

# PARENT AND CARER NEWSLETTER

## KEY DATES

**Thursday 6th January 2022 – Higher Education & Adult Open Evening**

**Saturday 22nd January 2022 – Open Event**

## OPEN EVENTS

Throughout the term we have been held two open events. It has been great to see so many students and their families attending and really getting a chance to see what Halesowen College can offer them. At an open event you will have the chance to look around the campus, explore the facilities, chat with staff and current students and discover what courses we offer here at Halesowen College. you can also apply for courses starting in September 2022. If you would like to attend an open event, our next one will be held on Saturday 22nd January – 10am-2pm. Places can be booked online via the following link: <https://www.halesowen.ac.uk/openevents/> or you can just turn up on the day and we will be happy to see you.

## VIRTUAL TOUR

We appreciate in these challenging times you may not have visited our campus. As a result, on our website we now have a new virtual tour for you and your young person to access. The tour allows you to explore all areas of the campus and find out more information about our facilities. During the tour you can experience 360° views of the college's facilities and watch short videos that give more information about topics such as courses, travel, and support.

You can access our virtual tour on our website or using this link: <https://www.360onlinetour.co.uk/halesowen/>

## TUTORIAL SUPPORT & GUIDANCE

We want your young person to feel supported at college, to achieve their potential. The Student Support Services Team provides support and guidance to help students maximise opportunities for progression.

Every full-time student has a personal coach who they see on a weekly basis. The personal coach monitors and tracks student performance against targets and provides support and guidance. Tutorial lessons include study skills, career/progression planning, several pastoral topics, and activities throughout the year.

 **0121 602 7777**    **[admissions@halesowen.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@halesowen.ac.uk)**

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The tutorial sessions cover a range of topics for students including:

- A general welcome and induction to the College.
- A Skills for Success qualification ensuring students are aware of the demands of their course, develop appropriate skills and make a successful transition from school to college.
- Help with action plans and using Student Tracking and Reporting System (STaRS) to monitor progress in all lessons.
- Conducting regular reviews of student progress and commitment.
- Providing information for parents/guardians at parent's evenings and when requested.
- Providing advice on college services.
- Advising on progression to employment or higher education and financial awareness.
- Leading theme weeks covering topics on Equality and Diversity, Health, Safety, and Careers.

You are most welcome to contact personal coaches at any time to arrange a meeting to discuss your concerns or to find out how your young person is progressing.

## NEW COURSES

College can offer a lot more subject choices than your young person may be used to at school, and this really allows students to follow their passions. Browse our fully interactive digital prospectus via:

<https://adobe.ly/3rYnydi> From here, you can book a place on one of our open events, view and apply for courses and hear from staff and students about what it's like to be part of our community.

Alongside the diverse range of courses we already offer here at Halesowen College, we are excited to announce a variety of new courses that will be available to students for 2022 entry. Please see the descriptions below for a brief overview of our new courses and follow the links provided for more information.

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## ESPORTS (LEVEL 2)

The BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Esports has been developed to meet the upcoming demand for skills in Esports. The qualifications include a breadth of transferable skills that enable learners to experience different areas of Esports to aid their progression to employment, directly or via further study. Esports offers a unique opportunity to study a sector that crosses over multiple subject areas such as sport, marketing, enterprise, IT, and the creatives. Learners will develop skills vital to further progression within Esports in both an educational and professional setting, cover topics such as teams and tournament setups, and event management as well as promoting positive health within Esports.

<https://www.halesowen.ac.uk/study/course/esports-level-2/>

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY (LEVEL 3)

Environmental Sustainability is a cross-curricular subject combining elements of Business, Science and Geography. The sustainability sector is one of the fastest growing in the UK and there is a demand for fresh, innovative thinkers in the industry. This course is designed to introduce learners to the various elements of sustainability. It helps prepare

them for jobs not just in the sustainability sector but teaches the importance of having knowledge and awareness of sustainability that can be passed on to others in the community.

<https://www.halesowen.ac.uk/study/course/environmental-sustainability-level-3/>

## COMPLEMENTARY THERAPIES (LEVEL 3)

The VTCT Level 3 Diploma in Complementary Therapies is a preparation for work qualification that has been designed to prepare you for a career as a Complementary Therapist, either as an Aromatherapist, Reflexologist or Massage Therapist/Practitioner. This qualification will develop your knowledge and understanding of the principles and business practice for Complementary Therapies. In addition, you will learn about anatomy, physiology, and pathology for Complementary Therapies. You will also develop your understanding and practical skills to provide body massage, aromatherapy, and reflexology.

<https://www.halesowen.ac.uk/study/course/complementary-therapies-level-3/>

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## HISTORY OF ART (A LEVEL)

History of Art involves the study of art and architecture ranging from the classical period through to the twentieth century. You will learn the skills and technical vocabulary necessary to analyse material from a diverse range of cultures and eras and will develop your critical and evaluative skills as you study key works of art and architecture within their historical contexts. The course encourages wide reading and independent research and will hone your critical writing skills as you learn how to develop and support arguments in your essays.

