

Here is the latest news from Derby College

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Mandie Stravino
Chief Executive

I am delighted to welcome you to the new academic year at Derby College.

It has been a busy summer at Derby College enrolling new students and preparing for the new academic year ahead. As the new academic year begins, these first weeks of term are classed as an induction period for students. Your child will have received an introduction to their study programme, a copy of the Student Handbook, their own Derby College email address and access to our online learning space, Moodle. They will also have been allocated a personal coach who will work with them throughout their time at College and help ensure they achieve a positive destination after their study programme.

We hope you enjoy reading your monthly e-newsletter from Derby College.

Student Services at Derby College

Dates for your diary!

Current students at Derby College

[Term Dates](#)

[Parents Evening Dates 17/18](#)

Prospective students of Derby College

[Information Evenings and general events](#)



Student Services have a help desk on every Derby College campus. Your child can drop in and see us at any time thereâ€™s no need to make an appointment. We offer information, advice and guidance on matters including; Course information, Enrolment, ID badges, Travel information or a referrals to other support services.



Personal Coaches

Our coaches work with students and their teachers to provide advice and guidance and ensure any difficulties are carefully managed to give each student the best chance of success, supporting their progression onto a positive destination.

Personal coaches:

- Help students identify and access additional support where needed.
- Closely monitor attendance and progress.
- Liaise with parents/carers to share progress and keep students on-track where necessary.
- Meet regularly with students to reflect on - and take action to address - issues which may be affecting progress or engagement in College.
- Offer support to plan next steps and prepare students for the world of work.

Students can speak to their coach directly or can request a meeting via their Personal Tutor or any teacher. Parents are encouraged to get in touch by phone or email; the call centre will be able to direct you to the relevant coach if you donâ€™t know their name.

A positive attendance and punctuality record is crucial to academic success and can be make-or-break on employment and apprenticeship references. The College

sets a benchmark of 95%; students who fall below this are in breach of their student agreement and will be approached by their Personal Coach to discuss reasons behind this and agree an action plan to get back on track. If there is a problem affecting attendance, please get in touch as early as possible. Parents can track attendance via the ParentPortal.

If you need to report an absence, you can do this via the [online Student Absence Form](#) found on the Contact Us section of the College website. Alternatively, you can call the absence line. Absences must be reported before lessons start and we should be notified of appointments in advance.



Student Support Fund

We are currently processing new bursary applications, it is still not too late to apply. Students who are eligible can receive financial support to help pay towards course related costs, such as equipment, trips, travel to and from College and meals while they are on a College programme. Forms and advice are available at Learner Service™s desks on every campus



English and maths

If your child did not achieve a grade C/4 in their English or maths GCSE we will be working with them to develop their English and/or maths skills. Classes to support the development of English and maths are identified on their timetables. We will also be offering exam preparation sessions throughout the year which all students are encouraged to attend.

We would like to ask that you support your child in attending the classes, preparation sessions and completing work in their own time to develop their skills.

You will have the opportunity to meet the English and maths team at parent™s evenings. If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact the College and ask for the English and maths team. We look forward to working with you in

developing your child's English and maths skills and reaching their potential.

2018 Exam dates:

Functional skills

English: W/C 5th Feb and 12th Feb
English: W/C 30th April and 8th May
Maths: W/C 23rd April and 18th June

GCSE

English: 5th and 8th June
Maths: 24th May, 7th and 12th June



Careers

As a new academic year begins, the Careers team would like to raise awareness of our Advice and Guidance service which is available to all students. Careers advice and guidance appointments can be made via Student Services at each campus.

Careers information, advice and support about progression pathways (apprenticeships, jobs, further study and university) can also be found on the "My Career"™ pages of the College's Moodle site. Students can access Moodle from anywhere, via the Derby College website using their Derby College student log in details. The Careers team are currently working on giving the pages a new look and streamlining the content to make it easier for students to find the what they need. Watch this space over the coming months for new developments!

On Wednesday 4th October at our Ilkeston campus we have arranged a Volunteering Fair. The fair will be attended by a number of organisations (including Derbyshire Police Support Volunteers, the Guide Dogs Association, Marie Curie Cancer Care and the Girl Guide Association) who have opportunities for a range of voluntary work. Ilkeston based students will receive more information from their tutors in the next few weeks.

Across all campuses, level 3, year 2 students will be getting lots of information from the Careers team in their tutorials about the option of applying for Higher

Education (HE). All students will be given a comprehensive booklet containing information about HE research and application processes, key College and national deadline dates, guidance on writing a personal statement. An electronic copy of the booklet will also be available soon on the 'My HE'™ page of 'My Career'. These sessions will also include information for those who wish to look at alternative options such as apprenticeships (including higher level apprenticeships), employment or a gap year.



Becky Greensmith
Student Voice Co-ordinator

Student Voice

We value the Student voice. Students views and ideas are key to how we develop life and study at Derby College. Shortly, your child will be asked to participate in a Post-Induction survey. The survey will ask students their views on admissions, enrolment and the first few weeks at College. If your child would like to tell us about their experience at Derby College, they can [email the Student Voice Co-ordinator](#).

Student Ambassadors

Whilst studying at Derby College we encourage every student to become a Student Ambassador. This is a fantastic opportunity to gain experience and learn new skills including event management, public speaking and marketing.

