



FULL-TIME GUIDE 2026

Full-Time • T Levels • Apprenticeships

WELCOME

Derwentside College is committed to delivering top-quality education and training to all our learners. We are dedicated to supporting your success every step of the way.

With strong partnerships across hundreds of employers, we will help you secure high quality employment or guide you towards further or higher education opportunities.

The Right Course for you

It is essential you receive advice and guidance before selecting a programme that is right for you. We have ensured every course we offer has clear entry requirements with a selection of progression routes. We are here to help you make the right career choice.

Entry Level

Entry level qualifications can help you boost your confidence, build new skills, increase your knowledge and progress to a Level 1 course. No qualifications are needed.

E

Level 1

To join a Level 1 course you will need GCSEs at Grades 2-1 or an entry level qualification. You can then progress to a Level 2 course in your chosen area of study.

1

If you don't have your maths & English we'll help you achieve this

2

Level 2

To join a Level 2 course you will need either a Level 1 qualification or Grade 3s at GCSE which includes English Language and maths. You can then progress to a Level 3 course in your chosen area of study or an Apprenticeship.

3

Level 3

To join a Level 3 course you will need a minimum of 4 GCSEs at Grade 4 or above, which includes English Language, maths or equivalent Level 2 qualification. You can then progress to University, to an Apprenticeship or employment.

T

T Levels

To join a T Level course you will need to be aged 16-19 and will need a minimum of 4 GCSEs at Grade 4 or above, which includes English Language and maths. T Levels provide skills to progress to your chosen career or University.

Derwentside College is part of the North East Institute of Technology (NEIoT), a partnership of colleges, universities and employers focused on delivering high-quality technical training. This means our students benefit from industry-aligned courses, modern facilities and strong employer links in sectors like engineering, construction, digital and advanced manufacturing. **All NEIoT courses in this guide will be clearly badged so you can easily spot programmes with these enhanced opportunities.**

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T-LEVELS

What are T-Levels?

T-levels are government-backed, career focused qualifications for learners aged 16-19.

How long do they last?

T-Levels (like A-levels) take place over 2 years.

What level are they?

T-Levels are technical qualifications equivalent to 3 A Levels.

How will my time be split?

You'll spend 80% of your time in the classroom and 20% on placement with one of our fantastic employers.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed in a range of ways, including, written examination, employer set project, group work, observation, activity planners and professional discussions.

What qualification will I gain?

You will gain a nationally recognised certificate showing your overall grade of pass, merit, distinction or distinction*.

What can I progress on to?

You can choose to move onto a:

- Skilled occupation
- Higher or Degree level apprenticeship
- Higher Education at University

KEY BENEFITS...

T-levels are Career Focused Enabling you to:

- Gain industry experience
- Get a nationally recognised qualification
- Earn UCAS points
- Get real knowledge of your chosen career
- Build vital skills, such as teamwork and communication for your future career

During the 2-year programme, you will develop the core knowledge and skills that are needed to enter your chosen occupation.

We offer T-Levels in...

Digital Software Development
Education and Early Years
Building Services Engineering
Engineering Design & Development
Health



T-LEVELS
THE NEXT LEVEL QUALIFICATION

T Level Grade	UCAS Points
Distinction *	168
Distinction	144
Merit	120
Pass	96

BEAUTY THERAPY

These courses will prepare you for a career in the popular and highly demanding beauty therapy industry. Our courses will also develop your creativity and skills leading to a wide range of employment opportunities, for example in salons, health spas and on cruise liners.

WHAT CAN I STUDY?

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Beauty Therapy	✓	✓	✓

CAREERS IN BEAUTY THERAPY

- Aromatherapist
- Make-Up Artist/ Media Make-Up
- Reflexologist
- Beauty Therapist
- Nail Technician
- Spa or Salon Manager

Progress to higher education or work in your chosen career

THE RETREAT
HAIR & BEAUTY



SUPPORT

Uniform will be provided for this course



EXPERIENCE

You will work in our salon - The Retreat and visit high-end spas throughout the region

Find out more about our courses



CATERING & HOSPITALITY

There are many occupations in the Catering and Hospitality industry. With demand for skilled chefs and hospitality specialists, studying catering and hospitality at Derwentside College will enable you to put your skills into practice, leading to many exciting employment opportunities.

