

Rutland County College

Barleythorpe 2012

Blending academic excellence with the spirit of enterprise

An exclusive and prestigious learning village set in the heart of Britain's smallest county dedicated to developing the most intelligent, aspiring and enterprising young people of the future in a beautiful rural setting.

Everything in the learning village is on a human scale ensuring that the close bonds of community life in Rutland are reflected in the style, structure and atmosphere of the building. It is unique and confident but not brash or harsh; a community of learners with high ideals and aspirations taking its inspiration from the small towns and villages around it but looking forward not backwards.

Approaching the college the visitor is struck by the beauty of the site and at once feels comfortable, inspired and ready to learn. All staff, students and visitors enter through the same point. Inside they find an environment that is personal, holistic and creative and they immediately feel at home and part of the community. Yet around them they also see a place with endless possibilities where their ideas and imagination can flourish and which is full of energy and purpose.

Curriculum

The curriculum launches the careers of young people as they make the final transition into adulthood. It has the flexibility to offer pathways that reflect the stage the learner is at and both their future and current potential.

Academic pathway

A levels and Pre-u entry into universities and beyond into graduate based careers.

Art, Biology, Business, Chemistry, Critical Thinking, Economics, English, French, Geography, Geology, Graphics, History, IT, Law, Mathematics. Media. Music, PE, Physics, Philosophy and ethics, Politics, Psychology, Sociology, Theatre studies, Textiles and the Extended Project

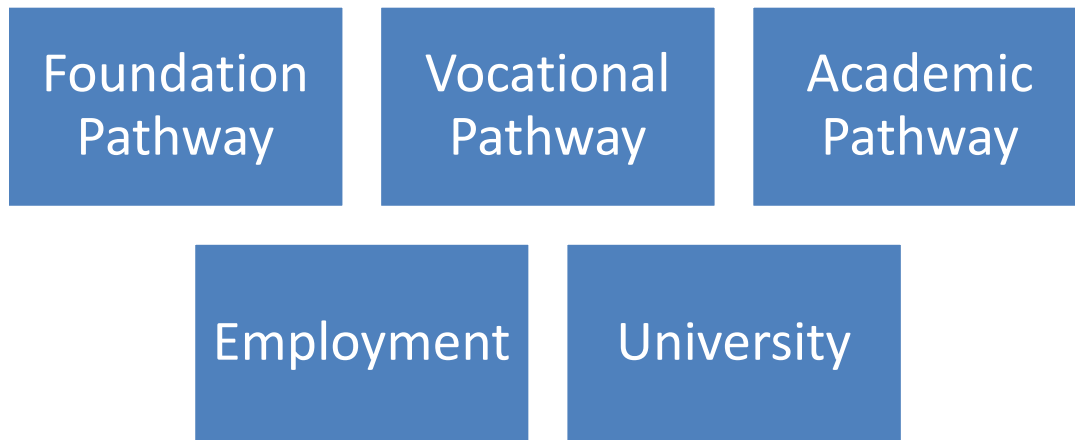
Vocational pathway

Vocational level 3 (equivalent to A level) courses in Business, Health and Social Care, Sport, Music, and Travel and Tourism

Apprenticeships in Business, Health and Social Care, Construction, Hair and Beauty, and Travel and Tourism (general learning takes place in the college and sector specific skills are developed in the workplace).

Foundation pathway

A holistic level 1 learning programme in literacy, numeracy, business, IT, hospitality and catering, sport, and travel and tourism with extended work experience.



A Zonal approach

The building is zoned so that energy and security for each zone can be switched off separately to avoid unnecessary costs and improve efficiency.

Zone 1 Central

The Marketplace

At the heart of the learning village is the marketplace where students can take a break and get some refreshments. It is open for snacks at the start of the day and during the lunchtime and also has a self-service provision for those who may be using the college in the evening.

Reception

This is an open reception area close to the marketplace which backs on to Student Services with an accompanying waiting area, plasma screen and CCTV. All visitors would have to stop here before they could get access to the rest of the college and it is the only entrance and exit route. Music and emergency messages and warnings can be broadcast wireless from here to the rest of the college. This also acts as a gallery area.

High Street

Leading off from the marketplace is the high street which allows access through the heart of the college.

Study Studio

Leading off from the marketplace is the study studio which can accommodate up to 100 learners at any one time. The studio is an independent working facility with a well-stocked library and Wi-Fi throughout. It is also an open space for smaller gatherings and presentations when required and is visible to visitors as they approach.

Student Services

A one-stop shop for students to access support and information when and as they need it. This is an open area which backs on to the reception but with its own access point and with private interview rooms adjoining. It has a finance point with a secure safe and at least four IT points. It also has a small medical room with storage facilities.

