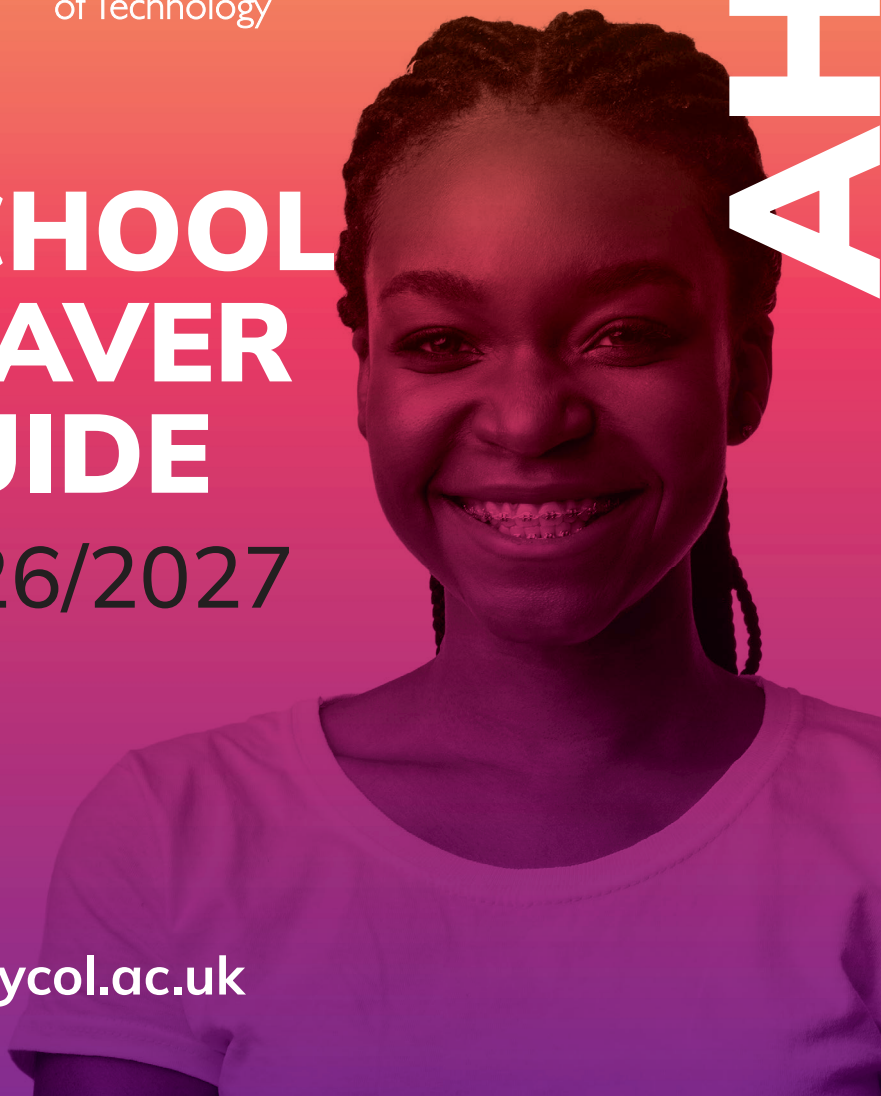


GET
AHEAD

SCHOOL LEAVER GUIDE

2026/2027

dudleycol.ac.uk



WHY STUDY WITH US

One of the
highest
performing

general Further Education colleges in England, providing a wide range of education and training programmes



EXCELLENT RESULTS



Dedicated tutorial time
and quality teaching



**STUDENT
EXPERIENCE**



**FREE
BUS PASS**

**terms and conditions apply*

Excellent facilities and equipment
with training salons, restaurant &
workshops for hands on experiences



EMPLOYER LINKS



Personal tutors

3

Dudley and Brierley
Hill Learning
Quarters have seen
an investment of...

£70
million
in the last 12 years



**PRACTICAL LEARNING AND
WORK PLACEMENTS**



MAKE NEW FRIENDS

84.4%

*achievement
rate for 23/24*

0.8% above published national rates

92.5%

of our full time learners (23/24)
continued in training, employment
or higher education



**MENTAL
HEALTH &
WELLBEING
SUPPORT**



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WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Thank you for considering Dudley College of Technology for the next step of your education.

Leaving school is an exciting time, new friends, new place, new course. It can also be a little daunting with so much choice and so many decisions to make. Throughout this guide, we will explain the options available to you, why you should study at Dudley College and the experiences you will have outside of the classroom that will help you reach your potential.

