NKC

NORTH KENT COLLEGES GROUP

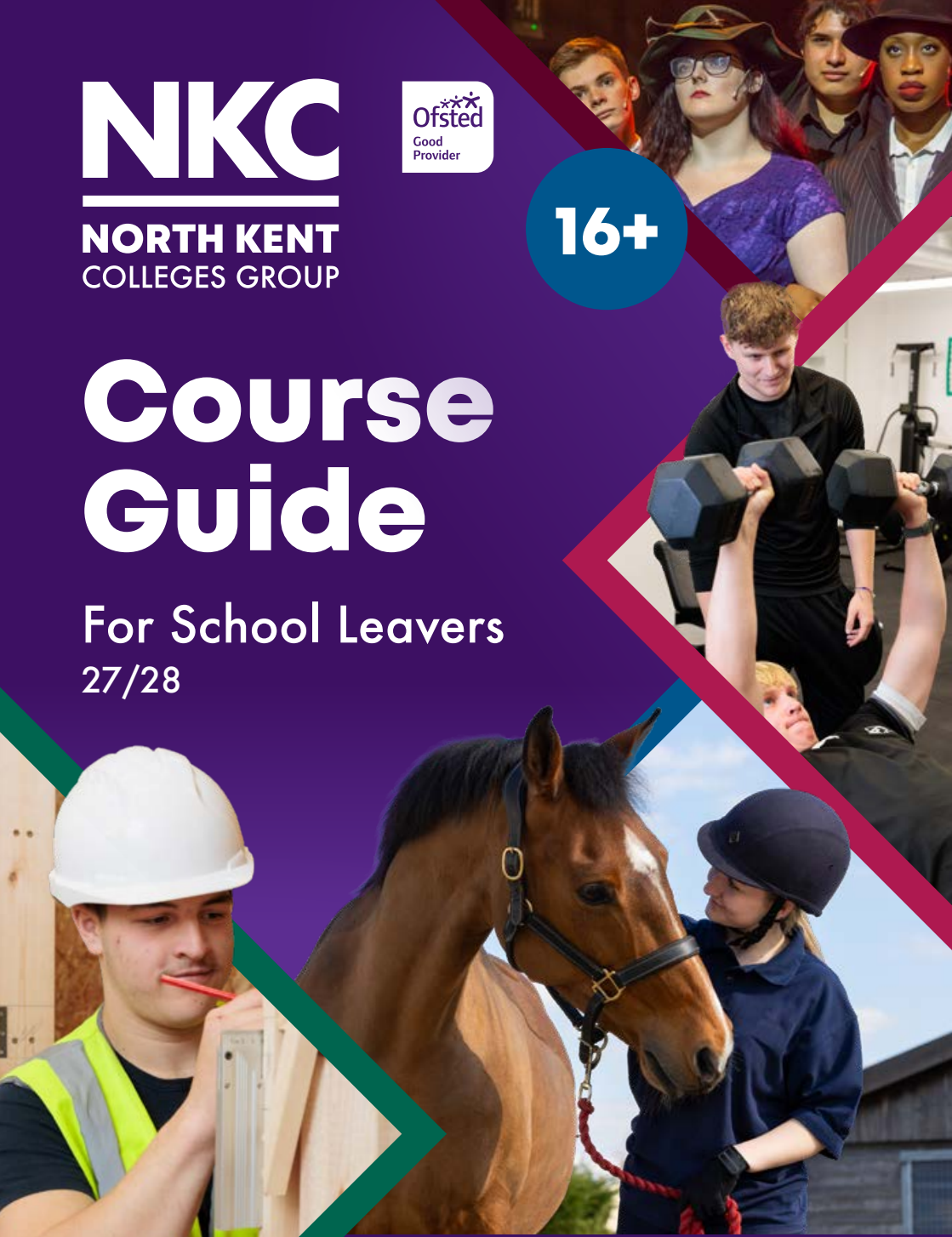
Ofsted Good Provider

16+

Course Guide

For School Leavers

27/28



Dartford | Gravesend | Hadlow | Tonbridge

BE BOLD.

BE YOU.

BE READY.

Your Future Starts with North Kent Colleges Group.

Find out about the new
North Kent Colleges Group on page 2.

Explore our North Kent Colleges Group

Welcome To North Kent Colleges Group	2
Welcome From The Chief Executive	4
Open Events And College Tours	6
Where Are We?	7
How To Get To Us	8
10 Reasons To Be Part Of North Kent Colleges Group	10
Qualifications Explained	12
Entry Requirements & Progression Routes	14
Options After GCSEs	16
Work Placements	18
Start Your Career With An Apprenticeship	20
Progression And Your Next Steps	23

Our Colleges	**24**
NKC Dartford College	26
NKC Gravesend College	28
NKC Hadlow College	30
NKC Tonbridge College	32

Our courses	**34**
What Courses Where?	36
Access To HE	40
Study At Our University Centre Hadlow	42
How To Apply	44
Student Welfare	46
Student Financial Support	47
Your Journey To North Kent Colleges Group	48

Welcome To North Kent Colleges Group

Local Colleges.
Group Strength.
Endless Opportunities.

New for 2026

From September 2026, our campuses become colleges, each with its own distinctive identity, celebrating the important role every college plays within its local community.

This exciting evolution reflects both our growth and our commitment to providing education that is locally focused and group supported. As North Kent Colleges Group, we bring together strong local colleges under one resilient organisation, combining the personal experience of a local college with the opportunities, expertise, and resources of one of Kent's leading further education groups.

No matter which college you choose, you'll benefit from:

- High-quality teaching from experienced industry professionals
- Modern, industry-standard facilities
- Strong links with employers and universities
- Outstanding student support
- A welcoming college community that understands your local area
- The wider opportunities that come from being part of a larger college group

Whether you're preparing for university, starting your career, developing practical skills, or exploring your passions, we're here to help you achieve your ambitions and take your next step with confidence.

A Message from David Gleed CEO and Executive Principal

"Our evolution reflects both our growth and our commitment to local communities. Every one of our colleges plays a vital role within its local area, and becoming North Kent Colleges Group provides greater clarity about how we operate – locally delivered, group supported.

