

# Newsletter

October 2021

## Principal's Greeting

Dear Parents and Guardians,

A very warm welcome to the new college year and to our first Parent Newsletter. It has been great to get students back on site, and to see young people learning face-to-face once again. The college campus is buzzing with activity but we are also still keeping a very keen eye on being covid safe. We are delighted to see so many students choosing Halesowen, and our staff are working hard to make sure they have the best possible experience.

I trust that your young person is making a good start and we are certainly looking forward to all that is to come. Our aim is to see each one of them thrive and fulfil their potential, and we recognise the vital importance of the time and support you give alongside the input from our dedicated staff team.

College is a big and exciting place, but we know it can also be daunting for some and not everyone settles immediately. If there is anything we can do to help support you during your young person's studies then please do get in contact with their personal coach.

We look forward to working together for a great year.

Andy Dobson

## College Coach Services

All College coach timetables are available on the College website. Scan the QR code or enter the following web address:

<https://www.halesowen.ac.uk/facilities/college-bus-services/>



In order to travel, students must have a College ID card with the correct bus route and the card must be swiped when boarding and departing the coach.

For further information on the coach service or to change their bus route students will need to visit the Student Hub.



## KEY DATES

**Thursday 14th October – Parents Evening for Vocational 2**

**Thursday 14th October – HALF A DAY FOR STUDENTS**

**Friday 15th October – COLLEGE IS CLOSED TO STUDENTS**

**Week Commencing 25th October – Half Term**

**Thursday 18th November – A1 Parents Evening**

## Parking

Our community is very important to us. Please park respectfully on Whittingham Road, including not parking on pavements and blocking driveways of our neighbours when dropping off and picking up students.



## Student Support and Wellbeing

### Learning Support

Students can access our Learning Support Team, who are dedicated to ensuring that all learners experience equal opportunity, regardless of physical or learning difficulty/disability.

To speak to a member of our Learning Support team, contact 0121 6022 7626.

### Student Wellbeing

We have both College Counsellors and a team of Student Support Advisors available to support all students. Students can speak to our Student Wellbeing team about emotional, mental and/or sexual health and receive advice and support. **Students can complete an online form on Moodle to make contact, or email our Student Wellbeing Co-ordinator, Amy Peace [apeace@halesowen.ac.uk](mailto:apeace@halesowen.ac.uk)**

## Ready, Respect, Safe

As a College, we promote the principles of **READY, RESPECT, SAFE**.

We aim to foster a culture of positivity, reward and recognition throughout the whole College, underpinned by these three values:

### READY

On time and prepared for lessons with correct equipment.

### RESPECT

Respect everyone on campus. Respect the environment and equipment used.

### SAFE

ID badges for all to ensure no one unauthorised enters campus. Zero tolerance for drugs and/or weapons. We have a security team to keep our campuses secure. We encourage everyone to look out for each other and practice excellent hand/respiratory hygiene.

## The Green Ribbon Campaign

**Make sure you get your Green Ribbon or a sticker!**

The Green Ribbon Campaign encourages organisations and their members to wear a green ribbon to help end the stigma around mental health. Look out for Student Ambassadors at the speed gates each morning as you come into College.

## World Mental Health Day

October 10th 2021 is World Mental Health Day. Halesowen College takes the wellbeing and welfare of all our students very seriously, subscribing to 24/7 mental health support website **Togetherall** and wellbeing app **Fika** to ensure our students have access to online support at any time. We also have Wellbeing and Safeguarding teams who are available to support our students who may need support with emotional, mental or sexual health advice.

As part of World Mental Health Day will be distributing Green Ribbons, which are a part of the #endthestigma national campaign to end any stigma surrounding mental health issues. We will also be distributing our own mental health awareness stickers to students and staff who wish to wear them.





# Find Your Career



**Adult and Part Time Courses**

**Visit our website for more**

Experienced lecturers, support in class

[www.halesowen.ac.uk](http://www.halesowen.ac.uk)



## Learner Support Fund

If you have a household income of £37,398 or below, or someone in the household is in receipt of certain benefits, students could receive up to £1200 per year of financial support to help with College costs such as meals, uniform, IT equipment and childcare. We will need to see evidence of the household income you receive.

