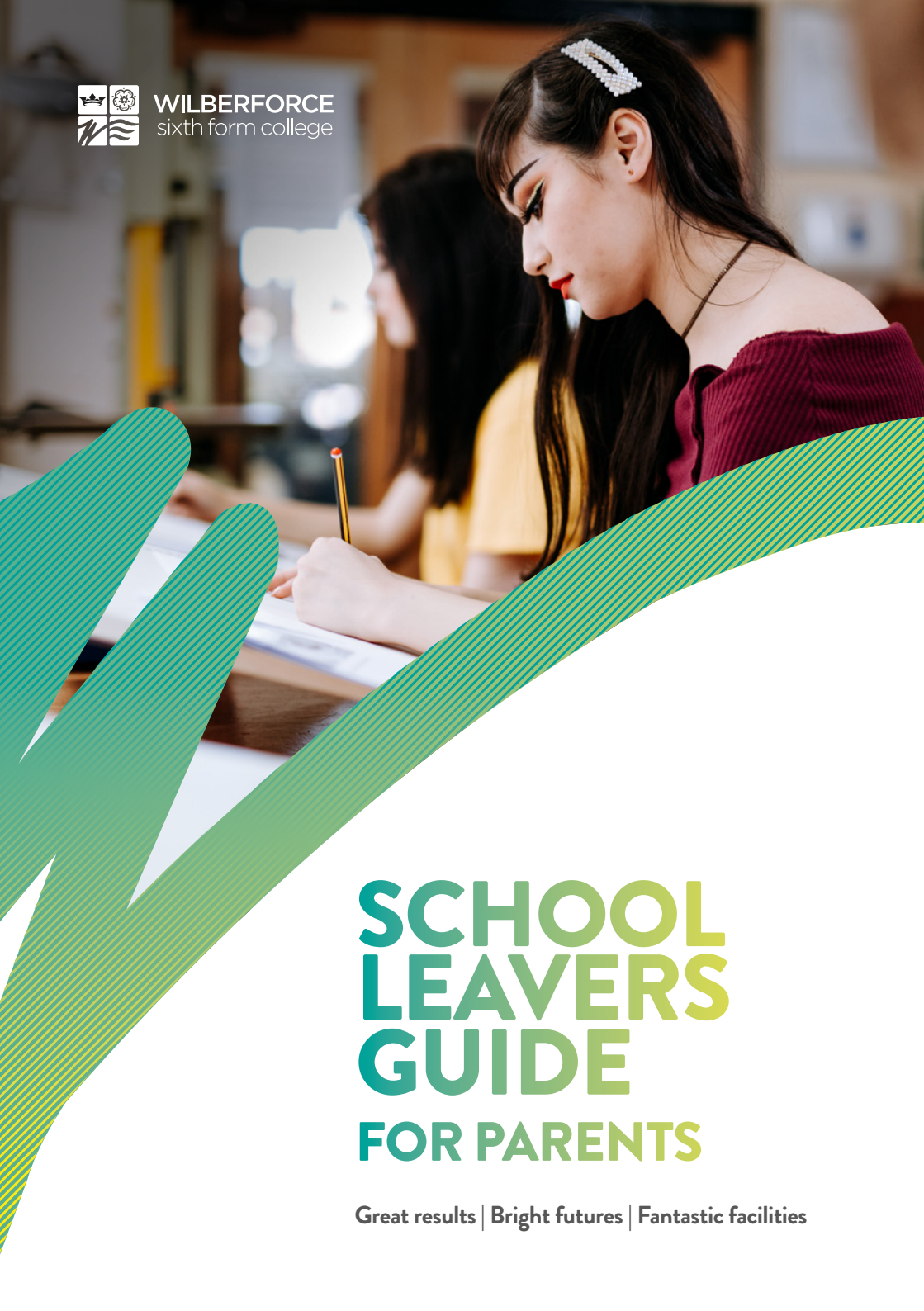




**WILBERFORCE**  
sixth form college



# SCHOOL LEAVERS GUIDE FOR PARENTS

Great results | Bright futures | Fantastic facilities

# WELCOME TO WILBERFORCE SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

## WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT YOUR CHILD HAS CHOSEN TO STUDY WITH US.

Our College vision is 'creating brighter futures' and we aim for all our students to leave us as well-rounded individuals ready for further academic study or the world of work.