Our colleges are deeply rooted within the communities they serve. This new structure combines strong local responsiveness with the strength, expertise, and resilience of a wider college group, allowing us to continue providing outstanding education and opportunities for every student.

While our identity is evolving, our commitment remains the same: to support our students, communities and employers with high-quality education that changes lives."

Our Promise to You

Choosing a college is one of the most important decisions you'll make. Wherever you study within North Kent Colleges Group, you'll be joining a college that is proud of its local community while benefiting from the scale, investment, and opportunities of a successful college group.

We look forward to welcoming you and helping you build the skills, confidence, and experiences you need for a successful future.

Welcome

From The Chief Executive And Executive Principal

Choosing your next step is an exciting moment, and we're delighted you're considering North Kent Colleges Group. Across our four local colleges – **NKC Dartford College, NKC Gravesend College, NKC Hadlow College (Kent's only rural and land-based college) and NKC Tonbridge College** – you'll discover a place where ambition is encouraged, individuality is celebrated and every student is supported to achieve their goals.

Whether you're passionate about the creative industries, engineering, business, construction, sport, animal management, or any of the many subjects we offer, you'll learn in industry-standard facilities, be taught by experienced professionals and benefit from strong links with employers. Our aim is to give you the skills, confidence and real-world experience that will help you succeed—whether that's progressing to university, securing an apprenticeship, or launching your career.

Every one of our colleges has its own unique identity and specialist strengths, but we all share the same commitment: putting students first. From your first day with us, you'll be part of a welcoming community that believes in your potential and will support you every step of the way.

I hope this guide inspires you to explore the opportunities available and helps you find the course that's right for you. We look forward to welcoming you and being part of your journey towards a bright and successful future.

David Gleed
Chief Executive and Executive Principal

Open Events And College Tours

2027 DATES
Please check our website for the most up-to-date information

Our Open Events take place throughout the year, both online and at our colleges, giving you the chance to explore everything we have to offer.

With hundreds of courses available, our events are the perfect opportunity to tour our facilities, meet tutors and students, and discover which college and course is right for you. You can also apply for a September 2027 start at our events.

NKC Dartford College

- 2026: Tuesday 13th and Thursday 15th October

NKC Gravesend College

- 2026: Tuesday 3rd November

NKC Tonbridge College

- 2026: Wednesday 4th November

NKC Hadlow College

- 2026: Saturday 7th November
- 2027: Saturday 23rd January
- 2027: Wednesday 9th June

SPRING 2027

Lambing Weekend

Come and visit our new born lambs, activities include tractor rides, birds of prey, food and craft stalls and so much more!

Check website for details.

Times

- 3:30 pm – 7:30 pm
- 9:30 am – 1:30 pm
- 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Keep an eye on our website for full details and to pre-register!

Where Are We?

1

NKC Dartford College

Oakfield Lane
Dartford, Kent
DA1 2JT

2

NKC Gravesend College

Lower Higham
Road, Gravesend
Kent, DA12 2JJ

3

NKC Hadlow College

Tonbridge Road
Hadlow
Kent, TN11 0AL

4

NKC Tonbridge College

Brook Street
Tonbridge
Kent, TN9 2PW

How To Get To Us

NKC Dartford College

FREE shuttle bus

Public Buses

The 429 bus route stops outside the gates in Oakfield Lane. More information is available on the Arriva Bus and KCC websites.

Free Shuttle Bus

Our FREE shuttle bus service runs from Dartford Town Centre to Dartford College during term time.

Train

Dartford Station is in Oyster card Zone 8. Once there, you can catch our FREE shuttle bus from the station to the College.

Car

Dartford College is conveniently located just off the A2, and there is ample free car parking available.

More information on how to get to **NKC Dartford College**

NKC Gravesend College

Public Buses

The 490 and 190 Arriva bus routes stop on Dickens Road just outside Gravesend College. More information is available on the Arriva or KCC websites.

Train

From Gravesend Station you can catch a 490 or 190 bus to Gravesend College.

Car

Take the Gravesend East junction off the A2 and head towards Gravesend – there is ample FREE car parking available at Gravesend College.

More information on how to get to **NKC Gravesend College**

NKC Hadlow College

Public Buses

The bus stop outside the College is served regularly by buses travelling between Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells via Tonbridge railway station.

Car

Hadlow College is located on the A26 Tonbridge Road – just 15 minutes from the A21/A26 junction at Tonbridge, 6 minutes drive from the A228 junction at Seven Mile Lane, and 16 minutes away from the M20 junction 4.

More information on how to get to **NKC Hadlow College**

NKC Tonbridge College

Public Buses

The nearest bus stop to the College is Springwell Road, with regular bus services to and from Tunbridge Wells, Sevenoaks and Maidstone.

Train

The College is approximately 10–15 minute walk from the Tonbridge station.

Car

The College is just 3 minutes away from the A21/A26 junction – there is ample free car parking available.

More information on how to get to **NKC Tonbridge College**

Ten Reasons To Be Part Of North Kent Colleges Group

1

Local Colleges

Studying locally means staying connected to your community while building strong links to local employers and work experience opportunities. Our colleges offer a supportive route into both further training and future employment close to home.

2

Distinctive Identity and Strengths

Each college has its own identity and specialist strengths. For example, NKC Hadlow College is Kent's only rural and land-based college with a long-standing heritage. NKC Dartford College is home to the acclaimed Miskin Theatre. NKC Gravesend College features the National Maritime Training Centre, a leading provider of maritime education and is the South East Construction Technical Excellence College. NKC Tonbridge College offers outstanding facilities including a Music and Arts Centre (MAC), plus real-world training in The View restaurant – voted the Number One local restaurant on Tripadvisor!

3

Outstanding Facilities

Across our colleges, students benefit from exceptional, industry-standard facilities. These include glasshouses, fisheries lakes and stables at NKC Hadlow College, Hair Academies at NKC Dartford College, NKC Gravesend College and NKC Tonbridge College and much more besides.

