500** or visit our website to choose the right course for you.





Levels Explained



From Entry-level to University level, we offer a range of study programmes to support students of all abilities.

Many of our students choose to study with us for several years as they progress from one level to the next. With our study programmes you will be able to interchange how you learn. For instance you could choose to study a Level 2 course at college and then progress on to a Level 3 apprenticeship (or vice-versa).

Throughout this guide you will find the college courses, apprenticeships and university-level qualifications we offer at numerous levels to help you reach your career goals.

Level 7	Postgraduate Degree			
Level 6	Full Honours Degree	Higher Apprenticeships	Full Honours (Top Up)	
Level 5			HND	Foundation Degree
Level 4	Vocational Qualifications	A Levels & T Levels	HNC	
Level 3			Advanced Apprenticeships	ACCESS TO HE
Level 2			Apprenticeships	
Level 1		GCSEs GRADE 3/D		
Entry Level		GCSEs GRADE 4/C		

T Levels Explained

Visit our website for more information



There are lots of different options available to you at college so we understand that it can be a little overwhelming deciding what to do after school. Whether you want to be an accountant or an artist, beautician or builder; we have the study programme to help you get where you want to be in life.

T Levels have been designed by the Government with employers, to make sure you walk away with your qualification and all the current skills and knowledge you need to get on the job market and start your career! This two-year qualification for 16-18 year olds, combines industry experience with classroom study, think of it as a mixture of apprenticeships, A Levels and vocational qualifications.

You'll spend 45 days on an Industry Placement where you'll get to put your skills into practice with the help of a local employer.

T Levels what you need to know



A T Level is a two-year long qualification and during that time students will spend most of their time working in the classroom but will also partake in a 45-day placement in a local business.

A T Level Distinction* qualification is worth the same amount of UCAS points as 3 A Levels at A* or a BTEC Level 3 qualification at D*D*D* meaning you get to study one course for the price of three!

Students will get the opportunity to use state-of-the-art equipment to develop skills that are used in industry.

What are T-levels?

- ➔ Free (for 16-18)
- ➔ 2 year qualification
- ➔ Equivalent to 3 A Levels
- ➔ 80% classroom & 20% placement

T-Levels allow you to progress into:

- ➔ A skilled career
- ➔ Higher or degree apprenticeship
- ➔ University

Apply for a T-Level in:

- ➔ Building Services Engineering
- ➔ Construction, Plumbing and Heating
- ➔ Education and Early Years
- ➔ Design, Surveying and Planning for Construction
- ➔ Software Development and Computer Science
- ➔ Adult Nursing



Your Study Programme

As one of our students you will be enrolled onto a tailored study programme which consists of different elements you are required to complete during your time at college. Your study programme will depend on your existing qualifications, the level you are studying at and the career path you are following.

A study programme consists of:

Your Qualification

The course you are studying will make up the majority of your study programme.

However, you may also be expected to incorporate other elements into your studies.



English and Maths

You may not think so now, but we cannot stress enough how important English and math skills are. It's a competitive world out there and employers, in all industries, favour those with a good standard of English and maths. Therefore, if you didn't achieve at least a grade 4 during your GCSEs then you'll continue to study these essential subjects alongside your course.

Work Experience / Industry Placements

We want you to get off to a great start when you leave us, so it's important to undergo a work experience placement of at least 30 hours during your studies. These placements will provide you with a realistic view of the world of work and will allow you to develop the employability skills you need for the future. Some study programmes have longer industry placements which require up to 315 hours in a work environment.

College Life

College isn't just about studying; we want your time here to be fun and one that you'll remember. We offer lots of exciting enrichment opportunities for you to get involved in. From organising trips off campus to lunchtime activities at college, the team have lots going on throughout the year to help you make new friends, grow in confidence, stay healthy and active and build as many skills as possible in preparation for your next steps.

Facilities At College



Heartspace Eatery

As the name suggests, the Heartspace is at the heart of the college and is the perfect place to hang out with friends. In the Heartspace there's also the Eatery where you can grab breakfast, lunch and snacks. Whether you're in the mood for pizza, curry, pasta, roast dinner or just a humble sandwich, you'll be spoilt for choice at the Eatery.

Taste

Situated on the first floor of our tower building this bistro is run for students, by students, offering a range of breakfast and lunch options.

Taste on the Go

Located just off the main Heartspace, students provide excellent coffee and sweet treats as well as offering a range of artisan products.

Cafe Central

Also located in the Heartspace, Café Central offers fresh coffee, 'Subway style' sandwiches and cakes for those looking for food on the go.

Arches Cafe

Offering take-away food, light bites and snacks. Arches Cafe offers high quality food exclusively for Chesterfield College students. Arches Cafe is located in the University Centre.

Salon

Open to the general public, the salon offers a friendly atmosphere in which hair and beauty, sports massage and media make up students to hone their skills.

Quiet Spaces

Sometimes college can feel really busy. The Wellbeing Hub (ground floor of South block) and the library are really calm places to spend time so you feel comfortable and ready to learn.

Specialist Learning Workshops

From professional kitchens to hair salons which mirror what it's like to work in industry, we have a number of sector specific learning spaces kitted out with the latest equipment and technology.

Sixth Form Centre

Situated in the historic building formally known as the Chesterfield Boy's Grammar School, the Sixth Form centre has been transformed to offer our A Level students an exclusive space to study and relax.

University Centre

Located on our main campus, the University Centre is home to all of our university-level students. This dedicated space allows our higher level learners the opportunity to form close-knit groups whilst still being part of the wider college community.