We encourage parents and carers to support our students and celebrate all their successes. This guide provides information that will help you ensure your child gets the best from Wilberforce College.

My colleagues and I look forward to working with you to help your child achieve their full potential.

**COLIN PEAKS, PRINCIPAL**



## OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH YOU

We believe communication between the College and the home is vital to students' achievement. We will contact you via email if there are any concerns about attendance, punctuality or behaviour, and welcome any concerns or queries you may have about your child's progress.

It is essential you provide us with a correct email address in order to maintain contact.

## OUR CORE VALUES

- We conduct ourselves **with integrity and respect for all**
- We make our **students' experience central**
- We value **individuals and promote self-esteem**
- We work **as a team**
- We encourage **innovation, creativity and enjoyment**
- We aim for **excellence in everything we do**

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# STUDY PROGRAMMES

## MAIN PROGRAMMES

1

Over 70 courses to choose from including A Level, T Level and vocational courses. See more of our courses at [www.wilberforce.ac.uk/courses](http://www.wilberforce.ac.uk/courses)

2

**Work experience:** Every learner has multiple opportunities to learn from employers about work, employment and the skills that are valued in the workplace.

3

**Upskilling Programme (personal development):** This Programme (USP) provides students the opportunity to get ahead of their competitors by gaining additional skills enabling them to grab those prime places at university or in employment.



### MICROSOFT SHOWCASE COLLEGE

We are the first sixth form college in the UK to be awarded Microsoft Showcase College status, following our digital learning transformation. We led the way during the remote learning periods in 2020 and 2021, implementing a transformative digital platform. The award recognises the College's commitment to educational transformation, which includes vision and innovation in teaching, learning and assessment, computational and critical thinking, creativity and collaboration, and a willingness to promote a growth mindset among educators and students.



### ED TECH DEMONSTRATOR

We are proud to be named as a national leader in digital learning by the Department for Education and to be recognised as a fully digital hub. The Ed Tech Demonstrator Programme includes a network of schools and colleges who exhibit effective practice in the use of technology. The programme was announced to boost peer-to-peer support on the effective use of technology and has now been tailored to help schools and colleges provide education remotely.



## NEW FOR 2021 T LEVELS

T Levels are a new, two-year, technical study programme designed with employers to give young people the skills that industry needs. They are career-focused, with a significant industry placement allowing students to develop the knowledge and skills they need to compete for the best university places, higher/degree apprenticeships and highly skilled careers.

A T Level qualification, equivalent to three A Levels, is for students who are academically strong and ambitious and want to get ahead in high-level technical occupations, providing next-level skills for next level jobs.

Students will get a feel for what a real career is like, whilst still experiencing college life, as 80% of the course is classroom-based learning and the other 20% is in the workplace.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON  
OUR T LEVEL COURSES, VISIT:  
[www.wilberforce.ac.uk/T-Levels](http://www.wilberforce.ac.uk/T-Levels)

**80% CLASS  
WORK**   
**20% REAL  
WORK** 





# WHAT IS EXPECTED OF OUR STUDENTS?

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Excellent attendance and punctuality is key for students to succeed in their studies and develop vital, employable skills.

### TO ACHIEVE THIS, WE:

- Set high expectations for attendance and punctuality
- Work with parents and carers to ensure these expectations are met
- Monitor and take action to improve attendance and punctuality where necessary
- Monitor and track all absence to identify students who require intervention or support

### ABSENCE REPORTING

- Parents' & Carers (or students 18 years+) must inform the reception of any absences before the first timetabled class
- Only a small number of absence reasons will be authorised, with supporting evidence
- Parents' & Carers will receive weekly attendance reports via the email address provided
- We will follow up with meetings and letters home if we have concerns about attendance.

IF A STUDENTS' ATTENDANCE FALLS SHORT OF EXPECTATION, THEY RISK LOSING THEIR PLACE AT THE COLLEGE.