We are proud to offer a huge range of courses for all interests and abilities:

- Vocational courses
- T Levels
- Apprenticeships
- A Levels at Dudley Sixth

We work closely with employers and our courses are tailored to meet industry requirements, meaning you will leave college ready for the next step in your education or prepared for employment.

You will study in first class, state-of-the-art facilities that are equipped with the latest technologies to support your learning.

Our professional, experienced tutors will support you to make the most of your studies and provide insights into their industry.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our open events soon!



Diana Martin
Chief Executive
and Principal

STUDY WITH US



View our
courses here.

OUR VOCATIONAL COURSES

WHAT IS A VOCATIONAL COURSE?

Vocational courses are hands-on training programmes, designed to prepare you for employment in your chosen area of study. You will study one subject for the duration of your course, meaning you will gain specialist knowledge and skills.

These courses are ideal if you are a practical learner and prefer assessments and coursework to exams. You will have a work placement as part of your course, so you can put your skills into practice.

We have a wide range of vocational courses on offer in the following subject areas*:

- Accounting
- Acting
- Administration
- Animal Studies
- Art & Design
- Aspire (SEND)
- Automotive
- Barbering
- Beauty
- Brickwork
- Business
- Carpentry
- Computing & IT
- Dance
- Early Years
- Electrical Installation
- Engineering
- Fabrication & Welding
- Fashion & Textiles
- Film & TV
- Games Design
- Graphic Design
- Hairdressing
- Health & Social Care
- Human Resources & Payroll
- Law
- Live Events Production
- Marketing
- Media
- Music Performance & Production
- Painting & Decorating
- Photography
- Plastering
- Plumbing
- Public Services
- Science
- Special Effects Make Up
- Sport
- Sport Science
- Surveying & Design
- Travel & Tourism

*the offer is subject to change

T-LEVELS

COURSES



WHAT IS A T-LEVEL?

T Levels are a qualification that follow on from GCSEs. They are technical courses and are equivalent to 3 A Levels.

You will study one subject for 2 years and undertake 315 hours (45 days) of work placement, meaning you will have expert skills and knowledge to progress in your chosen career.

The courses have been designed with employers, meaning you will have the necessary experience to progress into employment or university.

Each T Level will have different assessment methods, so you may have exams, coursework, practical tests, or a combination of all three.

You can study the following T Levels at Dudley College*:

- Accounting
- Animal Studies
- Business
- Computing & IT
- Early Years
- Engineering
- Fashion & Textiles
- Health & Social Care
- Marketing
- Media
- Plumbing
- Surveying & Design

*list subject to change



View our
courses here.



APPRENTICESHIPS

9

WHAT IS AN APPRENTICESHIP?

An Apprenticeship is a real job combined with studying. If you feel ready to begin working and earning, but also want to gain a qualification, Apprenticeships are a great option.

Typically, you will work four days and attend college one day a week to complete the theory element of your training, although this can differ for each employer.

Many apprentices remain with their employer once their training is complete, so they are an excellent pathway into a real career. With Apprenticeships now available up to degree level, there are plenty of progression and development opportunities too.

Here is a list of the Apprenticeship areas we offer programmes in*:

- Automotive
- Business
- Construction
- Early Years
- Engineering
- Hair & Beauty
- Health & Social Care
- Medical Technologies

*areas and list subject to change



View our
courses here.