4

Real-world Learning

Learning goes beyond the classroom. Students train in realistic working environments such as commercial salons, restaurants, workshops and theatres, gaining the skills and confidence employers expect.

5

Industry-experienced Tutors

Our tutors bring more than teaching expertise – they bring real industry experience, professional knowledge and valuable employer connections. Their passion and experience help bring learning to life, while strong links with employers ensure students gain relevant skills, practical knowledge and opportunities that prepare them for future success.

6

Strong Progression Routes

All Level 3 courses are equivalent to A Levels and carry UCAS points, supporting progression to university or higher-level training. We actively encourage students to aim high and explore higher education and career pathways.

7

Employer Connections & Work Experience

We work closely with employers to provide meaningful work experience, industry placements and real workplace projects that build skills and confidence for the future.

8

Supportive Environment

Our students are ambitious and their high expectations are supported by our experienced tutors. We are proud of our inclusive culture, where students feel safe, respected and motivated to succeed.

9

Recognised Quality

We are rated 'Good' by Ofsted (2024), with an 'Outstanding' judgement for Behaviours and Attitudes, reflecting our positive, focused learning environment and strong student support. Hadlow College's residential provision was judged as being 'Outstanding' across all categories by Ofsted.

10

Close to Home, Close to Career Opportunities

Our four local colleges mean students don't have to travel far to access outstanding industry standard facilities, specialist courses, and exciting progression and career opportunities. Become part of your local college community, where we pride ourselves on making everyone feel included.

Qualifications Explained

Whatever your starting point, there's a qualification pathway to suit you.

Entry Level Certificates

Available to those who may not have the GCSE grades to go straight on to a Level 1 mainstream course, acting as a step-up qualification.

UAL, NCFE & BTEC Diplomas

One or two year full-time courses specialising in a specific vocational area at Levels 1 to 4. They accommodate the needs of employers and allow for progression to university, providing practical real-life learning with theoretical background. Level 3 Diplomas can be taken instead of A-Levels as a route to Higher Education.

VRQ (Vocationally Recognised Qualifications)

These courses, much like BTECs, specialise in specific vocational areas from Level 1 to 3. They aim to prepare you for the world of work focusing on a practical hands-on approach to learning, with theory to support this.

T Levels

Advanced Level 3 courses and equivalent to 3 A-levels. T levels offer longer periods of Industry Placement (usually 45 days across the 2-year programme). The course is a combination of in-class study and work placement.

Access to Higher Education

For people over the age of 19 who are interested in taking on an undergraduate degree programme, but who do not already have the required qualifications.

Apprenticeships

With an Apprenticeship you will be employed with an organisation and will do your technical training at college. This means you will get paid and achieve a qualification at the same time. An Apprenticeship can take between one and four years to complete and covers over 1,500 job roles in a wide range of industries.

Foundation Degrees and HNC/Ds

Undergraduate qualifications that are equivalent to years 1 and 2 of a university Bachelor's Degree. These programmes offer a more vocational element to university degrees, often with links to the industry itself.

Professional Qualifications

These provide practical and work-related skills and the opportunity to gain nationally recognised qualifications, including CACHE (Council for Awards in Care, Health and Education).

English and Maths Requirements for 16–19 Learners

In line with government policy, all students aged 16–19 who have not yet achieved a Grade 4 (standard pass) in GCSE English and/or Maths are required to attend a minimum of 100 hours of face-to-face, whole-class lessons in each academic year.

Most students will work towards achieving a GCSE qualification in English and Maths. However, for a small number of vocational learners on Entry 3 and some Level 1 courses, who have previously achieved a Grade 2 or below, an alternative pathway may be available. Where appropriate, these students may study Level 1 Functional Skills as a stepping-stone qualification to support their progression.

If you have not achieved a grade 9–4 or above in English or maths at GCSE level, you will work towards this at college.

This Information is accurate at time of print. Please check the website for the most up-to-date information.

Entry Requirements & Progression Routes

LEVEL OF STUDY	EQUIVALENT TO	QUALIFICATION OFFER
ENTRY LEVEL	2 GCSEs at Grade 2–1	Entry Level Courses
LEVEL 1	5 GCSEs at Grade 3–1 NVQ Level 1, BTEC Introductory Diploma	UALs, BTEC, Diplomas, Certificates
LEVEL 2	5 GCSEs at Grade 9–4 BTEC Diploma	UALs, BTEC, Diplomas, Certificates
LEVEL 3	2 or 3 A levels, NVQ Level 3, Access	UALs, BTEC, Diplomas, T Levels
LEVEL 4	HNC, Foundation Degree, NVQ Level 4	Foundation Degree, HNC
LEVEL 5	HND, Foundation Degree (Year 1), NVQ Level 5	Foundation Degree (Year 1), HND
LEVEL 6	Degree (Final Year)	Degree (Final Year)

Indicative entry requirements – some programmes may have higher entry criteria because of industry standards.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS	PROGRESSION OPTIONS	
No GCSEs or formal qualifications required. Entry via interview.	**LEVEL 1**	
You should have at least 2 GCSEs at grades 2–1	**LEVEL 2**	
Usually 4 GCSEs at Grade 3 or above, including 2 core subjects. For specialist trades, you may need a Level 1 City & Guilds or NVQ qualification	**LEVEL 3**	
Usually 4 or 5 GCSEs at Grades 9-4, or a BTEC, UAL, City & Guilds Level 2 Diploma (or equivalent) with a Merit grade	**LEVEL 4**	
You must be over 18 and have relevant Level 3 qualification	**LEVEL 5**	
You must be over 18 and have relevant Level 3 or 4 qualification	**LEVEL 6 DEGREE**	
This is a Degree Level qualification and you must have relevant Level 5 qualification	**LEVEL 7 DEGREE**	Equivalent to a Master's Degree

