

**The
Sheffield
College**

**Guide for
Parents & Carers**



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Welcome to The Sheffield College

We want our students to enjoy their time with us, make new friends, discover their talents and grow in confidence and skills, achieving the best possible results to progress and fulfil their potential. Our vision is to transform lives through learning.

All of our students, no matter their starting point when they join us, receive excellent support along the way to help them stay on track with their studies.

We provide a safe and welcoming learning environment and are committed to ensuring that students achieve much more than a qualification. We know that in today's competitive world it is the 'extras' that make the difference in terms of getting a desirable university place or a job with career prospects.

An important element of this is experience of the world of work. As a college we have exceptional links with employers and they support our curriculum by providing careers-related talks, work experience and work placements. That means our students gain the skills and opportunities that businesses are looking for in their future employees.

We guarantee students a progressive route onto the next level course at the college, including University Level study, the chance to go onto an Apprenticeship or into employment, providing our expectations surrounding behaviour and attendance are met.

We are proud of our vibrant and diverse student community, our dedicated staff, and our multi-million pound campuses that are some of the best further education facilities in the region.

We encourage students to get involved with the many extracurricular social and sports activities available to them. I very much look forward to welcoming your son or daughter whom, I am sure, will benefit from an inspirational and high quality learning experience that prepares them for work and life.



We look forward to welcoming you!

Heather Smith

Heather Smith
Principal, The Sheffield College

What Ofsted say

Ofsted conducted their latest inspection report at The Sheffield College in January 2016 and this is a snippet of what they had to say:

- The college provides a safe, secure and inclusive environment for all its learners
- Learners receive good-quality impartial advice and guidance, which helps them make well informed educational and career choices
- The quality of Apprenticeship and high needs provision is good
- The strategic vision is meeting the needs of the local Sheffield area and the Local Enterprise Partnership priorities very well, and is supported by very effective partnerships to achieve this vision
- The effective restructure and the ambition of senior leaders and governors are helping to drive forward the improvements needed



What our students say about us

Everything that we do at the college is geared towards providing the best experience for our students academically, socially and in terms of safety. It's very important to us that our students enjoy and get the most out of their time with us, which is why it's great to hear them say things like this:

- The courses and teaching staff cater to every single person. It's all about you
- The staff have real experience in their area and are always sharing this with us
- The great facilities, equipment and resources really help you to do well
- I'm picking things up so quickly and gaining experience in a real workplace
- I feel really motivated because I have more responsibilities and I'm treated like an adult
- My tutors were the most amazing, passionate and helpful teachers I've ever had
- During my time at the college I got the opportunity to do two work placements which has enhanced my CV and helped me to get my job today

What our students say

“The subject is very practical and always adapted to the real work environment. The courses give you the tools to be successful out in industry.”

Making young people employable

At The Sheffield College we have one key objective and obligation to young people - to make them employable when they finish their qualification.

Our fantastic courses will equip students with industry knowledge which we also couple with real work experience as part of the curriculum. It is that work experience and know-how that will make your young person stand out on applications and in job interviews.

In an innovative new programme, we are offering 2,200 of our students work experience this year with employers across the city. Learners, parents/carers, tutors and employers have all

been considered and consulted as part of the design of the new programme which enables learners to see why they are doing the placement, where it could lead and what skills they will develop.

Our courses also include masterclasses by professionals, visits to the workplace, mentoring, work on projects set by real employers and opportunities to exhibit work or make presentations. Exactly what future employers want to see.

Just to give you an idea, here are just a few of the companies our students had the opportunity to work with this year:

- British Airways
- Leeds Bradford Airport
- Kier
- Plusnet
- Sheffield Teaching Hospitals
- SUFC
- SWFC
- Sheffield Sharks
- Televideo
- Sheffield Chamber of Commerce
- Tata Steel

Did we mention we've just been recognised as a Gold standard work experience provider?



Facts and figures

When making the best decision, you need to make sure that you are equipped with the facts and figures that sit behind the great facilities and learning environment we have here at The Sheffield College. All of the data below is up-to-date.

