Dudley College of Technology

GET AHEAD

SCHOOL LEAVER GUIDE

2027/2028



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



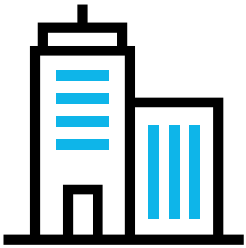
STUDENT EXPERIENCE



FREE* BUS PASS

**terms and conditions apply*

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



EMPLOYER LINKS

Personal tutors

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

£80 million

Since 2010



PRACTICAL LEARNING AND WORK PLACEMENTS



MAKE NEW FRIENDS

92%

of our full time learners (25/26) continued in training, employment or higher education



MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING SUPPORT

Dudley College of Technology

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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 of Technology 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
- V Levels

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

POST-16 CHOICES

NEW OPTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2027

After Year 11, students in England can choose different routes to continue their education.

The three main options are:

BRAND NEW V LEVELS

Best for: Students who want a mix of practical and classroom learning

- Focus on vocational subjects linked to real jobs and careers
- Designed to replace some older qualifications, such as certain BTECs
- Smaller and more flexible than T Levels
- Students can combine V Levels with A Levels or other qualifications
- Can lead to university, apprenticeships, or employment.

Think of V Levels as: A flexible mix of academic and practical learning.

A LEVELS

Best for: Students who enjoy classroom learning and want to go to university, start a higher apprenticeship or get a job

- Focus on academic subjects for example Maths, English, Sciences, History, or Psychology
- Studied over two years
- Mainly assessed through exams
- A common route into university and higher education.

Think of A Levels as: Learning through study, research, and exams.

T LEVELS

Best for: Students who know the career area they are interested in and want practical experience.

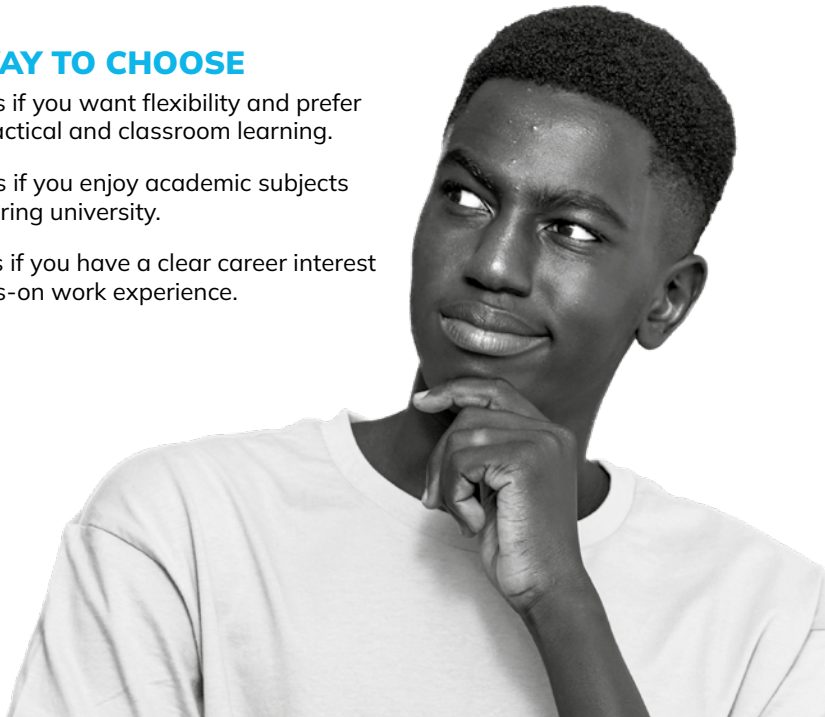
- Focus on skills for a specific industry, for example Health, Digital, Construction, or Engineering
- Studied over two years
- Include a significant work placement with an employer
- Can lead to employment, apprenticeships, or university

Think of T Levels as: Learning by combining classroom study with real workplace experience.