Options After Your GCSEs

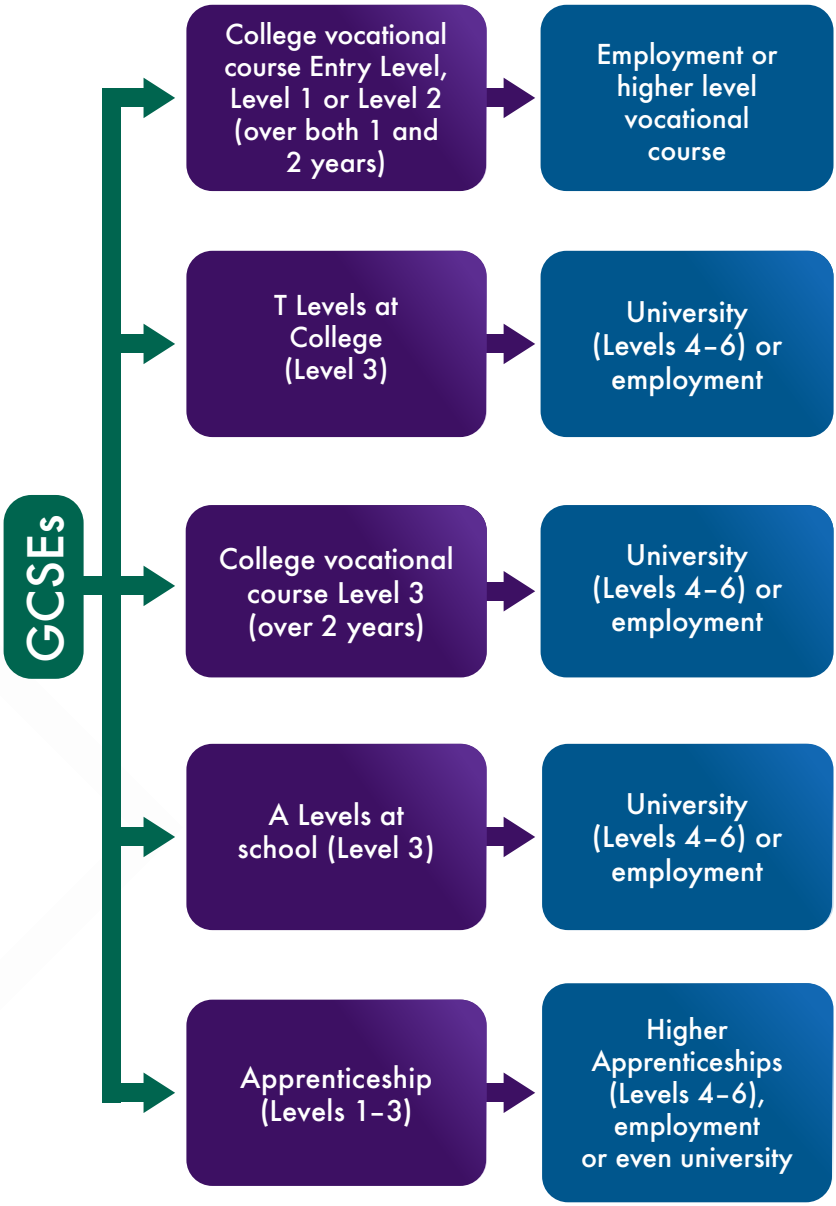
There are many routes after your GCSEs, from vocational programmes and A Levels to Apprenticeships – all of which can lead to your chosen career. The key is finding the right path for you. Here's an overview of your options.

Levels of study

Based on your GCSE results (or predicted grades), our tutors will advise you on the most suitable level of study. This will be discussed at your interview and can be adjusted at enrolment once results are confirmed.

After GCSEs, you may start at Entry Level, Level 1 or Level 2, which are usually one-year programmes. From there, you can progress to Level 3, which is equivalent to A Levels. Alternatively, you may begin directly on a two-year Level 3 programme, leading to progression onto university (Level 4 and above) or employment.

For students aiming for university, a Level 3 Extended Diploma is typically required in the subject area (or a closely related field). We offer a wide range of courses that provide strong progression routes into Higher Education.


GCSEs
College vocational course Entry Level, Level 1 or Level 2 (over both 1 and 2 years)
Employment or higher level vocational course
T Levels at College (Level 3)
University (Levels 4–6) or employment
College vocational course Level 3 (over 2 years)
University (Levels 4–6) or employment
A Levels at school (Level 3)
University (Levels 4–6) or employment
Apprenticeship (Levels 1–3)
Higher Apprenticeships (Levels 4–6), employment or even university

Work Placements

We believe that real experience is one of the best ways to prepare for your future career and make you stand out to employers.

By enrolling on a Level 2 or Level 3 course, you'll have the opportunity to take part in our work placement scheme.

A work placement is a key part of many of our Level 2 and Level 3 programmes, helping you become career-ready by the time you finish your course.

You'll have opportunities to work with local SMEs, well-known organisations and innovative start-ups, all linked to your chosen subject.

Work placements are a vital part of your learning, allowing you to apply your skills in real workplace settings. Many students also progress into part-time or permanent roles, or even Apprenticeships, with their placement employer.

Alongside your placement, you'll receive support with CV writing, applications and interview skills. Our industry placement team will guide you through the process and help you develop the confidence and professionalism employers are looking for.

APPLY NOW

The Benefits of a Work Placement:

1. Gain real experience in your chosen industry
2. Apply your learning in a real workplace
3. Learn directly from industry professionals
4. Build connections with potential future employers
5. Strengthen your CV and stand out when applying for jobs
6. Use relevant part-time work as part of your placement
7. Enhance your UCAS application for university progression

Contact us on:
01322 629400
business@northkent.ac.uk

By applying for a Level 2 or 3 course, you can participate in the industry placement scheme.

Start Your Career With An Apprenticeship

We are one of the leading Apprenticeship providers in the UK. Whether you're just starting out in the world of work or if you want to change career, you can develop skills, knowledge and experience, and earn while you learn.

What is an Apprenticeship?

It's a great way to learn on the job, working alongside experienced professionals. You'll gain valuable skills and knowledge, and earn recognised qualifications at the same time.

Around 20% of your working hours will be training and development, either at college or in the workplace, while the rest of your time will be spent building real experience.

Do Apprentices get paid?

You'll usually be employed to work a minimum of 30 hours per week and be paid a wage no less than the National Minimum Apprenticeship Rate – £8.00* per hour, for the time you are in work and in off-the-job training.