WHAT CAN I STUDY?

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Catering & Hospitality	✓	✓	✓

CAREERS IN CATERING & HOSPITALITY

- Catering Manager
- Head Chef
- Sommelier
- Chef
- Hospitality Manager
- Sous Chef

STEEL
HOUSE
BISTRO



EXPERIENCE

Gain experience in our restaurant Steel House Bistro



SUPPORT

Uniform will be provided for this course

Find out more about our courses



CONSTRUCTION

If you're thinking about a career within the building industry and are keen to develop your skills in one of the related trades, there has never been a better time. Gain skills in Bricklaying, Carpentry and Joinery, Flooring, Groundworks, Highways or Roofing.

WHAT CAN I STUDY?

	Level 1	Level 2	Apprenticeship Level 2
Multi-Craft Construction	✓		
Bricklaying	✓	✓	✓
Carpentry & Joinery	✓	✓	✓
Groundworks			✓
Roofing			✓
Floorlaying			✓
Highways Maintenance			✓

CAREERS IN CONSTRUCTION

- Bricklayer
- Building Surveyor
- Carpet Fitter and Floor Layer
- Construction Manager
- Roofer
- Wood Machinist

Progress to an apprenticeship, higher education or work in your chosen career



FREE

You will receive
FREE PPE
for this course



EXPERIENCE

Gain hands-on
practical experience in
a wide-range of trades

Find out more
about our courses



DIGITAL, COMPUTING & IT

The North East has the fastest growing Tech Industry outside of London. There are over 35,000 Digital Tech jobs and the sector has grown by 45% in the last 5 years. If you want to explore emerging technologies, develop software and web applications or investigate cybersecurity then these courses are for you.

WHAT CAN I STUDY?

	Level 1	Level 2	T Level (Level 3)	Apprenticeship Level 3
Digital, Computing & IT	✓	✓		
Digital Software Development			✓	
Information, Communication Technician				✓

CAREERS IN DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

- AI Developer
- Cloud Architect
- Cyber Intelligence Officer
- Data Scientist
- Network Engineer
- Software Developer
- Computer Games Developer
- Forensic Computer Analyst
- Web Developer

Use the T Level to progress to a degree, apprenticeship or course of study at a higher level