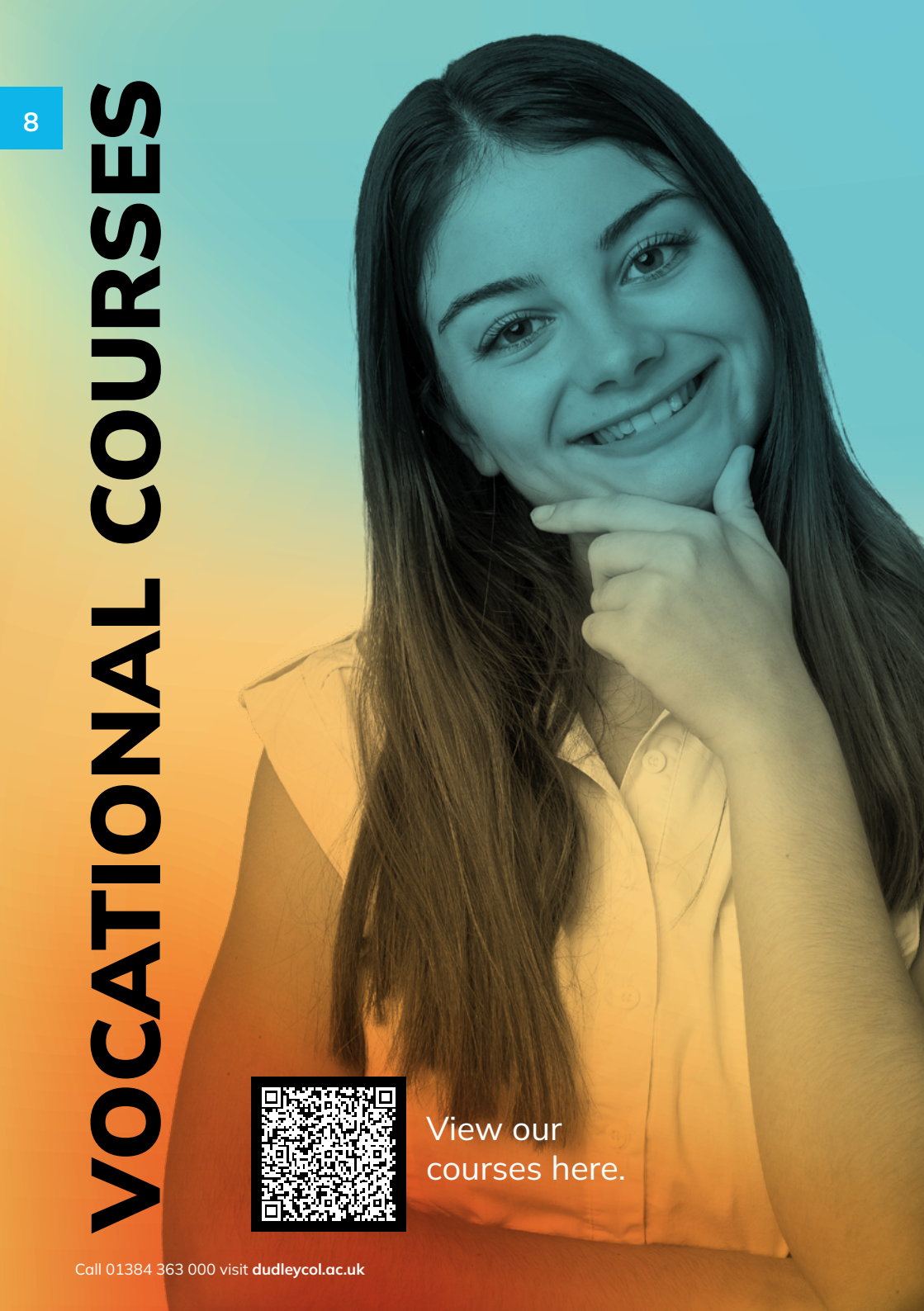
QUALIFICATION	MAIN FOCUS	LEARNING STYLE	FUTURE OPTIONS
V LEVELS	Vocational subjects	Mix of practical and classroom learning	University, apprenticeships, or work
A LEVELS	Academic subjects	Mostly classroom and exams	University, apprenticeships, or work
T LEVELS	Technical career skills	Classroom learning plus work placement	University, apprenticeships, or work