Call 01384 363 000 visit dudleycol.ac.uk



EXPLORE OUR A LEVELS INSPIRING EXCELLENCE

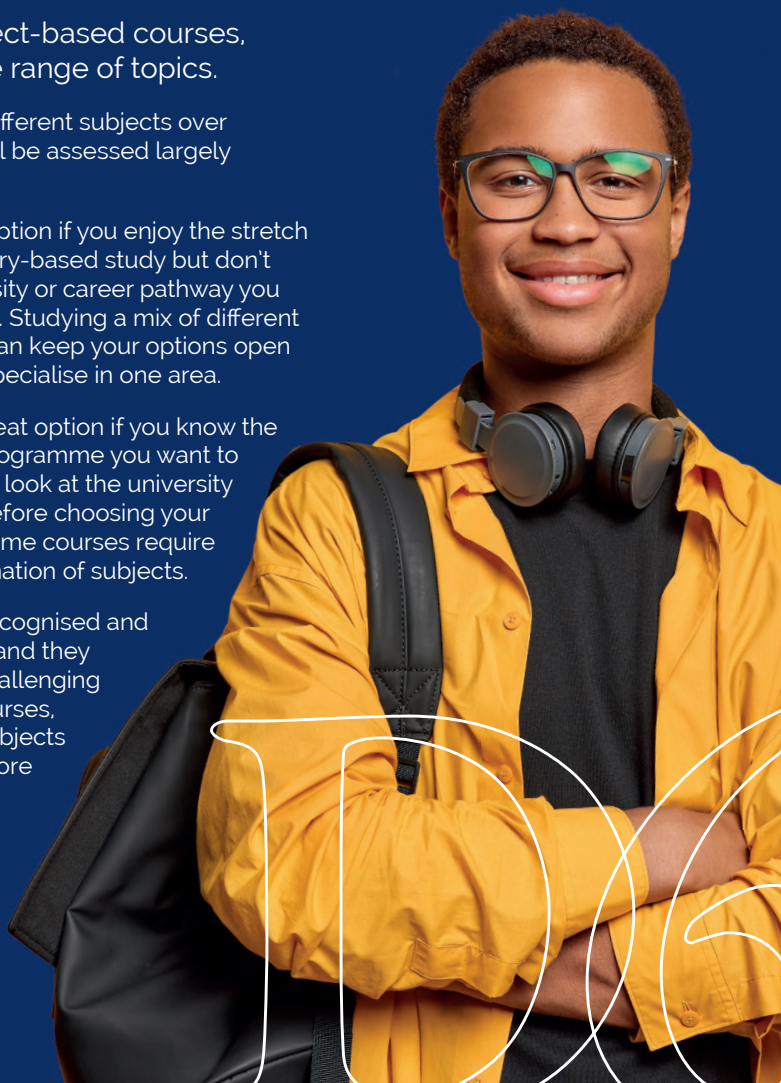
A Levels are subject-based courses, available in a wide range of topics.

You will study 3 or 4 different subjects over two years, and you will be assessed largely through examinations.

A Levels are a great option if you enjoy the stretch and challenge of theory-based study but don't yet know what university or career pathway you want to progress onto. Studying a mix of different subjects means you can keep your options open without the need to specialise in one area.

A Levels are also a great option if you know the career or university programme you want to do. It is a good idea to look at the university entry requirements before choosing your A Level subjects as some courses require a very specific combination of subjects.

A Levels are widely recognised and valued qualifications, and they are designed to be challenging so when selecting courses, ensure you choose subjects you enjoy as you're more likely to succeed.



**Achieve your
education and
career aspirations
at Dudley Sixth**



**Dudley
Sixth**
for A levels

We offer A Levels in*:

- Accounting
- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Classical Civilisation
- Computer Science
- Criminology (Applied)
- Design & Technology:
Product Design
- Economics
- English Language
- English Language & Literature
- English Literature
- Environmental Science
- Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
- Film Studies
- Fine Art
- French
- Further Maths
- Geography
- German
- Graphic Communication
- History
- ICT (AAQ)
- Law
- Mathematics
- Media Studies
- Photography
- Physics
- Politics
- Psychology
- Religious Studies
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Sport & Physical Education
- Statistics
- Textile Design

*Course list subject to change



Secure your place.
Register now at dudleysixth.co.uk

OUR CAMPUSES ARE AMAZING!

DUDLEY LEARNING QUARTER:

We have several campuses, located at the heart of Dudley, all within easy walking distance. As a student at Dudley College, you can use the facilities at all of our campuses meaning you'll benefit from excellent social and study spaces to support your learning.



The Broadway: As the largest of the college's buildings, The Broadway campus is at the heart of the Dudley Learning Quarter providing dedicated spaces for learning and socialising. It is also home to Dudley Students' Union, STIR Coffee Shop and Refectory, the library, and so much more.



Evolve: Evolve is an exciting place to study with state-of-the-art facilities and top of the range equipment, all geared to make learning fun and fulfilling. There's so much to see, from our fitness suite and hair and beauty salon to our rehearsal studios, recording suites and theatre.



Animal Studies Centre: Our new cutting-edge Animal Care and Welfare facility provides a dedicated space for both students and our range of animals, including Rabbits, Guinea Pigs, Hamsters, exotic mammals, a range of reptiles and aquatic wildlife. Housing a suite of modern teaching spaces, this facility will allow you to thrive on your chosen animal course.