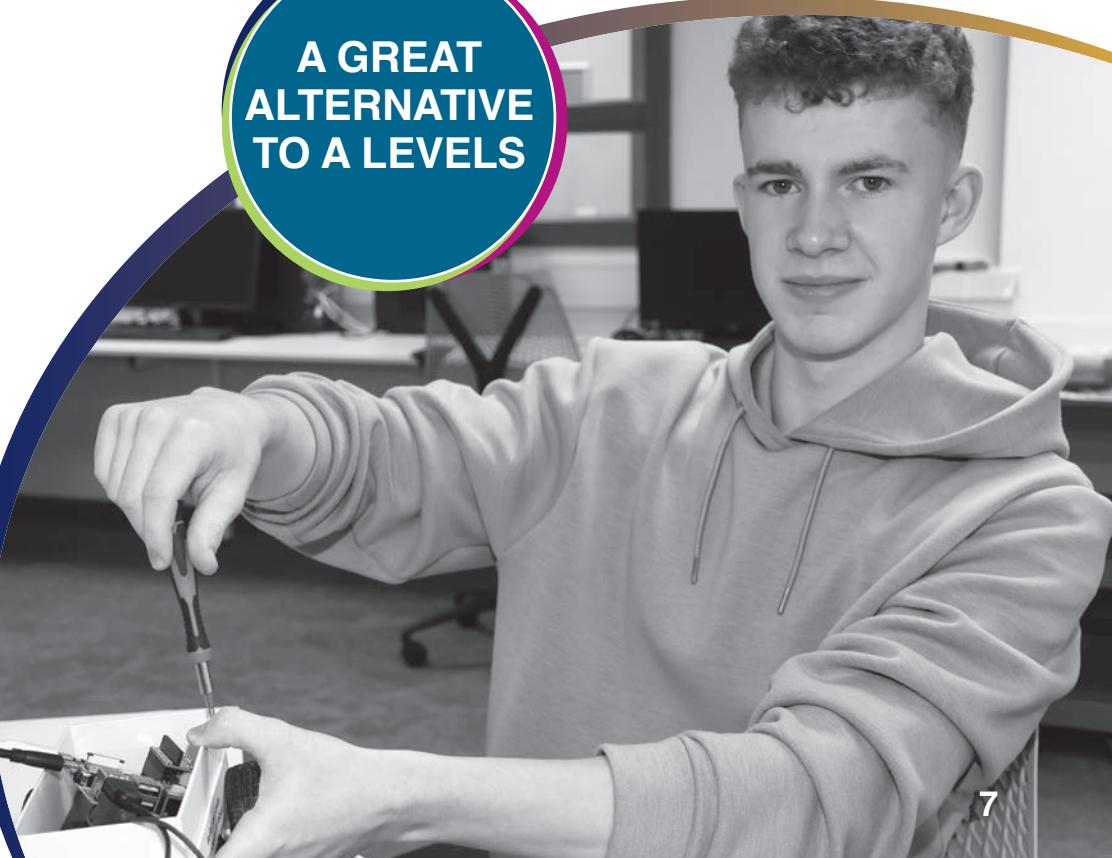
EXPERIENCE

Learn in our fantastic digital facilities. Take part in technology focused trips

Find out more about our courses



A GREAT
ALTERNATIVE
TO A LEVELS



EDUCATION & EARLY YEARS

If you are interested in working with children or young people then our courses will enable you to study a range of exciting topics. You will also have the opportunity to gain practical, hands-on experience in a wide range of childcare settings such as nurseries and schools.

WHAT CAN I STUDY?

	Level 1	Level 2	T Level Level 3	Apprenticeship Level 2	Apprenticeship Level 3
Education and Early Years	✓	✓		✓	✓
Education and Early Years			✓		
Teaching & Learning					✓

CAREERS IN EDUCATION & CHILDCARE

- Early Years Practitioner
- Learning Support Worker
- Teacher
- Learning Mentor
- SEN Teacher
- Teaching Assistant

Use the T Level to progress to a degree, apprenticeship or course of study at a higher level



A GREAT
ALTERNATIVE
TO A LEVELS



EXPERIENCE

Work placement opportunities
(Help at our play group Little Learners)

Find out more
about our courses



ENGINEERING

Studying Engineering can lead to a variety of exciting careers, with both local and national organisations. Studying with Derwentside College will ensure that you train in excellent workshop facilities, with the most up-to-date equipment enabling you to specialise in your chosen discipline.

WHAT CAN I STUDY?

	Level 1	Level 2	T Level (Level 3)	HNC Level 4	Apprenticeship Level 2	Apprenticeship Level 3
Engineering	✓	✓			✓	✓
Electrical Installation	✓	✓				✓
Building Services Engineering				✓		
Engineering Design & Development				✓		
HNC Engineering					✓	

CAREERS IN ENGINEERING

- CAD Technician
- Electrical Engineer
- Mechanical Engineering Technician
- Civil Engineer
- Engineering Maintenance Technician
- Quantity Surveyor

Use the T Level to progress to a degree, apprenticeship or course of study at a higher level



EXPERIENCE

Specialise in your chosen vocational area in the College's extensive workshops



FREE

You will receive FREE PPE for this course

Find out more about our courses



A GREAT
ALTERNATIVE
TO A LEVELS

HAIRDRESSING

If you are looking for a rewarding career, have an artistic flair and want to be part of a creative industry, then we will set you up to thrive in hairdressing. With the sector set to grow in future years, there has never been a better time to come and develop your skills.

WHAT CAN I STUDY?

