POST-16 EDUCATION – COLLEGES, FURTHER EDUCATION AND UNIVERSITY

CROYDON’S LOCAL OFFER OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 0-25 WITH SEN

www.croydon.gov.uk
Post-16 education includes sixth forms in mainstream schools and special schools, independent schools, Further Education (FE) colleges, sixth form colleges, independent specialist colleges and vocational and work-based learning providers.

Colleges are usually larger than schools and offer a wide range of courses to young people and adults. Colleges are expected to offer an inclusive approach to learning and teaching, with high quality teaching focused on individuals’ needs. Colleges should be ambitious for young people with special needs, whatever their needs and whatever their level of study. They should focus on supporting young people so they can progress and reach positive destinations in adult life. This could include going on to university, further training, employment, independent living, good health and being involved in the community.

Special schools, FE colleges, independent schools and colleges and some sixth form colleges offer courses specifically for students with special educational needs and disabilities. All institutions offer additional support of various types for students to access mainstream courses. The support offered will be based on individuals’ abilities and needs, assessed as part of the application and induction process.

Funding for students with additional support needs will be arranged between schools and colleges and the local authority or the Department for Education. For special schools and students with high support needs in colleges, funding will be based on individual needs, support requirements and intended outcomes in the student’s Statement of SEN, Learning Difficulty Assessment or Education, Health and Care Plan.

Mainstream colleges and schools can meet the needs of the majority of young people, and should always be the first option. Where students’ needs cannot be met in mainstream provision, then independent colleges will be considered. We aim to be able to meet young people’s needs within their own community and support networks and services, and residential provision will only be considered where there is an essential educational requirement for it.

The UCAS website can be used to search for information and courses in colleges and higher education institutions, and to apply for university: www.ucas.com.

Transition planning
Your Personal Advisor or keyworker, as well as your school, will work with you from around the age of 14 to look at your options after school and into adult life. Colleges should also be involved in planning the move between school and college to prepare to meet students’ needs and ensure a successful move to college life.

Similarly, students’ longer term goals for adult life should influence the learning programme they follow. Annual reviews and targets will focus on progress towards these outcomes, and the school/college and keyworker (and other professionals where appropriate) will help students to prepare for adult life on leaving education.

See also ‘Preparing for adulthood’ on www.croydon.gov.uk/sendoffer

Young people with Education Health and Care Plans may need longer in education or training in order to achieve their outcomes and make an effective transition into adulthood. However, this position does not mean that there is an automatic entitlement to continued support at age 19 or an expectation that those with an Education Health and Care Plan should all remain in education until age 25.

Study Programmes and Supported Internships for young people with special needs
Study programmes are available for 16-25 year old students with a Learning Difficulty Assessment or an Education Health and Care Plan. Each student’s Study Programme will be suitably challenging to support progress and should include skills in English and Mathematics. Work experience will be included to develop employability skills and/or create potential employment options.

The supported internships scheme is being developed to help young people aged 16 to 24 with complex learning difficulties or disabilities to find work. Further education (FE) colleges will work with employers to:

- find a job that suits the abilities of each intern
- create a unique study programme so all interns can learn the necessary skills to do the job
- Study programmes include on-the-job training with expert coaches responsible for supporting both interns and their employers.
- Programmes can also give interns the opportunity to take courses to develop other relevant skills, such as effective communication or understanding money.

For more information go to: www.gov.uk/government/policies/improving-the-quality-of-further-education-and-skills-training
SPECIAL SCHOOL SIXTH FORMS IN CROYDON

Admission is dependent on having a Statement of SEN or Education, Health and Care Plan and is managed through Croydon council’s SEN team.

Beckmead School
For boys who have a range of complex needs including behavioural, emotional and social difficulties, communication difficulties and those with a diagnosis of autism. A post-16 centre will open from September 2015, offering mainly practical, vocational courses.
Monks Orchard Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 3BZ
020 8777 9311
office@beckmead.croydon.sch.uk
www.beckmeadschool.co.uk

Bensham Manor School
For students with moderate learning difficulties and autism.
Ecclesbourne Road, Thornton Heath, Croydon CR7 7BN
020 8684 0116
mainoffice@benshammanor.com
www.benshammanor.com

Priory Special School
For students with severe learning difficulties and autism.
Hermitage Road, Upper Norwood, London SE19 3QN
020 8653 7879/020 8653 8222
secretary-p16@priorycroydon.org.uk
www.priorycroydon.org.uk