Aspire Dudley: Home to specialist facilities, Aspire provides independent living courses and support for learners with a range of special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).



Automotive Centre: At this specialist motor vehicle workshop, students can learn real skills in well-equipped workshops with access to a fleet of vehicles. Courses are available from Levels 1 to 3, alongside the Apprenticeship route. Learners will get the best preparation for their future career at this campus.



Advance I: Developed with an advisory board, made up of leading employers from the engineering and manufacturing sector, Advance I is home to specialist, first-class engineering training facilities that support the development of technical skills. The team here have excellent links with employers, ensuring students can develop and progress into roles and industries where their skills are highly sought after.



Advance II: This campus has been developed to drive forward the skills needed in construction techniques, technology, electrical installation and fabrication & welding that employers are looking for. This centre of excellence was created in partnership with leading construction companies who are embracing new technologies to deliver skills development in high level roles in building services engineering, civil engineering, construction design and building information modelling.

DUDLEY SIXTH & ENHANCE:

Also located in the heart of Dudley, our A Level sixth form offers inspiring facilities for inspired minds. A wide selection of subject-based qualifications - that can lead to university, further study, training, or work - are delivered here.

The environment at Dudley Sixth is happy, warm, and supportive, with well-equipped teaching rooms and laboratories, as well as computer zones and quiet, study-friendly areas. There is plenty of space for relaxing and catching up with friends during breaks.

Dudley Enhance is a purpose-built resource centre, housing a large lecture



Dudley
Sixth
for A levels



theatre, used to create a university lecture environment.

BLACK COUNTRY & MARCHES INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (IOT):

This major development opened to students in September 2021, designed to deliver high quality, technical education programmes with clear pathways to skilled jobs in transformational sectors.

The employer-led Institute brings together the training offer of Dudley College of Technology in collaboration with key partners.

The facilities at IoT include an operating theatre and hospital ward, robotics labs as well as 3D technology, laboratories and modern engineering technology.

Higher level programmes are offered at the Institute of Technology, with opportunity to progress from many



of our vocational, T Level, A Level or vocational courses. Learners have access to the very best facilities, links to employers and training that will equip them with the skills to progress into well-paid employment.

It's well worth a visit to this exciting and inspiring campus during one of our open events.



Find out more.

BRIERLEY HILL LEARNING QUARTER

A short journey from Dudley takes you to our Brierley Hill Learning Quarter. Here you will find our Construction Apprenticeship Training Centre (CAT), home to the trades, as well as our Inspired Campus and Aspire Brierley Hill facilities. These campuses are on good transport routes and have access to many facilities nearby, such as the Merry Hill Centre.

CAMPUSES IN OUR BRIERLEY HILL LEARNING QUARTER INCLUDE:



Construction Apprenticeship Training Centre: Traditional construction trades, including plumbing, painting & decorating, carpentry & joinery, and modern, digital-focussed skills are taught at this first-class training facility. Purpose-built facilities allow learners to develop their skills with hands-on, practical training.



Inspired: Our specialist digital technologies and arts centre has open plan, collaborative workspaces, a purpose-built TV studio, a motion capture suite, and computer suites for games design and VR technology. This is an inspiring, creative place to study and with courses available from Level 1 up to Level 5, there is something for everyone.



Aspire Brierley Hill: This is a dedicated facility to support students with special educational need and disabilities (SEND). Students will develop independence in a range of social settings, preparing them for adulthood and the world of work. Learners have access to a living unit, including kitchen, dining, and bedroom areas, supporting them to develop a range of skills around budgeting, planning meals and carrying out home maintenance.

STUDENT LIFE

**DID YOU KNOW
WE PROVIDE A FREE*
BUS PASS TO STUDENTS
TO HELP THEM GET TO
AND FROM COLLEGE?**

**SECURE YOUR
PLACE NOW.**

***SUBJECT TO TERMS
AND CONDITIONS.**

STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

17

2025 A Level students celebrating on results day



100%

**PASS RATE 24 OUT OF
28 SUBJECTS 2025**



A LEVEL SUCCESS

Taran Bougan (aged 19) who achieved three A* grades in Business A*, Law A* and Criminology A*.

Taran has secured employment and training with a Degree Apprenticeship with Barclays so he can pursue a career in Finance.



Taran Bougan

WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY ABOUT US



"Studying at Dudley College was really interesting, and it helped that all the units we have to study link together. As long as you work hard, you'll see the results. I enjoyed the mock trial during my course because it meant I spent a full day acting in a trial which involved other schools and colleges."