A SIMPLE WAY TO CHOOSE

- Choose V Levels if you want flexibility and prefer a balance of practical and classroom learning.
- Choose A Levels if you enjoy academic subjects and are considering university.
- Choose T Levels if you have a clear career interest and want hands-on work experience.



VOCATIONAL COURSES



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

*the offer is subject to change

T-LEVELS

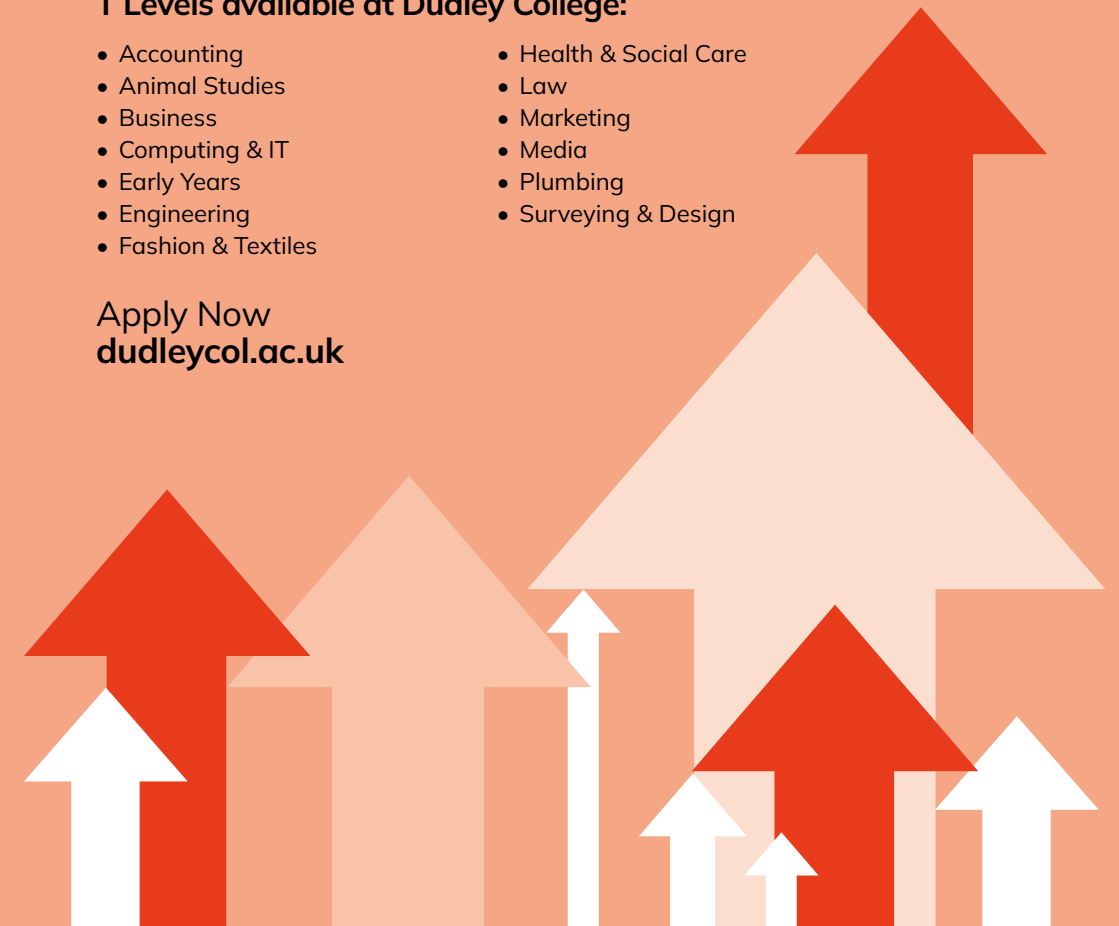
T Levels are vocational qualifications equivalent to 3 A levels, which focus on skills to support students into employment, higher study or Apprenticeships.