St Giles
For pupils with physical disabilities and complex medical needs across the ability range from profound and multiple learning difficulties to mild learning difficulties.
207 Pampisford Road, South Croydon, CR2 6DF
020 8680 2141
office@st-gilesschool.co.uk
www.st-gilesschool.co.uk

SPECIAL SCHOOL SIXTH FORMS IN OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITY AREAS

Carew Academy
For students with moderate learning difficulties. They are also able to meet the needs of some pupils who have emotional and behavioural difficulties, where this is their secondary need. A sixth form, providing up to 50 places for 16–19 year olds is proposed for September 2015. Based in Wallington, Sutton.
www.carewmanor.org

Clifton Hill
For students with severe and profound learning difficulties, and autism. Based in Caterham, Surrey.
www.cliftonhillschool.co.uk

Linden Lodge
For students with visual impairment, including those who are multi-disabled visually impaired. Based in Wimbledon.
www.lindenlodge.wandsworth.sch.uk

Oak Lodge
For students with hearing, speech, language and communication needs. Based in Wandsworth
020 8673 3453
www.oaklodge.wandsworth.sch.uk

Riverside School
For students with severe or profound learning difficulties, including autism. Based in Bromley.
www.riversideschool.org.uk

SIXTH FORMS IN CROYDON MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS WITH ENHANCED LEARNING PROVISION (SPECIALIST BASES)

‘Enhanced learning provision’ is a term that is used to describe specialist provision in a mainstream school for pupils with a significant level of special needs. Admission to these is through Croydon council’s SEN team.

Addington High (The Spectrum)
Support for pupils with autism. Age range 11-16.
Contact: Fairchildes Avenue, New Addington, Croydon CR0 0AH
01689 842545
ahs@addington.croydon.sch.uk
www.addington.croydon.sch.uk

Edenham High
Support for pupils with speech, language and communication needs. Age range: 11-18.
Contact: Orchard Way, Shirley, Croydon CR0 7NJ
020 8776 0220
admin@edenham.net
www.edenham.croydon.sch.uk

Oasis Coulsdon (The Ozone)
Contact: Homefield Road, Old Coulsdon, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 1ES
01737 551 161
admin@oasiscoulsdon.org
www.oasisacademycoulsdon.org

Shirley High
Support for pupils with hearing impairment. Age range 11-18.
Contact: Shirley Church Road, CR0 5EF
020 8656 9755
office@shirley.croydon.sch.uk
www.shirley.croydon.sch.uk

Woodcote High
Support for pupils with physical disabilities or medical needs. Age range 11-18.
Contact: Meadow Rise, Coulsdon, Surrey CR5 2EH
020 8668 6464
enquiries@woodcote.croydon.sch.uk
www.woodcote.croydon.sch.uk

POST-16 EDUCATION — COLLEGES, FURTHER EDUCATION AND UNIVERSITY
SIXTH FORM COLLEGES IN CROYDON AND THE LOCAL AREA

Coulsdon College
Placehouse Lane, Old Coulsdon, Croydon, CR5 1YA
Contact
Peter Wraith, Learning Support Manager
☎ 01737 551176 ext. 104
✉ peter.wraith@coulsdon.ac.uk
🌐 www.coulsdon.ac.uk/learning-support

John Ruskin College
Selsdon Park Road, South Croydon, CR2 8JJ
☎ 020 8651 1131
✉ info@johnruskin.ac.uk
🌐 www.johnruskin.ac.uk
Use link to ‘Student Support’

Reigate College
Castlefield Road, Reigate, RH2 0SD
☎ 01737 221118
✉ enquiries@reigate.ac.uk
🌐 www.reigate.ac.uk/learning-support

FURTHER EDUCATION COLLEGES IN CROYDON AND THE LOCAL AREA

Croydon College
College Road, Croydon, CR9 1DX
☎ 020 8656 5700 ext. 3539
✉ info@croydon.ac.uk [use ‘LDD enquiry’ as subject of message].
🌐 www.croydon.ac.uk
[Go to Further Education – Additional Support]

Bromley College of Further and Higher Education
Includes the Nido Volans Centre, a specialist area for students with LDD.
Rookery Lane, Bromley, BR2 8HE
☎ The Learning Inclusion team
020 8295 7004
✉ ALS@bromley.ac.uk
🌐 www.bromley.ac.uk