If you are a part time employee, we will review your working hours and extend the duration of your Apprenticeship. The amount you are paid is based on previous experience and current skill set, and your wage may increase as you make progress. You will also receive the same benefits as any employee, including holiday pay.

Who can do an Apprenticeship?

Anyone who is 16 years old and over can do an Apprenticeship, if you have a right to work in England and are not in full time education. There is no upper age limit, and it doesn't matter if you are just starting out or have already been employed.

*Price correct at time of print.

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships offered at North Kent Colleges Group

- Crop Technician
- Horticulture and Landscape Supervisor
- Horticulture or Landscape Construction Operative
- Sports Turf Operative
- Advanced Sports Turf Technician
- Golf Greenkeeper
- Golf Course Manager
- Hair Professional
- Advanced and Creative Hair Professional
- Business Administrator (Legal/Finance Sector)
- Early Years Educator
- Engineering Operative
- Engineering Technician
- Motor Vehicle Service & Maintenance Technician
- Maintenance and Operations Maritime Mechanical and Electrical Mechanic

College location

- NKC Dartford College
- NKC Gravesend College
- NKC Hadlow College

Please visit the website of the college you are applying to for the most up-to-date Apprenticeship information.

Levels of Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are available from entry level through to degree level, offering opportunities to progress throughout your career. The level of Apprenticeship is based on the skills, responsibilities and knowledge required for the job role – not just the qualifications you already have.

Apprenticeship Levels are set and equivalent to:

2 **Level 2 (Intermediate):** GCSEs

3 **Level 3 (Advanced):** A-levels

4 **Level 4 (Higher):** Foundation degree

5 **Level 5 (Higher):** Foundation degree/first year of bachelor's degree

6 **Level 6 (Degree):** Bachelor's degree

7 **Level 7 (Degree):** Master's degree

What do I need to know about English and Maths?

English and Maths are an important part of your Apprenticeship. If you do not already hold the required qualifications, you will study English and Maths alongside your Apprenticeship.

Entry requirements vary depending on the Apprenticeship programme and your age, so please contact us for more information.

What is the End Point Assessment?

At the end of your Apprenticeship's practical training, you will complete an End Point Assessment (EPA) to demonstrate the skills and knowledge you have developed during your training.

The assessment is carried out by an independent assessor and may include practical observations, exams, professional discussions, projects or a review of your work portfolio, depending on your Apprenticeship programme.

This Information is accurate at time of print. Please check the website for the most up-to-date information.

Apprenticeships available:

www.gov.uk/apply-Apprenticeship

Our Apprenticeship vacancies:

Please visit the website of the college you are applying to.

Progression and your next steps

We're committed to helping every student to progress.

Higher Education

Continue your studies with at Degree level, with our Higher Education Programmes.

Tuition Fees

Access high quality education at a fraction of university costs! Find up-to-date fee information on our website.

Study Locally

Stay close to home, keep your support network and save money by not moving away to university.

Supportive Environment

Our small size means greater personalised support throughout your studies.

Mature Students

If you're 21 and over, we'd love to hear from you. Even without the usual entry grades, relevant industry experience may make you eligible – we encourage you to apply.

Our North Kent Colleges Group Portfolio

NKC Dartford College

Read more about NKC Dartford College on page 26.

NKC Gravesend College

Read more about NKC Gravesend College on page 28.

NKC Hadlow College

Read more about NKC Hadlow College on page 30.

NKC Tonbridge College

Read more about NKC Tonbridge College on page 32.

NKC Dartford College

NKC Dartford College is located just outside the town centre on Oakfield Lane. It's a calm, spacious environment with green, open areas to relax, study or meet friends.

Easy to Reach

We run a free shuttle bus from Dartford Station throughout term time. It's a convenient option and provides peace of mind about reliable travel.

Creative and Performance Spaces

NKC Dartford College is home to the acclaimed Miskin Theatre and our state of the art Creative and Performance Arts facilities. Students can also gain real industry experience through our on site radio station, broadcasting directly from the Miskin Studios.

Sports and Fitness

Our sports and fitness facilities are based at the Österberg Centre, named after Martina Bergman Österberg – a pioneer of women's physical education whose work helped shape modern sport. Her legacy adds a unique sense of history to a centre that continues to support student wellbeing today.

Learning Technology Centre

Our Learning Technology Centre is a modern space designed for study, research and digital learning, as well as a comfortable place to unwind between classes.

Food and Social Spaces

Our main restaurant and snack bar has space for over 200 students and offers great value breakfast, lunch and snacks. These lively social hubs are a popular place to take a break, meet friends and enjoy college life.

Ambition in Action

Tilly Anderson's journey shows what's possible when ambition meets opportunity. As a T Level Accounting student at Dartford College, she secured her own placement with London firm SRLV, completed her industry hours early, and quickly proved her talent. Her professionalism, confidence and drive led to an offer of ongoing employment while she finished her course – a powerful example of where determination can take you.

Stanley Smith's determination took him from T Level Accounting student to award winning young professional. Despite joining his placement later in the year, he committed to extra hours and quickly impressed CKR Accountants with his drive and growth. His hard work earned him the Young Person of the Year award at the Dartford Business Awards and a full time apprenticeship offer.

NKC | DARTFORD COLLEGE

NKC Dartford College Website

NKC Gravesend College

Just outside the town centre, NKC Gravesend College offers a wide range of vocational and specialist courses, giving it a dynamic, workplace focused atmosphere that prepares students for real industry experience.

Specialist Industry Facilities

The College is home to the National Maritime Training Centre, a leading provider of maritime education. Students train with up to date equipment in specialist classrooms, a dedicated Fire Training Ground and a Thameside Jetty – offering hands on experience that mirrors real maritime careers.

Construction Technical Excellence Colleges

NKC Gravesend College is one of only ten Construction Technical Excellence Colleges in the UK. The College is helping tackle critical construction skills shortages by training future bricklayers, roofers, electricians and other trades. Part of a £100 million initiative, the programme supports the industry's 35,000 vacancies and the government's target of 1.5 million new homes.