Overall Achievement Rates

Maths and English GCSE
15/16 - 82.2%
National Rate – 80.6%

Apprenticeships

15/16 – 76.7%
National Rate – 70%

Overall Pass Rate

Maths and English GCSE 92.7%
National Rate 91%
GCSE Maths and English (A*-C) – above national benchmark

Retention Rate

We have over 90% retention rate for our 16-18 learners

Positive Destination

16-18 year olds – 95.1%
Apprenticeships – 98.8%

We have nearly 7,000 16-19 classroom based students, with more than 500 16-18 Apprentices

Destinations

60% of our former students from 14/15 are still in education – with a further 17% in employment.

70.1% of our former students from 14/15 are in some form of education (education/apprenticeship/traineeship)

88.8% of our former students from 14/15 are in education or employment

96.1% of learners who remained in FE full time education remained so at The Sheffield College



Facilities

We believe that our students should be learning in the very best facilities that are reflective of those they will encounter in the world of work. It's for that reason we have spent over £15 million upgrading and installing brand new facilities at the college, including:

Hillsborough

Mac suites, sprung dance studios, performance theatres, recording studios, music suites, TV studio, a stage production workshop, wire tension grid for lighting changes, gym, 3G sports pitch, textiles and fashion studios, art studios, photography studios, sports hall and 'outstanding' nursery.

Peaks

'The Loft' canteen and social area, classrooms and 'The Attic' providing a vast learning space and climbing wall.

City

Aeroplane cabin, animal care salons, catering kitchens, hair and beauty salons, science and dental labs, construction centre, sports hall, high-tech childcare teaching facilities, construction workshops, libraries, computer suites and nursery.

Olive Grove

Motor Vehicle and Engineering workshops, body spray and repair facilities, welding and plumbing learning spaces.

Transport

It's easy to get to us.

No matter which of our campuses students choose to study at, all are within walking distance of tram and bus stops and our City Campus is right by the bus and train station too. Trams come every 5-10 minutes and buses run frequently.

To plan the best route simply:

- Go to www.travelsouthyorkshire.com and click 'Journey planner'
- Enter your postcode and the college campus postcode
- Select 'Arrive by' and enter the time you need to be there for
- Choose your route/method of travel



What our students say

“The support from my course leader was fantastic. The teaching staff are great – so supportive – and really help you achieve your best.”

Support

We know that sometimes things can get a little tough, which is why it's essential that there is a caring and helpful support network in place to help. Whether it's for advice and guidance, or just a friendly face to chat things through with, your young person's time at college is no different.

All students are assigned a Tutor Mentor or Pro-Tutor to help support them through their studies to ensure they are making good progress and to address any concerns they may have.

During their time at The Sheffield College they will also be able to access a vast range of support from our Student Support Team including:

- Financial support
- Application support (university and job applications)
- Careers advice and guidance
- Interview preparation
- Counselling/listening service
- Transport



Progression

Progression is at the heart of everything we do here at The Sheffield College. We guarantee that all new students, aged 16 to 18, who start a full-time course over six months long will progress into either an Apprenticeship, a job, a university-level course at the college or university, or onto a route into one of these options upon successful completion of their time at the college.

We always take the time to ensure that your child follows the route that they wish to. As a first instance they will meet with their Tutor who will direct and support them in the right direction and discuss their options of progression.

If your young person wishes to pursue an Apprenticeship, our free internal recruitment service work alongside new and existing students to match them to the best possible vacancy based on the student's interests, qualifications and CV; this includes Higher Apprenticeships which are equivalent to university degrees.

We also have a varied University Level offer which your young person can progress onto upon gaining the entry requirements for the course. Again, your young person's Tutor will advise and support the application process to make the transition as smooth as possible.

At The Sheffield College we work with our students on personal development. As mentioned in a previous section, our key objective is to make students employable. Work experience and our links with employers provide students with a fantastic route of progressing into a job.

The Sheffield College

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All information is correct at time of print.
Data and statistics taken from EMSI software.
If you need this guide in any other format, please get in touch.

