

Newsletter

February 2022

Principal's Greeting

Welcome to our February Parent Newsletter. As I write, there are signs of Spring beginning and perhaps some real light at the end of the covid tunnel. These last two years have been hard for everyone, not least for students who have missed out on the experience of taking exams. For many of them this year will bring the first set of formal exams they have done, and exams are inevitably a stressful time. But they are also a really important part of growing up, and we need to help our young people to see exams and exam stress as a normal thing that they are able to cope with. At college, we will be doing all we can, with opportunities to practice and a wealth of support for anyone feeling anxious, but we need your help too – to encourage good study habits and the resilience to succeed.

This is also the time when attention starts to shift to what comes after college, and you will find a lot of information here about the great Careers support available in college to help your young person plan for their next step.

Andy Dobson

Lateral Flow Testing (LFT)

Please test regularly. You can obtain test kits from the Student Hub at our Whittingham Road Campus, or reception at all campuses. If you test positive for COVID-19, do not attend college, and follow government guidance. If you test positive on a lateral flow test, you are not required to confirm your case with a PCR test. Isolation periods can now end after 5 full days, providing that a negative test is shown on day 5 and 6.

If you are fully vaccinated and have been in contact with someone who has tested positive, isolation can be avoided by testing daily with lateral flow tests for 7 days.

Reporting Absences

Visit www.halesowen.ac.uk and scroll to the bottom of the page. Under **Students** choose **Report Student Absence** and complete the online form.

KEY DATES

Monday 21st February - Friday 25th February - Half Term

Wednesday 30th March - Higher Education Fair

Wednesday 6th April - Apprenticeship Open Evening

Face Coverings

Face coverings are no longer required in communal areas however, we still advise that face coverings are worn in crowded and enclosed spaces. We will continue to support anyone who wishes to wear a face covering around college and on college coaches.

College Coach Services

The <https://travel.halesowen.ac.uk> site now includes alerts should there be any issues with coach routes and/or stops.

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



Financial Support

The daily allowance has increased from £3 to £4.50 per day

0121 602 7777

www.halesowen.ac.uk



National Apprenticeship Week

National Apprenticeship Week took place from the 7th - 13th February. If your young person is coming to the end of their qualification and is still unsure about what to do next, an apprenticeship could be the right path for them.

Apprenticeships offer hands on training and the chance to put your skills into practice. Many apprentices are offered permanent roles following completion of their apprenticeship, so they're a great option for future progression.

You can become an apprentice at any age, learn new skills and get paid while you earn a qualification. We offer apprenticeships at levels 2 to 5 in a variety of different sectors, our apprenticeship vacancies are updated regularly on our website www.halesowen.ac.uk.

To find out more information why not come along to our apprenticeship open evening to hear about the life of an apprentice, speak to our supportive apprenticeship team and find out about the range of courses we offer.



Skills Accelerator

The Skills Accelerator Programme is part of the government's plan to reshape technical skills in the labour market and the local economy. We have partnered with other Black Country Colleges to offer free training opportunities in specialist subjects for local businesses.

To find out more information, view the [Skills Accelerator prospectus](#) on our website to see what's on offer.



Here4Youth

RELAX

Chat **Unwind**

Take time out *Meet new people*

Manage stress & anxiety

Free activity sessions for students!
Meet new people and make more friends.
Find someone to chat to and manage any anxieties you have...

Thursdays - 12:30pm-1:30pm - Room 4.203
Whittingham Campus on the following dates:
February - 10/02/2022 April - 14/04/2022 June - 09/06/2022
March - 10/03/2022 May - 12/05/2022

ARTS & CRAFTS





Apprenticeships

AT HALESOWEN COLLEGE

OPEN EVENING

WEDNESDAY
6TH APRIL
5pm - 7pm



BOOK YOUR PLACE



www.halesowen.ac.uk

   

SKILLS FOR LIFE

Not sure what to do next? The government have launched a new campaign for teenagers and young adults to help raise awareness of technical educational options including T Levels, traineeships, apprenticeships, and higher technical qualifications. To start your search visit gov.uk/get-the-jump for more information.

Careers Advice

Careers is in The Hub, Block 2 and students can access lots of careers resources on the Careers Moodle pages, using the QR code.



Student Enrichment Groups

Our latest student enrichment at Halesowen College!

Like to sing?

Join our Pop & Rock Singing Group



NO experience necessary, just lots of enthusiasm!

First meeting Mon 31st January 12:15-1:15pm

Potential for Performances - Everyone Welcome!

Every fortnight - Block 13 Dance Studio 13.106/7
Limited spaces please email Jamie.jgreen@halesowen.ac.uk

Student Success

Well done to the students who have completed our first Pharmacy Service Assistant Apprenticeship.

After having an interest in healthcare, Saba Naaz completed her Level 2 Pharmacy Service Assistant Apprenticeship and is still working full time as an assistant.

Saba said "Apprenticeships are an excellent way to gain experience and build up knowledge. Working and learning together helps develop the necessary skills and experience to succeed in your chosen career."

Her future aspirations include, progressing onto the Level 3 technician course and building her way up through apprenticeships.



Saba Naaz

Level 2 Pharmacy Service
Assistant Apprenticeship



Jordan Rowe

Level 2 Pharmacy Service Assistant
Apprenticeship

"I am currently working in Pharmacy as a dispenser, my role involves preparing and dispensing medication, communicating with patients, their surgeries and carers to provide a high standard of care.

My assessor was always available when needed and would go out of her way to help me deal with work related issues and coursework related questions. I would recommend an apprenticeship as it is never too late to plan a career path, and an apprenticeship is a great starting point to earn the correct qualifications for you."

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or email restaurant@halesowen.ac.uk