T Levels suit students who want to work towards a skilled occupation, prefer a practical approach to learning and want to gain significant work experience as part of their learning experience. Each T Level includes an industry placement of at least 45 days providing valuable experience in the workplace.

T Levels available at Dudley College:

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

Apply Now
dudleycol.ac.uk



APPRENTICESHIPS

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.

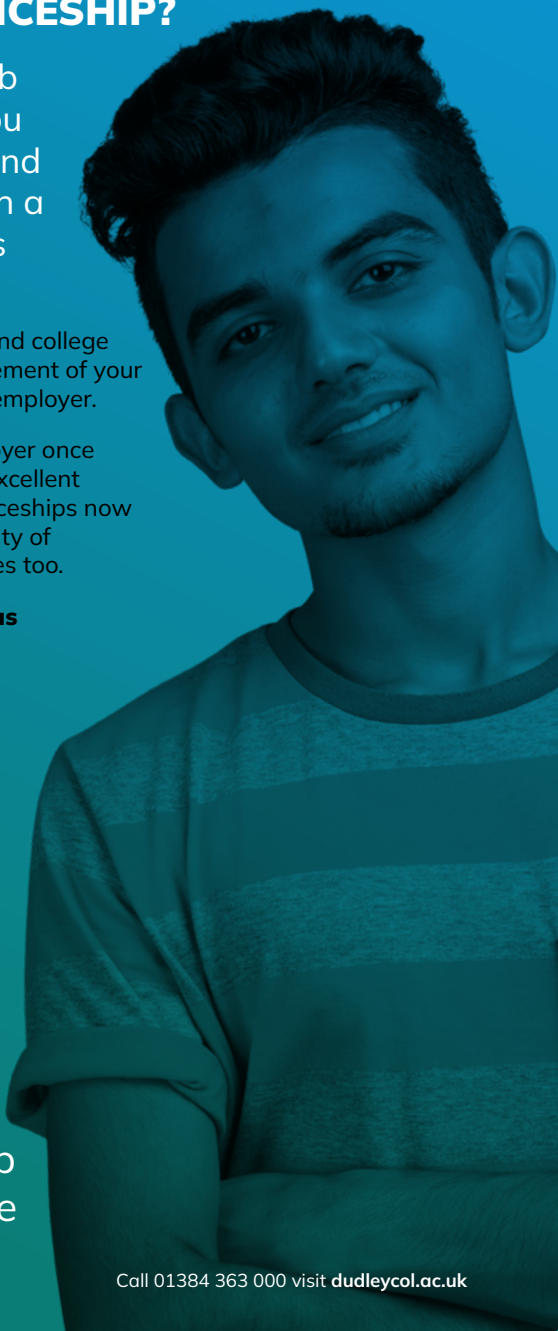
Typically, you will work four days and attend college one day a week to complete the theory element of your training, although this can differ for each employer.

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*:

- Accounting
- Administration
- Automotive
- Construction
- Early Years
- Engineering
- Health & Social Care
- Medical Technologies