### KEEPING YOU INFORMED

We will update you on your child's progress via a performance report each half term. This will include assessments of:

- Attendance
- Behaviour
- Attitudes to learning
- Completion of independent study

## VESPA

Success depends on our students' habits, routines, attitudes and approaches to their studies. Behaviours, not intelligence, determines results. We expect students to embrace the VESPA mindset to help them become the best they can be.

**VESPA** stands for **VISION, EFFORT, SYSTEMS, PRACTICE** and **ATTITUDE** and is a mindset that will help improve your child's success.

### V IS FOR VISION:

We will help your child understand what their visions, aims and goals for the future are and how to achieve them.

### E IS FOR EFFORT:

Students are set regular homework/independent study to reinforce learning and allow teachers to see how they are progressing.

### S IS FOR SYSTEMS:

Students need to take an active approach to learning and it is critical they engage with the action planning and target setting process.

### P IS FOR PRACTICE:

Students need to develop skills to practise and simulate exam experiences as much as possible in order to progress.

### A IS FOR ATTITUDE:

Being at college is very different from being at school and requires a positive, responsible attitude to work.

Along with this mindset we have high expectations of independent study each week.

Find out more about our study spaces and online resources here [www.wilberforce.ac.uk/about/explore-the-campus](http://www.wilberforce.ac.uk/about/explore-the-campus)



**BEST RESULTS  
CONSECUTIVELY  
SINCE THE  
COLLEGE  
OPENED IN 1988**

## FACILITIES

Our spacious university-style campus offers fully equipped classrooms, kitted out with the latest technology. Industry-standard workshops are complemented by state-of-the-art facilities which we have built to the highest specification.

We have recently invested in a new simulation care unit (specifically designed for practical sessions on the T Level Health course), a brand-new high-tech performance theatre, and are looking to develop more areas - such as a new digital hub.

Check out our 360 tour of the college here  
<https://wilberforce.ac.uk/about/explore-the-campus/>

### FACILITIES-SUPPORTED LEARNING:

- Free WiFi
- Subsidised travel
- Healthy meal options
- Gym membership
- Electronic/learning devices
- Microsoft 365 & Adobe access
- Hair & beauty discount at ReStyle and ReTreat

## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

There are no enrolment fees and attending college is completely free for students aged 16-18 (students must be under 19 on the 31st August immediately before they start their course). Course materials and exam entries are also free.

For students who need financial help to continue with their studies, support is available.

Find out more here:  
[www.wilberforce.ac.uk/parents/finance](https://www.wilberforce.ac.uk/parents/finance)

## DISCRETIONARY BURSARY

Eligibility is dependent upon household income. An application form must be completed. Help is provided via meal cards and bus passes. If required, students can also apply to get help with trips, placements, some course equipment and university applications.



## ADDITIONAL LEARNING SUPPORT SERVICE

The Study Centre is a calm and quiet working environment for students to focus on their studies and our Study Support Tutors are always on hand to help. We have a large team of experienced and trained staff who work to support specific needs, with services including:

- Additional 1:1 support session - offered weekly and available for all levels and subjects
- Help with planning essays and assignments, general literacy and numeracy support and support to improve time management, revision and organisation skills
- In class support and specialist help for students with SEND, dyslexia, medical/physical conditions
- Special exam arrangements
- A range of assistive technology software and resources to enable access and inclusion
- Liaison with parents pre and post enrolment to ensure necessary support in place

**For more information or to further discuss your child's support needs, email the Study Support Manager**  
Jill Naylor: [jn@wilberforce.ac.uk](mailto:jn@wilberforce.ac.uk)



## THE LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE

The Learning Resource Centre is perfect for independent study and taking time to navigate round the 19,000 resources we have available for you to loan - including fiction and non-fiction, novels, E books, magazines and much more.

When your child begins studying at Wilberforce they will be given printing credit, which will be replenished every term.

## CAREERS

### What students can expect:

The Careers Team are fully qualified Level 6, to support students from a range of backgrounds to access successful future opportunities.