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Hairdressing	✓	✓	✓

CAREERS IN HAIRDRESSING

- Colourist
- Hairpiece Specialist
- Salon Owner
- Hairdresser
- Salon Manager
- Senior Hair Stylist

Progress to higher education or work in your chosen career

THE RETREAT
HAIR & BEAUTY



SUPPORT

Uniform will be provided for this course



EXPERIENCE

You will work in our salon - The Retreat

Find out more about our courses



HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

During your studies you will gain a broad understanding of numerous health and social care issues, such as promoting health and well-being and physical aspects of health. You will also be given the opportunity to work in a variety of care settings, gaining vital practical experience.

WHAT CAN I STUDY?

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	T Level (Level 3)	Apprenticeship Level 2	Apprenticeship Level 3
Health & Social Care	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Health				✓		

CAREERS IN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

- Counsellor
- Dietitian
- Healthcare Assistant
- Midwife
- Nurse
- Occupational Therapist
- Paramedic
- Physio Therapist
- Social Worker

Use the T Level to progress to a degree, apprenticeship or course of study at a higher level



EXPERIENCE

Industry placement opportunities with the NHS

Find out more about our courses



A GREAT
ALTERNATIVE
TO A LEVELS

VOCATIONAL STUDIES

The Vocational Studies programme is designed for learners with SEN who may not yet feel ready for a full-time vocational course and who would benefit from additional, structured learning support. This course focuses on supporting learners to develop their personal, social, and practical skills, helping to build confidence and independence while preparing for further education, training, or employment.

Throughout the course, learners are supported by a dedicated personal tutor with specialist experience in SEN provision. Individualised support plans are used to ensure learning is adapted to meet each learner's needs, strengths, and aspirations, enabling them to work towards their personal goals and future progression.

There are no formal qualifications required to join this course.
The programme will be designed to meet your learning needs and ensure that you are able to achieve qualifications which will help you to progress.

WHAT COULD I DO AFTER THIS COURSE?

You can progress to the Ace Programme or a Level 1 Study Programme such as:

Beauty Therapy • Catering & Hospitality • Construction • Digital Education & Early Years • Engineering • Hairdressing • Health & Social Care



EXPERIENCE

Participate in a wide range of enrichment activities and taster sessions

Find out more about our courses



THE ACE PROGRAMME

The ACE (Aspirational, Careers, Employability) Programme, is a Level 1 full time study programme that gives you the vocational and study skills to enable you to progress to a Level 2 course, an apprenticeship or employment.

You will attend sessions in your chosen vocational areas to gain skills and knowledge of working and training in the relevant subject.

The ACE Programme will enable you to build a personalised learning package, using both your own goals and an assessment of your skills.

Learners will also attend weekly Maths and English sessions to GCSE or Functional skill level.

Vocational areas include:

Beauty Therapy • Care • Catering • Construction • Education & Early Years • Hairdressing • Digital

WHAT COULD I DO AFTER THIS COURSE?

This course will provide you with a broad range of knowledge, understanding and skills and open pathways to higher level courses within the College, various job roles or in preparation for an apprenticeship.



EXPERIENCE

Participate in a wide range of enrichment activities and taster sessions

Find out more about our courses



APPRENTICESHIPS

Apprenticeships offer a unique blend of hands-on work experience and classroom learning, providing you with the opportunity to earn while you learn. Designed to develop both practical skills and theoretical knowledge, our apprenticeships prepare you for a successful career in your chosen industry. With strong employer partnerships and real-world training, you'll gain valuable industry insights and qualifications, all while progressing towards your professional goals. Whether you're looking to start a new career or advance in your current field, an apprenticeship is a great pathway to future success.

We offer Apprenticeships in the following areas:

Bricklaying	Floorlayer
Business Administration	Groundworker
Carpentry and Joinery	Health & Social Care
Construction	Healthcare Support Services
Customer Service	Highways Maintenance
Digital	Manufacturing
Early Years	Roofing
Electrical Installation	Teaching Assistant
Engineering	



SCAN TO SEE
OUR CURRENT
APPRENTICESHIP
VACANCIES



Sophie Lockeron

T Level in Education and Early Years

“ I really enjoyed my time at St Bede's School, which inspired me to pursue a career working with children and supporting their development. I chose to study a T Level because it offers hands-on experience in a school setting that other courses don't provide. Before enrolling, I attended an open event at Derwentside College and met the tutors, which confirmed that this was the right path for me.

