

PARENT GUIDE

INNOVATING
EDUCATION
SINCE 1843



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We look forward to welcoming your young person in September to start their study programme. In the meantime, we recommend your young person familiarises themselves with some of the key areas of the college:

- **Chaplaincy**
- **Student Support**
- **Wellbeing**
- **Enrichment Options**
- **Work Experience**
- **Careers Extra**

They have received a conditional offer to study with us - what's next?

Whilst you wait for your young person's results, we will be working hard behind the scenes to make their classes exciting and engaging, lining up work experience opportunities, and organising interesting trips and guest speakers.

Once your young person has finished their exams, we will invite them to attend one of our welcome days. This is where they will hear from our senior leadership about what it is like to study at college and expectations around their chosen programme (whether vocational or A Level). They will also have the opportunity to visit classrooms, their lecturers and speak to other students with whom they will be studying with in September.

Over the summer your young person will be invited to start the final steps of enrolment with us, which will culminate in them submitting their results on results day in August. This is also a good time to discuss any concerns about grades. Don't worry if your child hasn't achieved what they had hoped – there is always a solution! We offer over 350+ courses at different levels, so there's something for everyone at New College Swindon.

It is essential that your young person completes all elements of enrolment to confirm their place on their choice of course/subjects.

College Life

Within the first few weeks of term, students will be invited to our annual 'Freshers Fair' in the main areas of the college. Here, interactive activities will take place to help them meet new people and discover new passions. These events often have themes and offer plenty of opportunities to get lots of freebies. We also invite local employers in to speak to our students about work experience opportunities, local issues, and more. The fun doesn't stop here, though. Our Enrichment Coordinator plans exciting activities throughout the year in line with national days and holidays.



Stay in the Loop

Once your young person has enrolled and is officially a New College Swindon student, you will have access to Parent Portal. Parent Portal gives you the opportunity to follow the progress of your young person throughout their time at the college. You'll be able to see their attendance, punctuality, timetable, targets, mark books, exam entries, and progress reviews throughout the year.

Although we promote independence, we advise maintaining a regular dialogue with your young person. We suggest that:

- You are familiar with their timetable
- Any part-time work is under 12 hours a week. Our students are full-time and expected to study a minimum of 30.5 hours per week. In addition, they will be engaged with enrichment activities and work experience, which should be considered when applying for a part-time position
- Students take part in enrichment activities. This helps them build experiences, explore new hobbies and practice the things they enjoy
- Your young person has a quiet, distraction-free study space. This may vary. Some like to study in their room, local library or college library. We would recommend that this isn't their bedroom as this sometimes makes it difficult to "switch off".

Financial Support

We have loans and bursaries available to help your young person with the additional costs of studying. This could be for travel to and from college, books, equipment, trips, or free school meals. For more information visit Financial Support on the New College Swindon website or email: studentservices@newcollege.ac.uk.

Careers Support and Careers Extra

Our Careers Support Programme offers students talks, workshops and fairs throughout the year, during tutorial time to help develop the skills and attributes needed to progress into the world of work.

Some examples include:

- Identifying their skills
- Options after college
- How to behave in the workplace
- CV writing, application advice and job searching
- Budgeting, tax and finance.

Careers Extra is an ethos we have across the college. It puts careers at the forefront of our approach and combines the experiences for all students across the college. The collaborative approach means we have an aspirational curriculum that focuses on more than just the qualifications.



Your young person's wellbeing is of vital importance and supported by our Mental Health and Wellbeing Team

New College Swindon has a dedicated Mental Health and Wellbeing Team at both campuses, with support available from Mental Health and Wellbeing Mentors, Counsellors, and Intervention Coaches.

We are also proud to have been awarded the national 'Young People Friendly' award. We have qualified nurses who provide general health advice, first-aid, help and support with medical conditions, and referrals to specialist services.

If a student has stated on their application that they require mental health and wellbeing support, they will be sent an email with a link to a self-referral form. Once completed they will be invited in for a tour of the wellbeing area and given an opportunity to meet their Wellbeing Mentors.

If your young person has not yet let us know that they feel they may need support, please don't worry, any student can self-refer at any point throughout their time at college. Our team of Wellbeing Mentors will also be present at both of the Welcome Days and Enrolment to introduce themselves and guide students through the process.

For further information, email wellbeing@newcollege.ac.uk.

In addition, we work closely with an organisation called Togetherall to provide 24/7 online support for those who may be struggling with how they feel and we have recently launched, in partnership with Nationwide, The Mindful Apprentice, aimed at supporting the mental health and wellbeing of students.

We understand college can be overwhelming. If your young person is feeling particularly anxious about coming to college, or needs support whilst they're here, they can ask their study mentor/classroom teacher about a study buddy.

Our multi-faith Chaplaincy Team can support students with information and advice on faith issues and can be a friendly listening ear at times of personal loss or difficulty. They also have links to local faith communities in Swindon. Email the team on chaplaincy@newcollege.ac.uk.

Additional Learning Support

If your young person has a Special Educational Need and/or Disability, such as a physical or sensory impairment, specific learning differences such as; dyslexia, dyspraxia, dyscalculia, Autistic Spectrum Condition or any other learning needs, our Additional Support Team can help you. We are the only College in Wiltshire to have achieved the BDA Dyslexia Friendly Quality Mark for a designated unit; the Skills Development Centre.

For more information visit Additional Learning Support on the New College Swindon website or email additionalsupport@newcollege.ac.uk.

Libraries (Learning Resource Centre LRC and Learning Development Centre LDC)

Queens Drive Opening Times

Monday – Thursday 8:15am-6:30pm

Friday 8:15am-4:30pm

North Star Opening Times

Monday –Tuesday 8:30am-5:00pm

Wednesday –Thursday 8:30am-6:30pm

Friday 8:45am-4:00pm

During half term both libraries are normally open from 9:00am-1:00pm

Some textbooks can only be read in the library, others must be returned within a week, but most books can be borrowed for 3 weeks and renewed after.

Students can take out a maximum of 6 items:

- Laptops (3 week loan and can be renewed after)
- Reading pens (1 day – 3 weeks) and ALS laptops with dragon software
- Headphones (1 day loan)
- Mobile phone chargers (1 day loan)
- Textbooks on each subject
- Journals, travel books, hobby books and magazines
- Fiction books and graphic novels (3 weeks)
- Calculators (1 day)
- Small overlays (Free)

- General equipment to borrow at the desk such as hole punches, staplers, pens, pencils and rulers.

Store

Students can purchase a variety of equipment at a reduced cost:

- Pens, sharpeners, rubbers, glue and pencils
- Maths stationary
- USB's
- Folders
- A4 overlays
- Writing pads
- Plastic pockets and more.

Prices can be found in the library.

Students can access a variety of services in the library, including printing facilities, general IT support, availability of PCs, silent study rooms, study tables, and assistance in locating books.

Events

New College Swindon hosts multiple open events each year. These are an opportunity for parents and students to come in, meet the lecturers, have a sneak peek at the subjects and classrooms and get a feel for college life.

In addition to our open events, we host College Experience sessions, an A Level/High Flyers info evening, award ceremonies, themed weeks, and more! To stay up to date with what's going on make sure you're signed up to our mailing list, or keep an eye on our website.



KEY CONTACTS

Admissions@newcollege.ac.uk

Studentservicesenquiries@newcollege.ac.uk

Wellbeing@newcollege.ac.uk