- Impartial careers advice
- Information on study routes
- Information on how to progress to the next level of courses
- Advice and guidance on applying to university, apprenticeships or jobs
- Information on the job market and how to prepare for interviews

**For further details or to book a free appointment, email Careers Manager Sarah Didsbury: [sld@wilberforce.ac.uk](mailto:sld@wilberforce.ac.uk)**



## WORK EXPERIENCE

Our Employability Team have developed excellent relationships with local, regional, and national employers and will recommend businesses that can provide quality, relevant work experience for your child.

### The benefits of work experience include:

- Being prioritised for future jobs and apprenticeships
- Training with great local employers
- Enhancing university applications
- Building confidence and self-esteem

Students will be assigned a dedicated Work Placement Co-ordinator who will ensure they get the most out of their placement and that it matches their career ambitions. They will also receive a travel card to help them get to their work placement each day

**Discuss what opportunities we may have for your child by emailing Employer Engagement Manager Wendy Macadam: [wm@wilberforce.ac.uk](mailto:wm@wilberforce.ac.uk)**

# TAKING THEM TO HIGHER EDUCATION

## WHAT IS HIGHER EDUCATION?

Higher Education (HE) refers to any qualification studied at Level 4 or above, i.e. - qualifications taken after A Levels or Level 3 vocational courses.

A well-known route is studying for a degree at a university, however there are many HE qualifications that allow young people to study alongside a work placement or in the workplace such as Higher Apprenticeships, HNDs/ HNCs and Foundation Degrees.

## BENEFITS OF HIGHER EDUCATION INCLUDE:

- Access to a wider range of jobs and a higher salary
- Transferable skills for work and adult life
- Opportunities to try new activities and meet new people
- Opportunities to gain real work experience whilst studying
- Increased confidence through presenting work and working in teams

## APPLYING TO HIGHER EDUCATION

The first step is to decide what and where to study. Key things to consider are:

- What subjects they are good at and interested in
- What courses would help them achieve their career plans
- How they like to learn
- The facilities, price and support available from different education providers



# SAFEGUARDING

## WE TAKE THE SAFEGUARDING AND WELFARE OF OUR STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY SERIOUSLY.

We have an extensive safeguarding protocol in place, which aims to provide a safe and supportive environment for all learners. Our designated Safeguarding Team can support students, families, and staff.

All our staff have undertaken safeguarding training and can identify any students who may be at risk of safeguarding issues. If they recognise a concern or are informed of an issue by a student or third party, they have a duty and responsibility to make these known to one of the designated Safeguarding Team.

We encourage and expect our students, staff and parents to report their concerns to our Safeguarding Team to enable us to respond to issues quickly. Fast action can save lives.

For more information on our safeguarding measures please visit [www.wilberforce.ac.uk/parents/staying-safe](http://www.wilberforce.ac.uk/parents/staying-safe)



## ACADEMIC MENTORS

Every student will have an Academic Mentor. Students will attend weekly group tutorials, one to one learner progress meetings and have the opportunity to work closely with their mentor on key areas such as university, apprenticeship and job applications. As well as this wrap around support mentors offer the students, they will work with the individual to ensure they reach their fullest potential.



## CURRICULUM SUPPORT MENTORS

We also have a team of Curriculum Support Mentors who are all ex-Wilberforce students currently studying at the University of Hull. They attend the College one day per week and provide support, including subject-specific support and help with organisation, planning and exam revision. They are excellent role models to students who might be considering university study.



## GETTING TO US

We have seven dedicated bus routes around East Yorkshire, including pick-ups in Hull, Wawne, Cottingham, Willerby, Kirk Ella, Anlaby, Hessle, Withernsea and Hornsea.

We review our bus routes every year to ensure they serve all the areas our students come from. If your child is thinking about coming to Wilberforce College next year but you're not sure if there will be a bus that suits, please contact us on **01482 711688** or email [enquiries@wilberforce.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@wilberforce.ac.uk).



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FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT

OUR BUS ROUTES PLEASE VISIT

[WWW.WILBERFORCE.AC.UK/WHY-WILBERFORCE/GETTING-HERE](http://WWW.WILBERFORCE.AC.UK/WHY-WILBERFORCE/GETTING-HERE).





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**wilberforce.ac.uk**

**#WilberforceForYourFuture**

   **@wilberforce\_sfc**

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