Construction, Engineering & Trades

Our Construction and Engineering workshops reflect the standards of top employers, with professional grade equipment and realistic working practices. Students can develop skills in engineering, plumbing, brickwork and many other trades in purpose built spaces.

Real World Learning

Across Motor Vehicle, Catering and Hairdressing, students work with real customers and clients, gaining confidence and experience that meet industry expectations and prepare them for employment.

Food and Social Spaces

Our restaurant, The Canteen, and our snack bar offer great value breakfast, lunch and snacks – they are popular social spots where students can relax and socialise between lessons.

Learning Technology Centre

Our Learning Technology Centre is a modern space designed for study, research and digital learning, as well as a comfortable place to unwind.

Additional Facilities

State of the art classrooms, and a commercial training restaurant (The Gallery) create a fantastic environment for our students.

Rising Talent

Frankie Clarke's talent and dedication earned her national recognition as the Lee Stafford Education Student of the Year 2026. Studying Level 2 Hairdressing at our Gravesend Academy, she impressed judges with her creativity, technical skill and professionalism – also securing Runner Up in the Colour & Cut Styling category. Frankie's double achievement showcases the passion and potential our students bring to their craft.

NKC Gravesend College Website

NKC | GRAVESEND COLLEGE

NKC Hadlow College

Set within a stunning managed estate of over 265 acres, NKC Hadlow College offers one of the most unique learning environments in the country. Surrounded by arable land, woodland and show gardens, it's an inspiring setting for students who want to learn in real working landscapes.

Kent's only rural and land-based college

Exceptional Land Based Facilities

Our commercial farms – Faulkners Farm and Blackmans Farm – give students hands on experience with livestock, lambing, shearing, beef production and arable farming. Close links with local dairy farms ensure learners gain a full understanding of modern agricultural practice.

Equine, Animal & Wildlife Centres

Our Equine Centre offers stabling for 64 horses, international size indoor arenas, outdoor arenas and a cross country course. Our Animal Management Unit is one of the UK's leading educational animal collections, home to over 500 animals from 125+ species including endangered species, exotic carnivores, aquatics, reptiles and domestic animals. Students gain real zoo environment experience through national and international conservation partnerships.

NKC Hadlow College Website

Horticulture, Gardens & Fisheries

Our extensive horticultural facilities include glasshouses, orchards and field production areas, alongside the inspiring Garden Design Studio overlooking landscaped gardens. Broadview Gardens, a four hectare collection of themed gardens built by staff and students, offers a peaceful space to relax. At Grove Farm Fisheries and in our Hatchery, students develop practical skills in tropical and cold water fishes, carp husbandry, fish farming and modern fisheries management.

Engineering & Specialist Workshops

Our Agricultural Engineering workshops provide 540 square metres of space for everything from vintage tractor restoration to diagnostics on modern machinery. Students work with industry standard tools and equipment across a wide range of engineering projects.

National Centre for Reptile Welfare

We're the proud home of the UK's first National Centre for Reptile Welfare, caring for up to 600 rescued reptiles and amphibians, enabling students to gain unparalleled experience in welfare, husbandry and rehoming.

Live and Study on Campus

NKC Hadlow College offers residential provision, rated Outstanding by Ofsted, with 201 single rooms at the heart of our beautiful campus. Students benefit from flexible board options, fully included utilities, 24/5 on site staff, pastoral support, enrichment activities, an on site gym and shared social spaces. Our provision is shaped by exceptional leadership and our Residential Manager, Karen King whose compassionate, student centred approach helps every resident feel safe, supported and ready to succeed, was recently recognised at the Kent Education Awards.

NKC | HADLOW COLLEGE

NKC Tonbridge College

NKC Tonbridge College is located on Brook Street in the town centre and is just a short walk from the station, making it easily accessible.

Creative and Performance Spaces

Our state-of-the-art modern facilities, include the 300 seat MAC Theatre, a flexible teaching and creative performance space.

Art, Design & Media Facilities

Our bright, modern art and design studios, dedicated photography studios, darkroom, and learning resource centre, are designed to support creative development and independent study.

Food and Social Spaces

Grab a great-value breakfast, lunch or just a snack at The Brook Street Restaurant. This popular social space is great for relaxing and refuelling between lessons.

Real-life Learning Environments

The View is our commercial training restaurant, named after its stunning position overlooking the Weald. Open to the public, it gives students real-world experience in customer-facing environments. Our hair and beauty academy is also open to the public, combining professional treatments while developing experience.

NEW

Construction Skills Centre due to open in September 2027

Learning Technology Centre

Our Learning Technology Centre is a modern hub for studying and digital learning, supporting success across all subject areas. It's also available for students to use for leisure.

Learning in Action

From realistic health simulations to industry standard catering and hospitality training, Tonbridge College students benefit from outstanding opportunities that prepare them for future employment.

Health & Social Care students train in fully equipped ambulances identical to emergency response vehicles, gaining hands on experience that builds confidence, teamwork and clinical awareness.

The View Restaurant ranked number one in Tonbridge on Tripadvisor (April 2026). It is run by Catering Academy students and supported by experienced industry professionals and is highly regarded for its excellent quality food and customer service.

NKC | TONBRIDGE COLLEGE

NKC Tonbridge College Website

Our Courses

Whether you're leaving school, changing direction or looking to build new skills, we have a course to help you achieve your goals.

With hundreds of courses across four local colleges, you'll learn from experienced industry professionals, gain hands-on experience in outstanding facilities and develop the confidence to take your next step into employment, university or an Apprenticeship.

Learning that goes beyond the classroom

- Train in real working environments
- Learn from industry professionals
- Work with the latest equipment
- Complete valuable work placements
- Enter regional and national skills competitions
- Meet guest speakers from leading employers
- Visit businesses across Kent and London
- Gain experiences that strengthen university and job applications

Did you know?

Our students can...