Adjoining it is an Assistant Principal's office and a Business Manager's office.

Resources

A room close to Student Services for reprographics and other printing related work and with the capacity for the storage of paper and other stationary.

The Hold

A secure area for storing exam papers and other items. No windows or access from the outside.

The Workshop

A working area for premises staff with desks and IT for two staff and adjoining storage area for cleaning equipment and maintenance and sink and washing facilities. It adjoins student services and reception and the hold which is just off the marketplace. Also acts as the main security point with CCTV. There are at least two cleaners' cupboard elsewhere.

Presentation Theatre

This is a large space designed for larger presentations, productions, events and exams when required and flexible enough to be used in partitioned form as a drama studio and classroom with furniture that can be easily moved and stored. It has tiered moveable seating for up to 150 which can be rolled out as needed. The front is set up with a large drop down presentation screen and lectern for IT based presentations and equipped with simple lighting bars and sound equipment. It is easily accessible just off the marketplace.

Locker area

An open area with space for up to 50 lockers with the capacity for more if required. Close to the shower, gym and briefing room.

Toilets

Individual male and female toilets for visitors in reception area and other users on the high street.

Technical Workshop

An IT maintenance area for up to two staff.

Zone 2 Learning

Learning rooms

10 general classroom spaces with the capacity to take between 10 and 25 learners. These are named after local landmarks and inspirational figures in related areas. All have IWBs with speakers and are fully equipped with Wi-fi and a secure storage facilities

Science Zone

This comprises of two laboratories and an adjoining prep. Room for up to 50 learners.

Business and Enterprise Hub

This area has three rooms for IT and Business courses for up to 75 learners divided into IT and discussion and teaching areas. Apprentices (17-25 years old) learn here as well as those on IT and Business related courses.

Creative Industries

A larger space divided into subspaces and accessed via a gallery:

Music Workshop

A partitioned area with soundproofing comprising of a practice space and recording studio on one side and a teaching space, including music technology, for up to 15 learners on the other side.

Art and Graphics

Individual work spaces for up 18 students with accompanying spaces for drying, printing, storage and washing facilities

Media

General teaching area with editing area off

Multi-Media Hub

Shared design and media IT hub with higher quality Design and Media IT software (mac computers)

Photography

Small photography dark room

Support Zone

This is a base for up to 15 foundation learners with a mix of IT, clustered tables and soft seating and a small kitchen with ovens, washing facilities and room for storage of domestic appliances.

Gym

A room available for staff and students comprising of several treadmills, cross trainers, exercise bikes, multi-gym and exercise area with access to a shower. In the first instance this could be situated in the lodge and opened at designated times.

Zone 3 Leadership

Vice Principal and Head of Centre

An office large enough for meetings for up to 8 people, small presentations and interviews

Principal's Office

An office with a desk and relaxed seating area for up to 8 people.

Vice Principal

An office with seating for up to 4 people

Briefing Room

A room sufficient to accommodate the whole staff of up to 50 adults for training and briefing purposes with accompanying presentation facilities and shower and toilet with rear access to cycle store. 20 workstations with Wi-Fi access and printer are also here and there is a small kitchen server.

Boardroom

A general purpose meeting room for up to 20 people.

General

Lighting and Acoustics

A particular feature of this college is the attention paid to high quality lighting that mimics natural light, allows for lighting adjustments to suit the activities and reduces noise by means of carpeting, appropriate sound proofing and the use of natural light where possible while also being energy efficient and robust enough for the movement of energetic young people.

Greenery

A feature of the building is the presence of indoor plants and trees both with reception and the marketplace and other general thoroughfare's. This gives the building life and reflects the rural location.

Signage

The zones are signed and marked accordingly. Each one has a plasma screen at the entrance to provide any specific information to visitors to that zone.

Parking

Students and staff parking is provided with 120 places. 5 are reserved for senior team staff and 3 are disabled. There are also 3 motorcycle spaces. The loading and deliveries bay is situated near the entrance to the hold.

Transport

Buses stop outside the college in a layby on the Barleythorpe Road. This ensures buses are not clogging up the site itself.

Cycle shelter

A cycle shelter is provided in the college grounds for up to 50 cycles. Students and staff are welcome to store equipment in a locker in the locker room.

Colour

The palette for the college is light blue and magnolia.

Displays

All learning areas, thoroughfares and general areas have a mix of large, glass fronted display boards (dark blue background), open noticeboards (same style but glass front) for daily notices, artwork and canvas photo boards. These are smart, reflect the college community and are easy to maintain. The quality of displays is outstanding.

Examinations

These mostly take place in the presentation theatre although other rooms are used sometimes. The space allowed between the mid-point of each desk is 1.25m. A maximum of 80 candidates sit exams at any one time but when the presentation theatre is full other rooms are used.