

Highbury College – Overview of Provision

The College

Highbury College is a large General Further Education College in Portsmouth, with a broad academic and vocational curriculum in thirteen subject areas. Full, part time, apprenticeship and traineeship programmes are delivered. Courses range from entry level to higher education. The College was inspected by Ofsted in May 2011; inspectors judged the College outstanding.

The College has six centres; five are located in Portsmouth and one in Leigh Park.

The College's Highbury Campus, delivers programmes in a wide range of curriculum areas: Automotive Studies; Engineering; Media; Performing Arts; Music Technology; Fashion; Art; Science; Pharmacy; Animal Studies; ICT; Business; Sport; Public Services; Hairdressing; Beauty; Literacy & Numeracy; and Education.

The College's Highbury Northharbour Centre is a state of the art centre for Construction and Building Services.

The College's Highbury City of Portsmouth Centre, situated in the heart of Portsmouth, provides work-rich learning environments in Hospitality & Catering, Travel & Tourism and Health & Early Years as well as Flexi IT, Literacy, Numeracy and ESOL programmes.

Highbury Arundel Centre provides real work environments in Hair & Beauty, and houses Express FM.

Marine Technology programmes are delivered from a specialist centre in Trafalgar Wharf.

The College's Apex Centre in Leigh Park is a dedicated centre for pre 16 programmes in Construction; pre 16 programmes in other vocational areas run at Highbury City of Portsmouth Centre and Highbury Campus.

Re engaging NEET/vulnerable young people

The College has a track record of re engaging young people who are NEET, including well established January start programmes which recruit well through close partnership working with the Integrated Targeted Youth Support Services and other local agencies, including the Youth Offending Team, Learning Links, Social Care and the Foyer.

The College also provides a wide range of additional provision for vulnerable students and those from under-represented groups. This includes:

- A “Back on Track” programme for students recovering from mental health difficulties.
- The Five Ways to Wellbeing Initiative developed by the College and successfully piloted with a number of groups to support student retention and success, particularly for students with mental health issues.
- A Prince’s Trust programme at Highbury Campus which has been awarded by the Trust a rating of outstanding.
- Programmes for students not yet ready for full-time College, Prepare 2 and Prepare 4 started which in September 2013.

All vulnerable students become part of the College Support to Achieve Programme which offers additional 1:1 support to enable students to stay on programme and succeed.

Highbury Employment and Careers Service

Highbury College Employment and Careers Services, run in partnership with Reed/NCFE, has been successful in engaging with employers and securing jobs for students. The partnership, which started in February 2013, resulted in 2012/13 in: over 740 vacancies taken from 339 unique employers 331 interviews attended by Highbury students registered with Reed NCFE and 240 students placed in employment.

The College Careers Advice Service delivers, via three qualified Careers Advisers, approximately 1500 1:1 guidance interviews and 150 aspiration raising class sessions to students and potential students. The service also offers support to the 250 plus students who apply for higher education, via UCAS, each year. The College Careers Advisers organise an annual College Higher Education Fair to which representatives from local higher education institutes are invited. These include Portsmouth, Chichester, Winchester, Sussex, Brighton and Surrey universities. Representatives from the professions are also invited to the Higher Education Fair to enable students to learn about graduate opportunities.

Work Experience/Work Related Learning and Social Enterprise

The College facilitates work experience and work related learning for many of its students. Work experience opportunities range from large scale events such as the “Highbury Handover Day”, during which Highbury students took over many of the job roles available at Port Solent, to individual curriculum related work placements such as those undertaken by animal and health and social care students.

The College is also developing Learning Companies which enable students to work on commercially led projects alongside their course curriculum.

In addition students at the College undertake a wide range of work related, voluntary and enrichment activities that provide students with many opportunities to develop their skills and self-confidence, as well as make a positive contribution to community life. For example: Hair & Beauty students run “pampering” days for community organisations and Construction students have renovated a local vicarage and fitted work stations for a local community group.

Students from a number of subject areas have undertaken real work related projects that contribute to business operations at Staunton Country Park; for example, Computing students provided IT support at the park.

Enterprise

As a member of the Gazelle group of Colleges Highbury is also committed to developing students’ entrepreneurial mind sets skills. To this end it has:

- Launched a student led Enterprise Society called Collective Futures
- Offered to students the “Gazelle Launcher” a unique new business start- up finance programme for entrepreneurs. This offers new business owners aged 18 -30 access to teaching, a supportive community, regular mentoring and start up funding.
- Developed Learning Companies which enable students to work on commercially led projects alongside their course curriculum.
- Facilitated entrepreneurship events, conferences and activities.

Work with employers.

Partnership working with employers is highly effective and benefits students. In 2012/13, the College worked with 666 employers and had 1998 sponsored students. In 2011/12 the College established a partnership with IBM for the delivery of apprenticeships; new partnerships were developed with Veolia and with Hampshire Constabulary for the delivery of their apprenticeships in 2012/13.

Partnership working with schools

The College has well developed links with local schools the purpose of which are to raise pupil aspirations and support progression. These include:

- The College’s extensive 14 to 16 programme, run in partnership with local schools. Some 450 pre 16 students studied at the College in 2012/13 on a wide range of programmes, including school link programmes with special schools for pupils with learning difficulties and disabilities.
- College provision of academic mentoring for secondary school pupils.
- College delivery of over 50 motivational presentations to year groups 9, 10 and 11. The presentations cover post-16 opportunities.
- College staff attendance at year 8 and 9 school options events to provide progression information.

- The provision of College based work experience placements for school pupils.
- Embedded entrepreneurship across the curriculum

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