- Serve customers in our commercial restaurants
- Train in our Lee Stafford Academies salons
- Perform in our professional theatre
- Train in a realistic ambulance
- Work in commercial salons and spas
- Learn in a mock aircraft cabin
- Care for over 200 animals
- Work on college farms and fisheries
- Restore agricultural machinery

4 Local Colleges

Over **250** full-time courses*

Over **6000** students joined in 2025/26*

* Figures are approximate

Our Courses

Access to Higher Education	36
Business & Finance	36
Computing & Gaming	36
Construction & Engineering	36
Creative Industries	36
Early Years & Healthcare	37
Hair & Beauty	38
Hospitality & Catering	39
Hospitality & Events	39
Land based	39
Legal Administration	39
Public Services	39
Sport	39
Travel & Tourism	39

Ofsted Good Provider

Good Ofsted rating (2024)

Outstanding for Behaviours & Attitudes

What Courses Where?

Access to Higher Education

Access to Nursing & Healthcare	3 D

Business & Finance

Business	2 3 D T
T Level in Accounting	3 D
T Level in Business	3 D

Computing & Gaming

Computing	2 T
Gaming	2 3 D
IT	2 D
T Level in Digital Software Development	3 D T

Construction & Engineering

Brickwork	2 G
Carpentry & Joinery	2 G H
Multi Trade Construction	1 G T
Craft Engineering	1 2 G
Electrical Installation	1 2 G
Electrical Installation	2 T
Engineering	3 G
Motor Cycle Maintenance and Repair	2 3 H
Motor Sport	1 2 3 H
Introduction to Motor Vehicle Industry & Vehicle Technology	E G
Motor Vehicle Maintenance	1 G H
Motor Vehicle Maintenance and Repair	2 3 G H
Painting, Decorating & Interior Design	2 G T
Plumbing & Heating	1 2 G
Plumbing & Heating	2 T
Refrigeration & Air Conditioning	2 G
T Level Civil Engineering	3 G

Creative Industries

Acting	2 3 D
Applied Theatre	2 3 T
Next Gen Animation & Visual Storytelling	3 D
Architecture, Interior & Product Design	3 D
Art	1 2 3 D T
Dance	2 3 D
Fashion	2 3 D T
Graphic Design	2 3 D T
Media	2 D
Media	2 3 T
Media - TV & Film	3 D
Media - Digital Journalism	3 D
Media - Content Creation	3 D
Miskin Voice	2 3 D
Music Performance	2 3 D T
Music Technology	2 3 D
Musical Theatre	2 3 D
Photography	2 3 D T
Technical Theatre	2 3 D

Early Years & Health Care

Early Years	1 2 D
Early Years	2 T
Health Care	1 2 D
Health Care	1 2 T
Social Care	3 D T
T Level in Education & Childcare	3 D T
T Level in Health/ Adult Nursing	3 D

Course Level

- E Entry Level
- 1 Level 1
- 2 Level 2
- 3 Level 3
- 4 Level 4

College location

- D Dartford
- H Hadlow
- G Gravesend
- T Tonbridge

For the most up-to-date information, please check the website as courses can change.

What Courses Where?

Course Level

- E Entry Level
- 1 Level 1
- 2 Level 2
- 3 Level 3
- 4 Level 4

College location

- D Dartford
- H Hadlow
- G Gravesend
- T Tonbridge

Hair & Beauty

Beauty Therapy	1 2 3 D T
Advanced Beauty Therapy	4 D
Hairdressing	1 2 3 D G
Hairdressing	1 2 T
Media Make-up	2 3 D
Theatrical Make-up	3 D

Hospitality & Catering

Catering Professional Chef	1	2	G	T	

Hospitality & Events

Hospitality & Event Management			3	D	

Land-based

Agriculture	1	2	3	H	
Agricultural Engineering			2	H	
Animal Management	1	2	3	H	
Equestrian Studies	1	2	3	H	
Fisheries Management			3	H	
Floristry			2	H	
Horticulture	1	2	3	H	
Introduction to the Land Based Sector			1	H	

Legal Administration

Legal Administration		2	3	D	

Public Services

Uniformed Services	1	2	3	D	T

Sport

Gym Studies		2	D		
Personal Training			3	D	
Sport		2	D	T	
Sport and Exercise Science			3	D	T
Sport Coaching			3	D	

Travel & Tourism

Vocational Studies	1	D			
Travel & Tourism		2	3	D	T

For the most up-to-date information, please check the website as courses can change.

Access To Higher Education

Course

Access to Nursing & Healthcare

3 Level 3 (D) Dartford College

Access to Higher Education Diplomas prepare you for university if you don't have traditional entry requirements. They are designed for adults aged 19+ who want a Level 3 qualification to progress to university or North Kent College.

Our Access courses have a strong record of helping students reach higher education and their future careers. Returning to study may feel daunting, but we provide full support as you rebuild academic skills, research techniques and confidence in essay writing.

If you're aged 19–23 and haven't studied at Level 3 before, tuition is free. Those aged 19+ with previous Level 3 study can apply for an Advanced Learner Loan from Student Finance England.

Your Access loan is cancelled when you finish your university course, provided you go straight into higher education without a break.

Future Careers

- Nurse
- Psychologist
- Residential Care Worker
- Social Worker
- Midwife
- Paramedic
- Counsellor
- Physiotherapist

Please note:

Once you complete your University course your Access loans are written off. However, you will need to go straight to University without gap years, for the loan to be written off.

“

My College experience was empowering – supportive tutors, a well-structured Access course, and a positive learning environment gave me the skills and confidence to progress to university and qualify as a midwife.

If you’re unsure about returning to education, take the leap – this College is the perfect starting point. It transformed my life. I went from self-doubt to becoming a qualified midwife.

Sarah Kruger
Access to Nursing and Healthcare Professions

”

Study At Our University Centre Hadlow

Did you know you can continue to university level study with us through our partnership with the University of Greenwich? This delivers degree level teaching at College, with qualifications awarded by the partner university.

Programmes are taught by expert tutors at NKC Hadlow College, Kent's only rural, land based college, and are validated by the University of Greenwich.

Four reasons to choose us

1. **Great value:** Competitive fees make studying locally affordable.
2. **Small community:** Smaller classes mean more one to one support.
3. **Stay local:** Learn close to home in familiar surroundings.
4. **Specialist facilities:** Unique land based resources create distinctive degree pathways.

