

# ENSURING LEARNER PROGRESS HUDDERSFIELD NEW COLLEGE

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## THE COLLEGE

Huddersfield New College (HNC) is a leading further education institution in the Kirklees area. The college offers a wide range of A-level and Level 3 vocational courses, including health, social and early years care, science and mathematics, and sport.

HNC received an Ofsted outstanding grade for personal development, behaviour and welfare, and was the first college nationally to receive outstanding grades for all aspects of its' work.

Working with the Education and Training Foundation, HNC continue in the development of their study programme and ensure it supports learner progress effectively to maximise outcomes.

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## WINNING THE PROGRESSION RACE

To ensure students make progress throughout their time on their course, HNC have developed an approach focused around building a study programme for each learner that matches their academic ability and potential. It also takes into consideration their personal interests and career aspirations, and is designed to ensure that learners at the college:

- **Start well:** Build a strong foundation.
- **Sustain and accelerate:** Build on a strong start and drive forwards.
- **Finish strong:** Ensure there are clear routes to continue progression beyond the study programme.

### Start well:

Getting learners onto the right study programme from the start and making sure that learners have meaningful individual targets for achievement is vital to their success. HNC achieves this by:

- Open, transparent and differential entry criteria.
- A comprehensive admissions and enrolment process in which every applicant to HNC is interviewed twice.
- Employing a range of diagnostic, initial assessment tools to assess learners' skills and to identify appropriate individual support needs, which are provided from the outset.
- An induction programme that sets out the college's values and high expectations of learners.
- A 'change of course' window which includes additional assessment to inform any changes of course required.
- Aspirational minimum target grades (MTGs).

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## Accelerate and sustain:

Starting well is sustained through benchmarking and building momentum:

1. Regular and detailed assessment of learners' progress against their MTGs by curriculum staff. This includes seven formal progress monitoring points throughout the academic year.
2. This progress is shared with both students and their parents/carers.
3. Regular and forensic monitoring of attendance, punctuality, and progress by specialist progress tutors. Learners are encouraged, supported and challenged to meet and exceed their aspirational minimum target grades.
4. Timely interventions where there are concerns about progress, and there is the risk of under-achievement. One such example is the appointment of a Level 2 to 3 progression mentor who works with those most at risk of not progressing between the current levels of study. This helps ensure progression for the learner.
5. Sharing of interventions with parents/carers through an online parent/carer portal, ensuring they are aware of the interventions and can also provide support.

**“THE RICH AND  
VARIED  
CURRICULUM  
ENSURES  
LEARNERS ARE  
VERY WELL  
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THEIR FUTURE  
LEARNING AND  
EMPLOYMENT.”**

**Ofsted 2016**

## Finish strong

Students are also supported from their first day at the college to think about their next steps after their course, whether that be further academic study, an apprenticeship or employment. This ambition for their future is used as a motivating tool throughout their time at HNC.

Students attend a progression conference in Year 12, which includes a motivational speaker. This event is well supported by college staff, higher education institutions, and both local and national employers.

In addition to the progression conference, students can also attend: a science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) conference; a working options event; a range of university open

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days; local apprenticeship events; and visits/talks given by professionals from a range of fields including law, accountancy, the fire and rescue service, the police, the air ambulance service.

All students are offered the opportunity to pursue work experience or placements in a potential professional field of interest.

Progress tutors and the careers team also encourage students to focus on the finishing point of their course and to think 'What next?'

This comprehensive approach to supporting students to move successfully from college to their next steps, places them in a good position to make well informed decisions about their future.

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## IMPACT

In 2017, students secured the best advanced level results in HNC's recent history, securing a 99.6% pass rate for both A Level and Level 3 vocational courses. Of these 91.1% secured a Distinction\*/Distinction/ Merit grade profile, and 52% achieved the highly coveted Distinction\*/Distinction grade profile on Level 3 vocational courses.

65% of students overall achieved the gold standard A/A/B profile or equivalent.

Progression through and from HNC is consistently outstanding, with over 95% positive destinations. This includes progression between levels which is consistently strong. 75% of **both** academic and applied general cohorts progress directly to higher education (over 700 students) and 20% to other positive routes such as apprenticeships and employment.

Learners at HNC are in the top 20% nationally for student progress. This is outstanding.

**“THESE RESULTS ARE THE BEST EVER IN THE COLLEGE’S LONG HISTORY. OUR STUDENTS HAVE WORKED TREMENDOUSLY HARD FOR THESE RECORD BREAKING RESULTS. THEY SHOULD BE EXTREMELY PROUD OF THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS. WE ARE!”**

Angela Williams, Principal, Huddersfield New College