*areas and list subject to change



View our apprenticeship vacancies here

Call 01384 363 000 visit **dudleycol.ac.uk**

EXPLORE OUR A LEVELS

INSPIRING EXCELLENCE

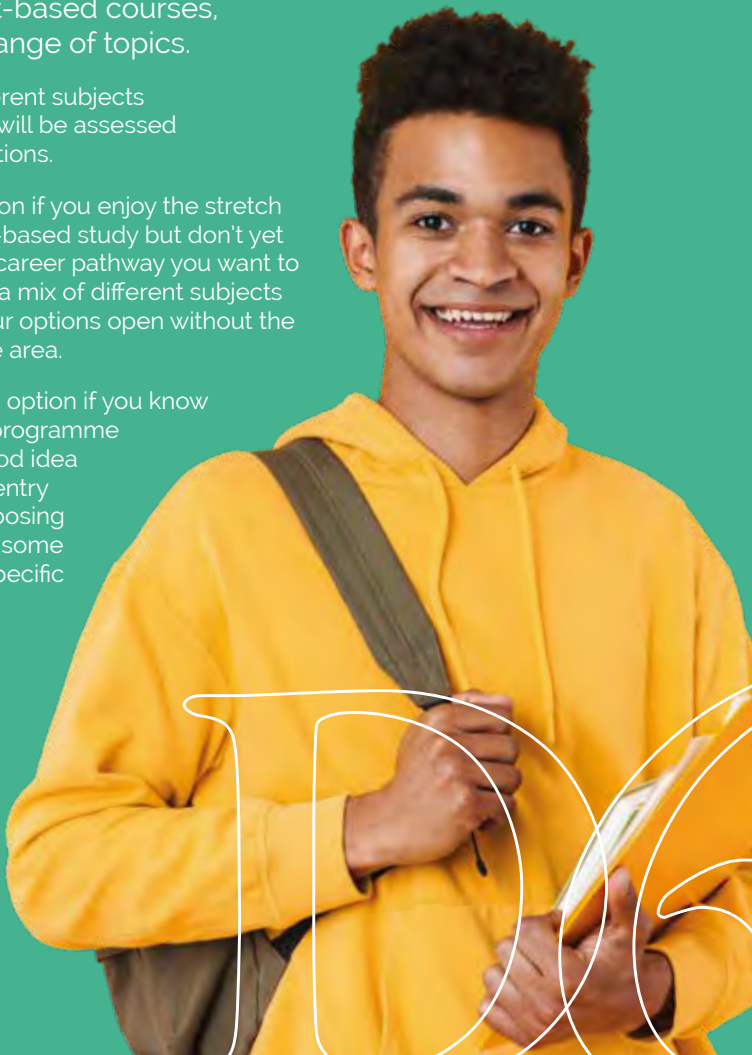
A Levels are subject-based courses, available in a wide range of topics.

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.



Look out for our NEW V Level options for 2027 in Accounting & Finance Education

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 Mathematics
- Geography
- German
- Graphics
- History
- ICT (AAQ)
- Law
- Mathematics
- Media Studies
- Medical Science (AAQ)
- Mental Health (AAQ)
- 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!

OVER **£80** MILLION INVESTED SINCE 2010

DUDLEY LEARNING QUARTER:
We have several campuses, located at the heart of Dudley, all within easy walking distance. As a student at Dudley College of Technology, 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
At the heart of the Dudley Learning Quarter it provides dedicated spaces for learning and socialising. It is also home to Dudley Students' Union, STIR Coffee Shop and Refectory, the library, an iPoint and so much more.



EVOLVE
With state-of-the-art facilities and top of the range equipment, there's so much to see, from our fitness suite and hair and beauty salon to our rehearsal studios, recording suites, theatre and outstanding travel and tourism facilities.



ANIMAL STUDIES CENTRE
Our cutting-edge Animal Care and Welfare facility provides a dedicated space for both students and our range of animals.



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).



ADVANCE I

Home to specialist, first-class engineering training facilities that support the development of technical skills.



AUTOMOTIVE CENTRE

At this specialist workshop, students can learn real skills in well-equipped workshops with industry standard facilities and access to a fleet of vehicles.



ADVANCE II

Developed to drive forward the technical skills needed in electrical installation and fabrication & welding that employers are looking for.



ACCELERATE

Our new Accelerate campus has a large workshop and bespoke classrooms for a range of courses including, Automotive, Green Skills and Surveying and Design.

OUR SPECIALIST CAMPUSES

We have a range of specialist campuses across Dudley, designed for practical learning in real-world environments.