Mia Beddoe
BTEC Law, Criminology & Business

"I plan on becoming a concept artist. I'd recommend Dudley College to anyone who has a passion for art."

Phoebe Baggott
BTEC Extended Diploma
in Visual Arts



"The staff support at Dudley College was great! They really helped me in my transition from a SEMH school to mainstream education. The course has a very strong group of lecturers with a strong management team."

Jack Jones
BTEC Applied Science

VOCATIONAL

T LEVELS



"I'd definitely recommend the T Level course. The teachers are really good and very welcoming"

Marvin Omoruyi
T Level Construction

"The course was very practical with very nice, supportive and easy to talk to staff."

Bismah Abbas
Education & Childcare T Level



A LEVELS



"My time at Dudley Sixth has been great – the tutors are always there for you, and I felt very supported. Plus, I've made lots of new friends along the way."

Lucinda Elson-Whittaker
A levels in Film Studies,
Media Studies and Photography

"I loved the welcoming environment at Dudley Sixth. I really enjoyed studying here – it's been an amazing experience."

Christie Ulche
A Level Maths, Psychology,
Philosophy and Further Maths



APPRENTICESHIPS



"I would like to thank my employer – Collins Aerospace, for their unwavering support. Additionally, I would like to thank my wonderful tutor for his guidance and encouragement throughout this journey."

Tom Sadler
Level 3 Manufacturing and Engineering Apprentice

LIFE BEYOND THE BOOKS

Our award-winning Dudley Students' Union is run by students, for students.

You'll automatically become a member when you enrol and it's a great way to pursue your passions, meet like-minded people and boost your confidence and employability. It's a place where you can study, work, socialise, celebrate, relax, eat, and drink.

Get involved with things such as our Freshers Fayre, taking part in clubs such as Football or Gamers Club, or even one of our societies such as SU Pride, Eco-Warriors or the SU Bame network.



There is also the chance to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award and a lot more other volunteering opportunities, as well as other forms of enrichment at the college such as the Dudley College Sports Academy.

Visit: dudleysu.co.uk



GET INVOLVED

We offer a range of enrichment activities at Dudley College of Technology and Dudley Sixth.



Coming to college isn't just about academic success – we want you to have fun and develop new skills – so try something different or keep on doing something you already love – just get involved.

Whether you want to pursue one of our sports activities such as Netball, Basketball, Volleyball or Badminton, or perhaps you want to try one of our specialist activities like Latin Dance, Creative Crafts, Bhangra, British Sign Language or Computer Aided Design, there's something for everyone.



SUPPORT

STUDENT SUPPORT

We are committed to supporting you, to ensure you get the most out of college life and reach your potential.

CAREERS

Our careers team are on hand to support you – even before you become a student!

You can book an appointment with a careers adviser today on our website.

Once you become a student, our careers team will encourage you to look ahead to the career you want and give you the information you need to make an informed decision about your future.

Our expert guidance officers can offer one-to-one interviews, support with financial and welfare issues, progression to higher education, CV, and application writing and lots more!



Scan me to take
a careers quiz.

LIBRARY & LEARNING RESOURCES CENTRES

Our main library is at the Broadway campus, with iPoints across our other sites. We've created excellent, flexible study facilities for quiet, independent study as well as collaborative environments for group work.

You will benefit from a huge volume of resources, both print and digital, to support your studies.

STUDENT SUPPORT

We provide support to many students for a range of individual needs.

Whether you require personal care, one to one support in class, mentoring or support with managing your finances, we have staff who will help you enjoy your time at college and achieve your true potential.

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

Maintaining good mental health and well-being is vital to success on your college programme. We have an online platform – Togetherall – that is available to our learners to support mental health 24/7.

If you require a more personal approach, our counselling team are on hand to support you to talk freely and confidentially about whatever is concerning you.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

You may be able to get financial support at college, depending on your circumstances.

You will receive a free digital West Midlands Travel bus pass in the first term of college, that will allow you to travel to and from college for free. You'll also be able to use it outside of college hours, so whether you're travelling to your part time job, visiting friends or just need to get from A to B, you'll be able to travel for free with Dudley College of Technology.

You may also be entitled to free college meals, depending on your circumstances.

If you are a parent under the age of 20 on a full-time course, you can access help towards childcare which is valued at £180 per child, per week.