My favourite part of the course is the work placement element. Last year, I was based in a Reception class at Delves Lane Primary School, and this year I'm working with a Year 4 class. These experiences have given me a fantastic insight into how schools operate and how children learn at different stages. It's made me even more determined to become a teacher, and I'm hoping to study Primary Education at the University of Sunderland in September. ”



T-LEVELS
THE NEXT LEVEL QUALIFICATION



Jack Carr

T Level Digital

“ After finishing my GCSEs at St Bede's School, I went to another college to study Construction, but I quickly realised it just wasn't for me. I've always been interested in computers and how they work, so I started looking for something that suited me better. When I visited Derwentside College's open event, I met the tutors and got a feel for the course. Everyone was really welcoming, and I could tell straight away it was the right place for me. The tutors are really supportive and always happy to help, which makes a big difference.

I'm not 100% sure what I want to do in the future yet - I've thought about maybe joining the military - but I'm keeping my options open. For now, I'm enjoying learning new digital skills and seeing where it might take me. ”



T-LEVELS
THE NEXT LEVEL QUALIFICATION

WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY...



Jamil Jahed

T Level in Design and Development for Mechanical Engineering

“ I completed my Level 2 qualification at another college but wanted to progress further and achieve my Level 3. After researching my options, I chose Derwentside College because it offered the course I was looking for. I had previously tried using CAD (Computer-Aided Design) and really enjoyed it. I believe that CAD is the future of engineering, and this inspired me to pursue the T Level in Design and Development for Mechanical Engineering.

I am really enjoying the course so far. The staff are very supportive and the facilities are industry standard, providing a great environment for learning and development. I am hoping to go to university to study engineering and continue building my skills and knowledge in the field. ”



T-LEVELS
THE NEXT LEVEL QUALIFICATION



Marcus Williams

NHC Engineering

“ I've worked for an engineering company in Darlington for over four years. Before joining this company, I worked in a different area of engineering but wanted a role that offered more hands-on experience. My apprenticeship has really supported my development, and I'm now in my second year of an HNC with Derwentside College. The college has been incredibly supportive, and the tutors are extremely knowledgeable. I'm really enjoying the chance to build new skills. After completing my HNC, I hope to continue progressing my career within the mechanical engineering industry. ”