INDUSTRY FOCUSED

PRACTICAL LEARNING

REAL WORLD EXPERIENCE

PREPARED FOR YOUR FUTURE

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.





CONSTRUCTION APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING CENTRE

Traditional construction trades, including plumbing, plastering, painting & decorating and carpentry & brickwork are taught at this first-class training facility.

INSPIRED

Our specialist digital technologies and arts centre has a purpose-built TV studio, a motion capture suite, and computer suites for games design and VR technology.



Aspire Brierley Hill: Supports students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Helping them develop independence in a range of social settings.

Dudley Sixth
for A levels





DUDLEY SIXTH & ENHANCE:
Our dedicated A Level Sixth Form offers inspiring facilities for ambitious students. A wide selection of subject-based qualifications 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.

FREE* BUS TRAVEL FOR DUDLEY COLLEGE STUDENTS

If you're 16–18 and studying full-time at Dudley College of Technology, you'll receive a FREE West Midlands Travel bus pass to help you get to and from college.

That means more freedom. Less cost. More opportunity.

- Free travel to and from college
- Use it for work placements and other college activities
- Travel outside college hours too

Your bus pass is issued digitally to your mobile phone, making travelling simple and convenient.

Find out more: dudleycol.ac.uk/student-life/financial-support

*Terms and conditions apply. Continued travel support after term 1 is subject to eligibility and completion of the required bursary application.

WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY ABOUT US

VOCATIONAL

"My advice to future students would be not to worry, as Dudley College isn't as intimidating as you might think. You'll quickly get used to travelling independently, and the teachers and your classmates are really easy to get to know and bond with."

James Webster Entry in FE Bricklaying





"My favourite thing about Dudley College is Dudley SU, as it's a great way to make new friends and get involved in lots of different activities. My advice to future students would be to get involved with the SU as much as you can and make the most of everything it has to offer!"

Abdulrahman Isa
T Level in Marketing

T LEVELS

"My advice would be not to be afraid. The tutors are really nice and supportive, and you'll find that your time here can be one of the best parts of your life!"

Scarlet Charlton
T Levels in Early Years & Education



A LEVELS

"My favourite thing about Dudley Sixth is the good learning environment. My advice to future students would be not to underestimate the pressure of A Levels and to start revising early!"

Darwood Ali Khan
A Levels in Biology, Chemistry & Maths





"Dudley College of Technology helped connect me to my dreams. If I had any advice for future students, it would be to always believe in yourself."

Mahtab Hafizian
GCSEs in Maths, Combined Science & English

GCSE

APPRENTICESHIPS

"Completing my Level 2 Early Years Apprenticeship has given me so much more confidence and belief in myself. I faced some personal and learning challenges along the way and there were times when I thought about giving up, but the support I received from my assessor, Lisa, and my employer, Step by Step Childcare, really helped me to keep going. I'm so proud to have passed my End Point Assessment and I'm now looking forward to progressing onto Level 3, with hopes of going to university and working with children with SEND in the future."

Melody Horne
Apprenticeship Level 2 Early Years Practitioner



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 many 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 Careers Advisers can offer one-to-one interviews, support with 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, 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 and Wellbeing Team are available to provide confidential support. They offer a safe and supportive space where you can talk openly about whatever may be concerning you



FREE* **BUS PASS** for all 16-18 year olds

*T&Cs apply.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

6

LEVEL 6

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

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.



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.



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

Dudley College of Technology

8. **Welcome to Dudley College of Technology, you're now a student!**

Dudley College of Technology

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

YouTube - Dudley College

TikTok - @Dudley_College

Linkedin - Dudley College





OPEN EVENTS

Saturday 10th October 2026
10.00am - 2.00pm

Saturday 16th January 2027
10.00am - 2.00pm

Wednesday 9th June 2027
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 our course, facilities and college life. 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.

Register here

Dudley College of Technology

Dudley Sixth for A levels

172/9/26