

Learning Support at Woking College

The Learning Support concept we promote at Woking College is one of a “scaffolding nature”. This, we feel, enables students to perform to their full potential alongside all other students. The drop-in centre, where one-to-one and small group timetabled lessons take place, is adjoining the main Learning Resource Area of the college and is available for students to use throughout the week.

The College predominantly offers A/S and A levels in a wide range of subjects and BTEC courses in Business Studies, Information Technology, Health and Social Care and Sports Development & Fitness. In the first few weeks after the student has enrolled, the Learning Support Team work together with each student to develop the provision for their particular need. Many students come to the college wanting a new start and our aim is to offer the best provision which they need to achieve their potential. Students in the main prefer this individualised support and, as a rule, support within the classroom setting is limited. When in-class support is required, Learning Support staff are viewed as a second adult, who is there to support all students within that learning environment.

At present, we support approximately ninety students whose needs include those categorised under: Visual Impairment, Dyslexia, Physical Needs, Study Skills, Dyspraxia, Aspergers, ESOL and Hearing Impairment. I stress these categories are sometimes helpful in communicating, yet are to be avoided if they stereotype potential or current students. At Woking, we pride ourselves on an inclusive caring community and deal with individuals on a personal level wherever possible.

Our **Dyslexia Support** includes: time management, reading skills, essay writing, revision skills, spelling, grammar, punctuation, note taking techniques, assignment support and exam techniques.

Our **ESOL Support** includes: grammar, reading comprehension, vocabulary extension, pronunciation, writing skills and speaking skills.

A representative from the Learning Support team is invited to attend any initial interviews at Woking College if, on a student’s application form, they have made reference to any aspect of Special Needs, but any student or parent can request this arrangement.

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Assessment and Exams

You will be assessed in the same way as all other students who are studying with you on your courses. You will sit all the same exams and need to complete all the coursework. It may be that you require Access Arrangements and Special Consideration in your examinations. These you need to discuss with the Learning Support Staff as soon as possible, as assessment and testing has to take place together with a meeting with the Educational Psychologist who needs to endorse the college's recommendations. Even then, concessions cannot be awarded by the college until the Examination Board has agreed to our requests. At present we have students using modified enlarged papers, bilingual dictionaries, lap-tops, receiving extra time, and being supported by scribes, prompts and readers. This support is only used to enable students to achieve their full potential without giving them any advantage over any other student.

How will you learn?

Learning Support Classes are either taught on a one to one basis or in small groups. A specialist teacher in the field of ESOL, Dyslexia, Basic Skills or Study Skills will support you. Classes are relaxed and can be informal to enable you to perform at your best. At the end of each class you record briefly the work you have covered and add comments. This gives you the opportunity to review your programme regularly and make any changes you think are necessary in agreement with the Learning Support staff.

Why Study at Woking College?

We offer the courses you want to study in a local, small, friendly college where people matter most. It could be that we have been recommended by present or past students. Whatever the reason, we will attempt to support you throughout your time at college so you can achieve your full potential.