

## THE NIDO VOLANS CENTRE

Supporting young people with learning difficulties  
and/or disabilities to prepare for adulthood

# Are you are considering the Nido Volans Centre at Bromley College as the next step after school?

There are a lot of benefits in attending further education close to home. School friends remain close by and new friends are made for the future. Your social contacts and support networks can continue. Training for independent or supported travel takes place in your local area and work experience and volunteering will help you build a local network of contacts that might lead to a job.

If so, you are sure to have a lot of questions. Here are some of the questions we are asked most often by parents and young people:

**Q Bromley College is a big further education college – how will the staff get to know the students?**

**A** The Nido Volans Centre is a self-contained area of the College's Bromley Campus with a separate entrance and specialised staff. About 100 students will use the Centre and their teachers and support staff will get to know them very well. Following a personalised programme each student can integrate with the larger College as and when they become ready for more independence but will always have the Centre as their separate base.

One of the benefits of being part of the College is that all its facilities, services and opportunities are available to all students, for example there are in-house work experience opportunities, great curriculum facilities and strong links with local services, community organisations and employers.



## **Q Can the Centre meet the needs of all students with disabilities?**

### **A** Facilities include:

- Disabled toilets including a Closi-mat
- Personal care and laundry facilities
- Chill-out room
- A fully accessible independent living area
- Media suite
- Performance space
- IT room
- Art studio

For some young people their disability will require very specialist facilities that the Centre is not able to provide. Following a careful assessment, the Local Authority will work with the College to determine if individual needs can be met at Bromley College, sometimes working in partnership with other services or providers.

## **Q How many students are in a class?**

**A** Programmes are personalised to meet the needs of each student. Classes will normally have 6 to 8 students

## **Q Are students supervised all the time?**

**A** This is dependent on each student's individual assessed need. Students are encouraged to be as independent as possible but we know that many students need support and supervision throughout the day, and some students need a quiet place to go to. So there are many different arrangements made to suit individual students. This is something that will be discussed during assessment, when students first come to College and at regular points during their course.

## **Q How do you make sure that students are safe?**

**A** The Centre offers a secure, welcoming and purpose-built environment in which staff and students can work together. All students have a personal tutor whose role is to make sure that their students are happy and looked after. The college has a number of designated trained safeguarding officers who respond immediately to any concern that is raised and contact parents or external agencies as required. All staff and students are supplied with a card giving contact details for reporting any concerns they may have.

**Q Will any extra equipment or clothing be needed?**

**A** Where Individual programmes include vocational options some additional items are required, for example students working in the restaurant must wear black and white and students must wear safety boots in the workshops.

**Q Are there any course fees?**

**A** There are no tuition fees for students with learning difficulties up to the age of 25. We do ask for contributions when students prepare and cook their own lunch and for some additional leisure trips.

**Q How many days a week will the course run? Which days?**

**A** Students attend on 4 days/week - each student has an individual timetable so the days depend on what classes are chosen.

**Q How long is the course? How long can students stay at College?**

**A** Each programme lasts for an academic year. During the first year at College a lot of work takes place to think about what each student wants to do when they leave and plans are made to work towards this. Most students stay at College for between one and three years.

**Q What do students go on to do after the course?**

**A** Many students progress to work experience, supported employment, voluntary work or jobs and some go on to do other College courses. We support every leaver to find the right thing for them and ensure that families have the information they need for the next step.

**Q Are there additional maths and English lessons?**

**A** Communication, maths and English are developed throughout the whole course. Students work at their own pace and a lot of emphasis is placed on developing the skills they will need to achieve their individual goals and plans for adulthood.

**Q Can students do another course as well as this one?**

**A** No, the courses are full-time. Many students do work experience or volunteering alongside their attendance at College.

**Q Do students have to be able to travel independently before they are accepted at College?**

**A** No, this is not a requirement for entry to College. The College offers travel training while on the course for students who can benefit.

**Q Who organises transport?**

**A** Parents organise transport and may want to contact their home Local Authority for information. The College makes arrangements for transport for trips and visits during the College day.

**Q Do you provide Speech and Language Therapy?**

**A** Students are assessed prior to starting at College and speech and language therapy can be provided if the assessment indicates it is required.