Those learners who live apart from their parents and are either considered as a looked after child or care leaver, may be entitled to additional financial support. Our financial support team can advise you about this.



Scan me to find out more.

COURSE LEVELS EXPLAINED

ENTRY LEVEL

**1**

LEVEL 1

Often achieved in Years 10 and 11, these are the first formal rung on the numbered system of qualifications. Examples include GCSE grades 3-1, Level 1 functional or essential skills, or a Level 1 NVQ.

4

LEVEL 4

Level 4 acts as a bridge between Level 3 and 5. It is equivalent to the first year of a degree. A Level 4 qualification can help people progress onto their next stage in education such as university.

2

LEVEL 2

Level 2 is the next step up, often achieved in Years 10 and 11. Examples include GCSE grades 4-9, Level 2 certificates, and Level 2 awards and diplomas.

5

LEVEL 5

This is equivalent to the second year of a degree. This level of qualification is perfect for those looking to move on to higher education.

3

LEVEL 3

This is often achieved in Years 12 and 13, or in centres for further education. Examples include A Levels, Apprenticeships, T Levels and Vocational programmes.

6

LEVEL 6

Level 6 refers to qualifications gained at degree level, indicating the holder has graduated from higher education. Examples include a Bachelors Degree or Degree Apprenticeship.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

7

LEVEL 7

This is equivalent to master's degree level study. Examples include a PGCE or Master's degree.

8

LEVEL 8

Level 8 refers to a doctorate level of education. Examples include a PhD. It's the highest formal level of education possible.

Entry requirements are different for each level of course. The summary here is the level you would be offered based on your predicted grades:

Expected grades when leaving school

Level 1

No formal qualifications needed

Level 2

3 x GCSEs at grade 3 including English and/or Maths

Some subject areas do vary please check our website for latest details.

Level 3

4 x GCSEs at grade 4 including English & Maths

T Level

5 x GCSEs at grade 4 including English & Maths

Portfolio work may also be taken into consideration for some subjects - you should discuss this with the subject specialists, attending one of our open events is the perfect opportunity for this.

Please note entry requirements for some subject areas may vary, please visit the website for the latest details.

*If you do not achieve Grade 4 in maths and English, you will be required to re-sit them alongside your full-time programme.

HOW TO APPLY

Applying to college has been made easier! All you need to do is make an application to the subject area that you want to study by filling in your details on our application form. Our admissions department will then do the rest.

Based on what you tell us in your application, we will make you an offer on the course that is most suited to the level that you're working at. Don't worry, once you have your results in August our dedicated team of enrolment tutors will enrol you on to the right level of course based on your actual GCSE results.



- 1** Browse the subject areas on our website.



- 2** Apply for the areas you are interested in studying - we recommend no more than 3. If you apply for more than 3 subject areas, we'll invite you to speak to one of our careers advisers to discuss your choice in more detail.



- 3** Discuss your selection with subject specialists or speak to one of our careers advisers at open events.



- 4** Secure your place! We'll send you a conditional offer based on the right level of course for you.



- 5** Accept your place - let us know you're happy with the course we've offered you.



- 6** Come to a taster event - we'll send you information about this soon.



- 7** Get your GCSE results and enrol! This is when you will get your start date, timetable, bus pass and ID card.



- 8** Welcome to Dudley College, you're now a student!



Scan a QR to find out more

OPEN EVENTS

Saturday 11th October 2025, 10.00am - 2.00pm

Saturday 17th January 2026, 10.00am - 2.00pm

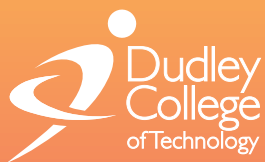
Wednesday 10th June 2026, 4.00pm - 7.00pm

Want to find out what it's like to study with us?

Come and visit us at one of our open events, where you'll be able to get lots of information about us. You can explore the course(s) that you are interested in, see our campuses and speak to our subject-specialists. We will help you plan for the future so that you can achieve beyond your expectations.

Explore our
campuses and
discover 100s
of courses.





GET IN TOUCH



Call us - 01384 363 000



Visit us online - dudleycol.ac.uk



Email us - learner.services@dudleycol.ac.uk



Facebook - DudleyCollege



Instagram - [dudley_college](https://www.instagram.com/dudley_college)



YouTube - Dudley College



TikTok - [@Dudley_College](https://www.tiktok.com/@Dudley_College)



Linkedin - Dudley College