<https://www.halesowen.ac.uk/study/course/history-of-art-a-level/>

## MUSIC TECHNOLOGY (A LEVEL)

The industry of Music Technology and events is far bigger than you think. Music Technology A Level will appeal to students who have an interest in how professional music is written and produced, how recording studios work and how to gain employment working within the music industry. The course is grounded in popular music covering all styles from rock and soul to EDM and commercial pop. <https://www.halesowen.ac.uk/study/course/music-technology-a-level/>

## STATISTICS (A LEVEL)

Statistics is used to research, model, understand, analyse, and predict data for situations which involve uncertainty or variability. A Level Statistics does involve creation of models based on different conditions and criteria and hence does involve usage of pure mathematics skills.

A GCSE grade 6 is an entry requirement onto this course. The subject is taught in a real-life context, as such our students investigate real problems and their solutions using different methods of sampling. The course builds up on regression and correlation analysis all the way to creating probability statistical models and hypothesis testing. The course will offer an insight into how statistics is an art rather than a science. Being good at statistics and algebra is essential and we will get students to become conversant with using the technology of graphical and statistical calculators.

<https://www.halesowen.ac.uk/study/course/statistics-a-level/>

## ANCIENT HISTORY (A LEVEL)

Ancient History is the study of all aspects of life in Ancient Rome and Greece such as Society, Politics, Culture, Religion, Technology, Architecture, and the Military. Like other branches of History, you are

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required to evaluate the extent to which different historical sources and artefacts inform us about important events.

<https://www.halesowen.ac.uk/study/course/ancient-history-a-level/>

For any queries about the courses, you can make use of the live chat facility on our website:

<https://www.halesowen.ac.uk/>

## ADULT AND PART TIME COURSES

Halesowen College not only offers courses for school leavers, but we also have a wide variety of courses designed for adult learners. Our courses for adults are designed to help you gain confidence, step into employment, update your skills, and improve your employment opportunities.

Halesowen College offers a range of courses at various levels to help build professional skills for your future. More information about the courses available can be found on our website: <https://www.halesowen.ac.uk/adult-part-time/>

Our flexible study options are designed to fit around your busy lifestyle, meaning you can study from home, at college, or a blend of the two.

You can join us on Thursday 6th January 2022 for our Higher Education and Adult Open Evening. This will

give you the opportunity to have a look around the campus, ask questions and find out all the key information. You can book your place by visiting the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/adult-higher-education-open-evening-tickets-214603453707>

To apply or enquire further, please click the 'Apply Now' button on the course page or contact us via live chat on our website. Alternatively, you can call us on 0121 602 7888.

## HALESOWEN COLLEGE COMMUNITY NEWS:

Our tutorial programme provides students with the opportunity to discuss current affairs and events with their peers. Tutorials this term have covered LGBT+ inclusivity and highlighted our new pronoun badge initiative which has been well received. Other tutorials include Remembrance, personal safety, Black History Month and World Mental Health Day, where we promoted our Safeguarding and Wellbeing teams, access to apps Fika and Togetherall and gave out badges and stickers to raise awareness of good mental health.

The Halesowen College enrichment programme is doing well with high engagement within

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our LGBT+ and Unicorn groups and sports groups. Sports activities such as gym sessions, basketball and cross college football have approximately 30 regular attendees, with badminton and HIIT sessions having 15-20 regular attendees. Our craft club members created orange hearts using origami and crochet techniques for the 'Together With Refugees' campaign, as part of our College of Sanctuary commitment. We have also established an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Reading Buddies group, where ESOL students can speak to and read with students from other programmes, which allows them to improve their English comprehension skills and make new friends outside of their course. Our Animal Café, run by College Chaplain, Hazel Charlton, with assistance from our Animal Care technicians, has been extremely popular with 25+ students each session. Students and staff can take a break from study or work to meet dogs and hold small animals such as rabbits, guinea pigs and rats, which is fantastic for mental wellbeing. Other groups, Book Club, Board Game Club and Dungeons and Dragons Club, are also gaining more interest.

Christmas is coming and we have a number of inhouse activities for all students to contribute to. This year we are collecting donations for Santa's Black Country Toy Appeal which supports children living in poverty. If you have any new and unopened toys,

clothing or school items you would like to donate please send them in to the Student Hub or leave at College reception.

## PARENT UPDATES

We have an opportunity for parents and carers early in 2022. We will host a session to raise awareness and provide support on gender identity and sexual orientation. The session is one hour and will give you practical advice. We also hope to start a parent/carers group to offer further support. If interested please email Jamie Morgan-Green, Community Hub Manager [jgreen@halesowen.ac.uk](mailto:jgreen@halesowen.ac.uk)

## CHRISTMAS BREAK

Finally, we want to wish you all a very lovely holiday period and a Happy New Year. We hope you enjoy your celebrations, and we wish you and your young person a very successful 2022.

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