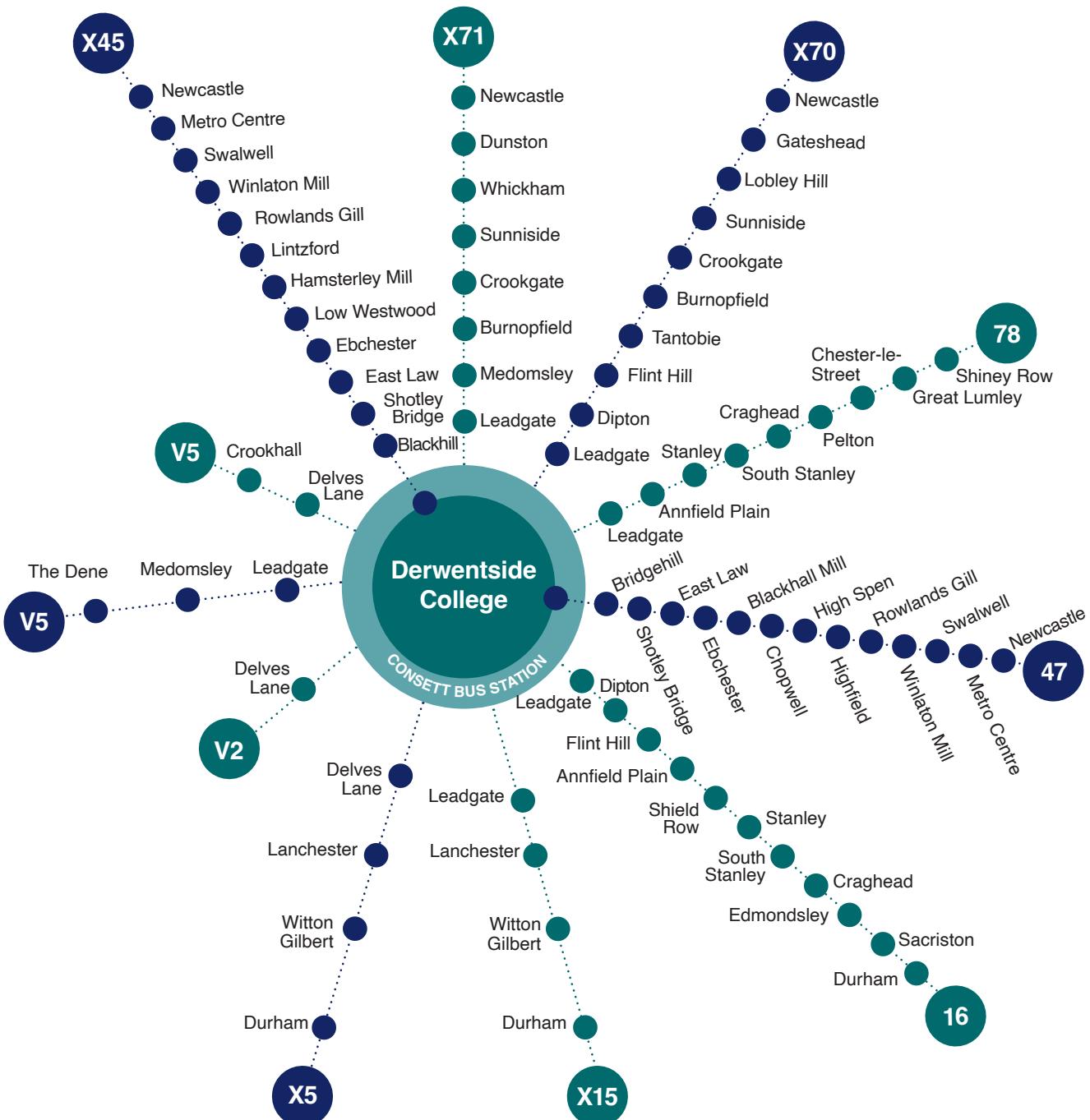
FANTASTIC FACILITIES

We have been busy making the college an even better place to learn, with over £2.2 million investment in state-of-the-art facilities in engineering, digital, new labs, and ward facilities.



TRAVEL SUPPORT

Eligible full-time 16-18 year old learners will receive support with travel costs to College and to work placements.



STUDENT LIFE - ENRICHMENT

Learners will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of enrichment activities, such as trips, talks by guest speakers, and inter-college competitions. Get the most out of your time with us!



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Eligible full-time 16-18 year old learners may receive support with:

Travel

Books and Stationery

Meals

Specialist equipment

Uniform

Childcare



LEARNER SUPPORT

College life encourages learners to become more independent and develop the personal organisational skills needed for everyday life. The transition from school to college can be a big step for some learners, but we are here to support you every step of the way.

Our expert tutors are dedicated to giving our learners the best possible start to their choice of career. Our **Student Progression Coordinators** at the college are a dedicated team who provide guidance, support and supervision to enhance the quality of the college experience for students by supporting a range of social and emotional issues which may be impacting on progress and attendance. This includes managing mental health and developing resilience to achieve their academic goals.

EXPERT CAREERS GUIDANCE

Derwentside College is dedicated to providing excellence in career guidance to all learners. The College Careers Advisors are based in the Student Hub. This space is open for students to drop in and speak to careers advisors to plan their career path. If you would like to book a careers appointment, please call **01207 585900** or email enquiries@derwentside.ac.uk



Follow Us...



OPEN EVENTS

Check our website for dates
www.derwentside.ac.uk

Visit us for advice on your **NEXT STEP...**

- Chat to our expert teaching staff
- See our fantastic facilities
- Receive impartial Careers Advice and Guidance
- Find out about our Full-Time and Apprenticeship offer

A great alternative to A Levels

Find out more

www.derwentside.ac.uk/events
or call **01207 585900**

Explore • Experience • Enrol...