**Q What can you offer for students with disabilities who able to study in a mainstream environment?**

**A** The College has a comprehensive Additional Support service that supports students with disabilities throughout the College. The service is available at both campuses and provides support for students with a range of additional needs.



# Contact us

We look forward to hearing from you if you would like further information. Contact our Customer Services staff and they will make sure you speak to one of the Centre managers.

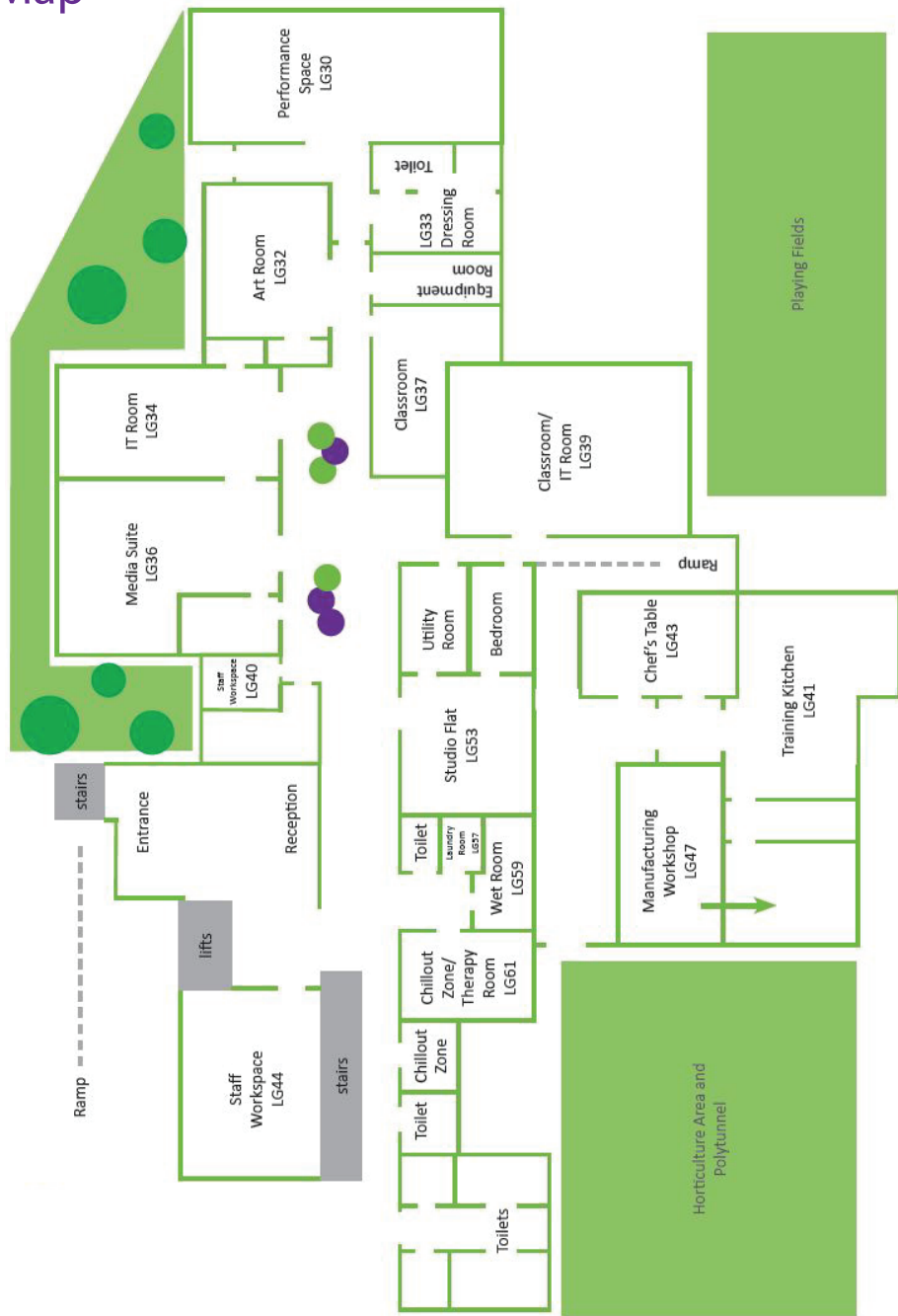
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This guide is available in alternative formats on request.



Map



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