Volunteering is an excellent addition to any CV or UCAS application. The role of an ambassador may vary, and can include supporting at Information Evening/Days, Enrolment, Parent/Carer Consultation Evenings, Focus Groups of College initiatives, taster days, Derbyshire Skills Festival, Learning Walks with the Learning and Teaching team and the Erewash Borough Council Youth Forum, providing future students, parents/carers and the wider community with an insight to College life from a Students perspective. For further information please [email the Student Voice Co-ordinator](#) or call 01332 387400.

Parent Voice

Your views matter to us too and the feedback you provide will help us shape the service we provide your child at Derby College. If you would like to tell us your views please [email Parent Voice](#).



Intervention Support Team

The intervention team offer support to help your child overcome any difficulties they may have whilst they are a student at Derby College, these might include issues such a

- Health issues, including mental health concerns
- Problems outside of College
- Severe financial hardship
- Relationship problems
- Being a young carer or a young parent
- Bereavement support
- Issues with peers

The team can also signpost to more specialist support such as counselling, CAMHS or the multi-agency team to ensure that your child's needs are fully met. For more information [email the Intervention Support Team](#) or telephone 01332 836 613.



Moodle@Derby College



Parents Portal

Derby College know that it is important to keep you updated on your child's progress at College, so, we have a dedicated "Parents Portal".

On the portal you will be able to view your child's:

- Live attendance and punctuality data.
- Progress logs which are updated every six weeks and where teachers may make comments or leave specific messages for you.
- SMART targets which are set by tutors and students and are reviewed on a regular basis.

How to access the Parents Portal

- Log onto <http://moodle.derby-college.ac.uk>
- Click on the Parent Portal link on the front page and follow the logging on instructions on the next page. In order to logon to the portal you will need your child's Student ID number (found on their ID badge) and date of birth.

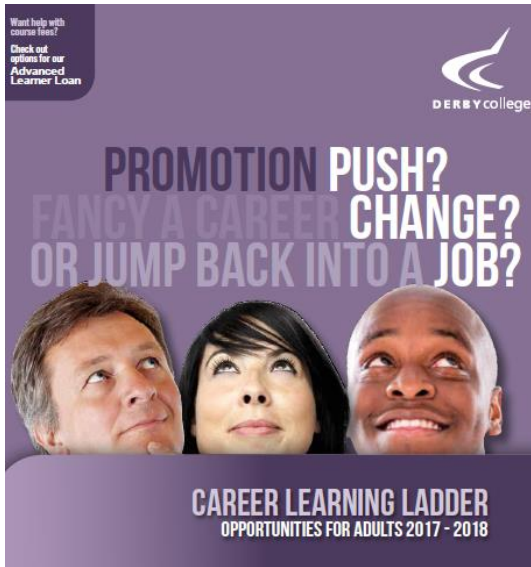
If you have difficulty logging onto the Parent Portal, please contact Teresa Waite on 01332 836616 or email teresa.waite@derby-college.ac.uk

It's never too late to learn



Do you want to improve your skills and prospects?

Do you need an up-to-date maths or English qualification on your CV? Have you been away from education for a while and are now keen to refresh your skills? Would you like to be confident in helping your children with their homework? ***Then why not consider a FREE Adult Maths and English course at Derby College?*** [*Read More.*](#)



Career Learning Ladder opportunities for adults 2017 - 2018

Our Career Learning Ladder guide is full of inspiration for anyone who wants to take the next step on their journey to success in work and life. Whether you're keen to upgrade and update your skills, looking for a promotion at work, planning a change of career, hoping to launch your own business or considering university-level study, Derby College will put you on the right pathway. [Read more online](#) about study programmes or [download your copy of the Career Learning Ladder](#).

Advanced Learner Loan

ADVANCED LEARNER LOANS

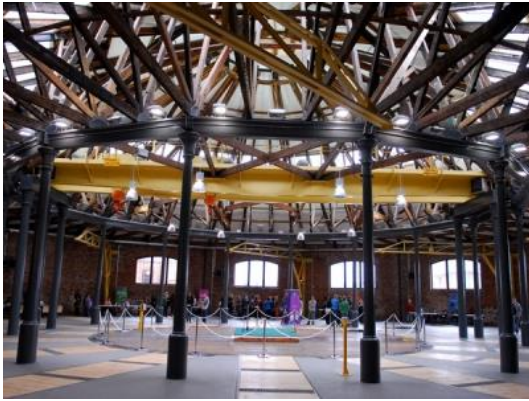
If you are aged 19 or over, you could qualify for a new type of loan to help pay for your tuition fees as you prepare to head further up the career ladder.



Learning for Leisure

Take a look at our part-time learning opportunities.

Our courses have been designed for adults who are looking to pursue a hobby or learn a new skill. This year we also have a selection of adult and child learning workshops to inspire the whole family. [Read more](#).



Dirty Dancing Cinema night at the Roundhouse

We are celebrating the 30th anniversary of the 'Dirty Dancing' film release, which has been a firm favourite with generations of movie fans. For the first time the beautiful Roundhouse will be turned into an indoor cinema on Saturday October 14, giving you a chance to cosy up inside the historic building and enjoy a cinematic experience like no other. [Find out more.](#)

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There's more to Derby College

We have a number of facilities & services open to the public



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