What types of courses we offer

An FdSc is a two year Foundation Degree, equivalent to two thirds of a Bachelor's Degree. It works as a stand alone qualification, but most students choose to complete a one year top up to gain a full honours degree.

A Foundation Degree is ideal if you're unsure about committing to a full three year programme, offering a flexible route into higher education with the option to progress.

Full-time courses offer at Hadlow College

To apply via UCAS:
hadlow.ac.uk/university-centre

Course title	Level
FdSc in Applied Animal Behavioural Science & Welfare	4 & 5
FdSc in Equine Training & Management	4 & 5
FdSc in Horticulture – Commercial	4 & 5
FdSc in Zoo Husbandry & Animal Management	4 & 5
BSc Top Up in Animal Management	6

NKC UNIVERSITY CENTRE HADLOW

Partner of UNIVERSITY OF GREENWICH

This Information is accurate at time of print. Please check the website for the most up-to-date information.

How To Apply

So, you've found the perfect course and you're ready to take the next step – great choice!

1

Apply Online

Simply visit **nkcgroup.ac.uk** to submit your application. Year 11 students in Kent can also apply through the Kent County Council online system – your school will be able to guide you.

2

Application Check

We'll review your form and contact you if we need anything else.

3

Interview Invitation

Once we have processed your application, you'll be invited for an interview to discuss your course options – don't forget to bring your latest school report. Interviews run throughout the year, and we aim to contact you with a date within three weeks of your application.

4

Your Interview

This is your chance to tell us about yourself, and to learn more about us. You may receive an unconditional or conditional offer, or we may suggest a more suitable course.

5

Offer Confirmation

We'll email your offer, well done! Accept it to secure your place, after which we'll send details about accommodation, finance and fees.

6

Enrolment

You'll receive joining instructions over the summer. Enrolment takes place at the end of August. If your exam results are slightly lower than expected, don't worry – we'll work with you to find the right level within your chosen subject.

Dartford
Scan for more information on how to apply.

Gravesend
Scan for more information on how to apply.

Hadlow
Scan for more information on how to apply.

Tonbridge
Scan for more information on how to apply.

Student Welfare

Student Welfare

For more information on welfare and safeguarding support, scan the QR code to visit our website.

Careers Advice

Our qualified advisers offer year round, confidential guidance on career choices, university routes and job applications.

Counselling

College life can bring challenges, so our confidential, non-judgemental counselling service supports students with emotional wellbeing and personal difficulties when they need to talk.

Equal Opportunities

We are committed to a respectful, inclusive environment where no-one receives less favourable treatment, on any grounds including age, race, colour, nationality, ethnic origins, creed, disability, HIV status, sexual orientation, sex, marital or parental status, political belief or social or economic class. We actively support learners with difficulties or disabilities.

Disability Support

Specialist staff advise on appropriate support so all students can access the full curriculum.

Welfare & Safeguarding Support

We help students settle into college life so that they can thrive, with a range of support services.

Personal Tutors

Every student has a Personal Tutor for academic guidance, target setting and pastoral support.

SEN Support

Our Learning Support Team assists students with EHCP's and other disabilities and learning needs including exam access arrangements.

WELL-BEING
HUB

Student Financial Support

Money and Finance doesn't have to be a worrying experience. We want your transition into college to be as smooth as possible.

North Kent Colleges Group administers bursary funding to assist with additional course costs for low-income families.

Students aged 16-18 do not pay tuition fees for Further Education courses.

19+ Students who are on a full-time course funded either by the Government of via a19+ Advanced Learner Loan, may also be entitled to assistance with the additional course costs.

Additional costs may be payable, such as kit, uniform, equipment, travel to and from college, trips, free college meals and childcare.

If your household is on a low income, you may be entitled to assistance with a contribution towards these costs.

The bursaries the college administers does not cover tuition fees for 19+ students.

Free College Meals

Students must be aged between 16 and 18 on the 31 August 2027 to be eligible to apply for free college meals and must meet the eligibility criteria set by the Government. Students aged 19 – 24 who have an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP) who meet the eligibility criteria are also entitled to Free College Meals.

Hadlow Students Only
Residential Accommodation

For students attending Hadlow College who must travel for more than an hour each way and are undertaking a land based course as well as meet the set criteria may also receive a contribution towards the accommodation costs to enable them to reside on campus. Students will need to have been offered a place on a land based course as well as be offered a room within our onsite accommodation.

This Information is accurate at time of print. Please check the website for the most up-to-date information.

How to apply

To apply for any of the college bursaries, please complete and submit the online application form, along with the required evidence. The application form can be found on the website of the college you are applying to. The bursary portal will open after the Easter break.

Your Journey Towards North Kent Colleges Group

September 2026:

1 Explore Options

Start thinking about your next steps. Pick up a School Leavers' Guide or browse courses online.

October–November 2026:

2 Visit & Apply

Come to our open events, meet tutors and students and tour our facilities. You can apply on the day and start receiving monthly VIP email updates.

December 2026 –February 2027:

3 Find Out More

Keep in touch! We're happy to answer any questions. If you missed our open events contact us to book a tour. And if you've already decided to apply, we'll send your interview date and then your offer.

February–March 2027:

4 Another Chance to Visit

More open events, more opportunities to explore NKC Group and apply on the day!

March–April 2027:

5 Revision Time

Exams are coming up and we've got loads of revision tips on our website. Remember to look after yourself too during this busy time.

May–June 2027:

6 Good Luck

Best of luck in your exams. We can't wait to hear how you get on, and if you need any support we are here for you.

July
2027:

7 Summer Break

Enjoy your summer! You'll receive your enrolment invitation in August, and we are still here to help over the summer, just get in touch.

August
2027:

8 Results & Enrolment

Got your results? We hope it's what you needed. But if they're not what you expected or are better than you predicted, don't worry there will be options and we'll help you find the right level for you.

September
2027:

9 Welcome

Congratulations, you're officially a North Kent Colleges Group student! You'll receive your start date and ID at enrolment and we'll look forward to welcoming you. Thanks for choosing us and best of luck!