**Scan the QR Code or enter the following web address:**

<https://www.halesowen.ac.uk/learners/financial-support>

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact [studentservices@halesowen.ac.uk](mailto:studentservices@halesowen.ac.uk)



## Black History Month

October is Black History Month in the UK, and as part of this we will be sharing a tutorial presentation with our students about why Black History Month is needed. We hope to highlight the contributions of various figures in history that students may not have learned about who have contributed to British society. The enrichment Book Club will be discussing books by people of colour, and highlighting various titles which are available to loan for free from the College Learning Resource Centre.

We have also distributed anti-racism badges to all students who would like to have one, to reinforce that our College is anti-racist and will take all instances of racism seriously.

## Timetables

The College day is often different from a typical school day. Students may finish/start earlier than they would have done at school. We try to ensure, wherever possible, that students do not have too many gaps in their timetable. Where students do have gaps, we would always advise that they use our well-equipped Student Hub for private study or access our enrichment activities on offer.

## Reporting Absences

Visit [www.halesowen.ac.uk](http://www.halesowen.ac.uk) and scroll to the bottom of the page. Under **Students** choose **Report Student Absence** and complete the online form.

## Enrichment Groups at



The groups we have available are:

- LGBT+
- Unicorn (for students who are transgender or questioning their gender identity)
- Book Club
- Craft Club
- Debating Society
- Board Games
- Dungeons & Dragons
- Green Group (environment)
- eSports
- Sports Teams

Scan the QR code and complete the form to be added to the MS Team for group of your choice.



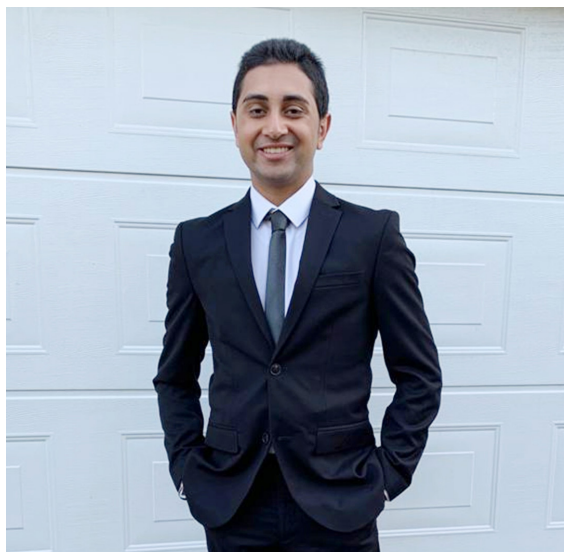
Share common interests, build new friendships and be informed of meeting day/time/room!

0121 602 7777

[www.halesowen.ac.uk](http://www.halesowen.ac.uk)



## Student Success



Level 3 Supporting, Teaching and Learning student, Sukhraaj Singh, is now working full time as a teaching assistant.

Sukhraaj said: "I received outstanding support whilst teaching and I was assessed regularly through observations at my placement and through coursework. I thoroughly enjoy what I now do and I wouldn't be where I am today if it wasn't for the support of my tutors and assessors."

Daniel Gorst received three A\*s after studying A Levels with us. He is now going to study an integrated Masters Degree in Chemistry at Cardiff University.

"I am beyond happy with my results and can't wait to study Chemistry with a year in Industry at Cardiff University. I have loved my time at Halesowen, and I wouldn't have been able to achieve what I have if it wasn't for the amazing and supportive staff, my classmates and friends. Halesowen College will always hold a special place in my heart."



**Happypaws**  
@B63

### Dog Grooming Salon

For enquiries and bookings  
email [happypaws@halesowen.ac.uk](mailto:happypaws@halesowen.ac.uk) or call 0121 602 7650

@HappyPawsatB63

## BISTRO

at B63

To make a reservation please call 0121 602 7829  
or email [restaurant@halesowen.ac.uk](mailto:restaurant@halesowen.ac.uk).