Facilities At College

Digital Centre

Our latest development is the Digital Centre. Used by students from across the college, the digital centre has a VR suite and headsets, a large video wall and industry spec graphics tablets.



Engineering and Life Sciences Centre

Coming soon to our Infirmiry Road campus, our brand new Engineering and Life Sciences Centre will feature cutting edge technologies such as Additive Manufacturing (otherwise known as 3D printing). These technologies are rapidly being adopted by businesses across the region so working closely in conjunction with them we will be offering these new but vital skills to students progressing into industry.



Our music production studio is the perfect place to pursue your musical passion. Equipped with the latest recording equipment and softwares its the perfect place to jam. We also hire this facility out to bands/artists looking to professionally record their music.



TASTE CAFE & RESTAURANT



Taste is open, during term time, to college students, staff and the public alike, and booking is recommended.

Running these facilities gives learners experience of working in a commercial environment, delivering high quality food and service to paying customers, to gain the knowledge required for a successful career in the catering and hospitality industry. The Taste Restaurant is a fully licensed restaurant offering themed as well as à la Carte menus.



Call 01246 500596
to book a table or
scan the QR code
to visit our website.



Student & Apprentice Services

Whatever your future goals and career ambitions, we are here to help you on your journey to success. Pop into the Student and Apprentice Services Hub to find out more about:

Learning Support

Whether you join us at entry-level or university-level, our careers team are here to help you get where you want to be in life. They can support you before you even apply to college, guide you with progression opportunities and help you with job and university applications.

Work Placement

As part of your study programme you will be expected to carry out a minimum of 30 hours work experience. We are here to help you with finding work placements as well as apprenticeship vacancies and employment if you want a part-time job to aid with your studies.

Career Plan

If you're not sure what you want to study it might be a good idea to think of your long term career goals to help you decide. If you're still not sure, then thinking about what subjects you enjoy is a good place to start. It may sound corny, but if you enjoy your job then you will never have to work a day in your life. If you need help selecting a course or want to talk to us about your career goals, call us on 01246 500500 and we can offer advice and help you come up with a career plan.



The Wellbeing Hub

The Wellbeing Hub is a quiet, calm place on the ground floor of South Block. The Wellbeing Team includes Safeguarding, Counselling, Early Help and Learning Support. We will help you to feel safe, comfortable and heard, throughout your learner journey.

Learning Support

You can meet with the Learning Support Team if you need to talk about your disability or barrier to learning.

They can:

- Write Learner Inclusion Plans
- Support staff to understand your learning needs
- Help sort out exam access arrangements

Safeguarding

The health, safety and wellbeing of our students, apprentices, staff and visitors is taken very seriously. Our dedicated Safeguarding Team are here to support you if you feel unsafe, worried or at risk of harm, in college, the workplace or at home.

Early Help

Our Early Help Support provides the right support and intervention to students, apprentices and their families at an early stage to prevent an increase in need or escalation of problems by offering information, advice and support.

Leap Mentor

The LEAP Mentor team run a wide range of enrichment and social purpose clubs and activities for the students at college. Speak to your LEAP to find out how you can get involved in activities which promote healthy lifestyles, build employability skills and create a sense of community.

Fees and Funding

16-18 Year Old?

If you're aged 16-18, your full-time college study programme is free (although you may have to pay for course materials, uniforms or trips).

Discretionary Learner Support

Chesterfield College is able to support some students with up to 75% of their course cost where other forms of funding are unavailable. Please call us to discuss your individual circumstances.

Financial Support & Bursaries

16-19 Bursary

If you're aged between 16-19 and your family household income is less than £28,000 per year (£40,000 for support with travel only), you could be eligible to financial help such as subsidised travel, free meals and contributions towards course materials.

Vulnerable Young Person Bursary

You could be eligible for this bursary if you are aged 16-19, in care, a care leaver, living independently (in receipt of certain benefits) or have children of your own.

Progression Days

If you're unsure what you want to study then why not come along to one of our progression days?

This is a great opportunity to try out our courses before you apply. For more information about progression days visit

Chesterfield College offer a programme of events that is there to support young people by inspiring, motivating and encouraging them to continue, progress or commence their studies Post-16 via the routes available locally in the community.

Over the year progression days are organised and run alongside our showcase events to allow students/young people to try out the taster sessions in cross college subjects. Progression sessions run for 1 hour and allow for a greater depth of understanding the college subject/industry before choosing to apply.

- 4 February 2025 / 4-7pm
- 30 April 2025 / 4-7pm
- November 2025





How To Apply

A Levels & Vocational Qualifications

If you're ready to apply for a course then great!

The quickest and easiest way to apply is online. Simply head over to our website and search for the course you're interested in.

There are questions about disability on the application form. If you answer these accurately it helps us to make things fair for you when you start college. If you have an Education Health and Care Plan, we will then get a copy from the Local Authority and check whether we can meet your support needs in college.

Apprenticeships

If it's an apprenticeship you're interested in and you're ready to start (must be aged 16 or over and completed Year 11), you can apply for an apprenticeship by visiting our website below.

Not yet ready to start an apprenticeship programme or can't find the right programme for you?

Register your interest with our apprenticeship team:

01246 500681



Don't wait for your GCSE results!

We also recommend applying as soon as possible to secure your place. There's no need to wait for your GCSE results (if you don't end up getting the results you need for your course then don't panic! We are here to help you find an alternative option).



Apply online

01246 500500

www.chesterfield.ac.uk

advice@chesterfield.ac.uk



Apply
now!



Inspiring Futures. 
 **Changing Lives.**