

Parents' and Guardians' Welcome Information 2020-2021

Full-time Further Education

Your Role

97% of Parents Find Staff Friendly and Welcoming

81% of Parents Know their Son/Daughter's Progress on their Course

While we know that we have a strong relationship with parents and guardians, we recognise we could improve our communication. We will be piloting a 'Parent Advantage' system with some courses this year (similar to 'Parentmail') including live data on attendance and progress. We hope to widen this out across College soon.

In the meantime, all students in College have access to 'Student Advantage' and can therefore show you their current attendance and progress records. Please ask them to share this with you.

Like school, you will be invited to Progress/ Parents' Evenings during the year and we hope you will attend these. You will also receive written reports in the spring term. We are happy to update you in between – just give us your son or daughter's Personal Tutor a call if you are concerned.

Information on key events will be posted on social media – please follow us on Facebook and twitter for updates.

Welcome to Highlands College!

Assistant Principal, Students and Core Learning: dreena.collins@highlands.ac.uk

Academic Life

97% of Parents Would Recommend the College to a Friend

We are proud that our staff are dual professionals, holding accredited teaching qualifications plus industry qualifications and experience. Each area has a Head of Department and their names can be found on our website. Please get in touch with them if you have course specific queries.

Every student in College has a Personal Tutor who will deliver group tutorial sessions, as well as coach them one to one during the year. Their Tutor will follow a national programme known as VESPA (Vision; Effort; Systems; Practice; Attitude), to develop independent learning and improve study skills.

Students will usually attend College over a four or five-day week. Some students have weekly work experience, and some have block placements. We prepare students for their work experience and employability in a number of ways. The College can also support students in applying for jobs or University, etc., via our Careers and Employability team, who are based in the Student Centre near Reception.

The courses across College have varying timetables and students may have gaps in their day. These are independent study periods where students can work in the lounge area of the Café, or the in the newly refurbished Learning Resources Centre. We ask that you ensure your child does not book non-essential appointments during timetabled hours and communicates promptly about any absences.

At Highlands College we value the core skills of maths and English, and any student who has not yet achieved a C or a 4 at GCSE will continue to study these subjects. These classes are usually three hours a week per subject - and are compulsory as they are key to enhancing life chances.

Director of Admissions, Careers and Employability: mary.hubert@highlands.ac.uk

Head of English and Maths: carol.tyrer@highlands.ac.uk

VESPA website: <https://www.vespamindset.com>

Statistics from 2018-19 Parental Survey (Administered by QDP Services)

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Student Life and Enrichment

92% of Parents Believe their Son/Daughter is Safe in College

The Student Life team lead on student wellbeing and are based in Café Connect. The team includes Health and Wellbeing staff and a counsellor, as well as the Head of Student Life who is the Designated Safeguarding Officer for the College. Students can self-refer for emotional support from this team at any time, as well as speaking confidentially about financial and social issues, or any other concerns.

At Highlands College we are proactive in promoting the types of activities that are known to be 'protective factors' for mental health, and we run a range of Enrichment activities throughout the year, including volunteering, Duke of Edinburgh, creative activities and sports. Attendance to a minimum core of enrichment is an expectation of all students in the College - and great for student C.V.s and their personal development.

The Student Life team also lead Wellbeing/ PSHE weeks across the year, linked to our College values of Potential, Respect, Imagination, Diversity and Excellence - as well as championing Student Voice and feedback. Students have the opportunity to engage with College life as Learner Reps or Student Ambassadors and should talk to their Personal Tutor if this appeals to them. We capture student feedback in a number of ways and their views are taken to SLT and the College Governors throughout the year.

Head of Student Life: nicola.brown@highlands.ac.uk

Learning Support and Special Educational Needs

92% of Parents Believe their Son/Daughter is Well-Supported in College

We are proud that Highlands College is the most diverse educational institution on the island, with students from all on-island schools, U.K. educated students and home-schooled young people all enrolling with us. We have students studying from Entry Level upwards, and as such our cohort also includes students with needs and disabilities who may require additional support in College.

The Learning Support team includes Teaching Assistants, Key Workers and lecturers specialising in a range of needs including Autism, Hearing Impairments, dyslexia and Physical Needs. We also offer assessments including Exam Access Arrangements. Students can raise support needs with their Personal Tutor, or you can contact the College yourself to pass on information if you wish.

The team are based above the Café in Nightingale, near the Learning Resources Centre and staff man regular drop in slots for academic support in the LRC that any student is welcome to attend, regardless of level or need. They also have specialist resources and rooms for students who require this, including a base room for students with Social Communication Needs and a small study room for those with Hearing Impairments/ dDeafness. If you are concerned that your son or daughter may struggle in College or that we may not be aware of their needs, please contact the Head of Learning Support and SEND.

Head of Learning Support and SEND: desiree.madelin@highlands.ac.uk

Exam Access Arrangements Coordinator (Senior TA): lesley.romeril@highlands.ac.uk