Carshalton College
Nightingale Road, Carshalton, Sutton SM5 2EJ
☎ 020 8770 6800
✉ cs@carshalton.ac.uk
🌐 www.carshalton.ac.uk

North East Surrey College of Technology (NESCOT)
Reigate Road, Epsom, Surrey, KT17 3DS
☎ 020 8394 3038
✉ info@nescot.ac.uk
🌐 www.nescot.ac.uk
[Go to About – Student Services – Disability Services]

South Thames College, Merton:
Includes the Aurora Centre for 16-25 year olds with ASD and complex needs.
South Thames College also has a campus in Wandsworth.
☎ 020 8918 7777
✉ info@south-thames.ac.uk
🌐 www.south-thames.ac.uk
[Go to Guide – Learning Difficulties and Support]

INDEPENDENT SPECIAL SCHOOLS WITH SIXTH FORMS IN LOCAL AREA

Independent schools may be used if local authority maintained schools are unable to meet a young person’s needs. Placements must be made through Croydon’s SEN service.

There are several independent special schools with sixth forms in Croydon and the surrounding boroughs: the schools below are examples. The Department for Education has a register of approved educational establishments in England and Wales. The register includes special schools and independent schools:

🌐 www.education.gov.uk/edubase/home.xhtml

Blossom House
For students with speech, language and communication difficulties
Based in Wimbledon.
Further information:
🌐 www.blossomhouseschool.co.uk

Cressey College
A multi-site special school for students with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties, particularly challenging behaviour, and/or additional complex needs. This includes autism, speech and language difficulties, Aspergers, ADD, ADHD, OCD, ODD, dyslexia and dyspraxia.
Based in Croydon.
Further information:
🌐 www.cresseycollege.co.uk

Eagle House School:
For students with autism. Based in Sutton.
Further information:
🌐 www.eaglehousegroup.co.uk/eh/our_schools/eagle_house_school_sutton

Rutherford School
For students with profound and multiple disabilities. Based in Croydon.
Further information
🌐 www.rutherfordschool.org.uk
Young Epilepsy (St Piers School)
For students with a range of conditions including autism, ADHD, behaviour difficulties, epilepsy, moderate learning difficulties, severe learning difficulties and profound multiple learning difficulties. Based in Lingfield, Surrey.
Further information:
http://school.youngepilepsy.org.uk

The Link
For students with speech, language and communication difficulties and learning difficulties. Based in Sutton.
Further information:
www.thelinksecondaryschool.org.uk

INDEPENDENT SPECIALIST COLLEGES
There are a number of independent specialist colleges, catering for a variety of needs and interests. There are 3 of these colleges within a day’s travelling distance of Croydon, and their details can be found below.

Applications should be made to the college in conjunction with Croydon’s SEN service. Funding is paid by the local authority according to eligibility. All students will have a Learning Difficulty Assessment or an Education, Health and Care Plan. Applications will be assessed according to the individual abilities and support needs of the student, as described in the Learning Difficulty Assessment / Education Health and Care Plan and supporting documents.

Orchard Hill College
A multi-site day college for students with severe learning difficulties, autism and associated challenging behaviour aged 16+. Sites in Sutton, Kingston and Camberwell.
Further information:
www.orchardhill.ac.uk

Nash College, Bromley
An independent day and residential specialist college for learners with moderate to profound learning disabilities. In addition, students may have physical disabilities or complex medical needs, and some have autism. Age range 18-25.
Further information:
www.nashcollege.org.uk

Young Epilepsy (St Piers College), Lingfield Surrey
A residential and day college for students aged 19-25 with epilepsy, autism and other neurological conditions, moderate or severe learning difficulties, behaviour difficulties and specific medical or physical requirements.
Further information:
http://college.youngepilepsy.org.uk

The Association of National Specialist Colleges
has a college finder and information on choosing a college.
0117 923 2830
www.natspec.org.uk

SPECIALIST LEARNING DIFFICULTIES AND DISABILITIES PERSONAL ADVISERS
Eligibility: Young people aged 13 – 25th birthday in special schools needing specialist placements post-16 and 19. For residents of Croydon only. Those attending a Croydon school but living in another borough will be expected to use that authority’s service.

Referrals: Young people can refer themselves to the service. Referrals may also be made from teachers etc.

What the service provides: Helps young people to find a college place, apprenticeship or a job. The service is borough wide and mainly delivered in schools, colleges, and in local authority premises.

Contact:
Deirdre John
020 8604 7221
Deirdre.John@croydon.gov.uk

Melanie O’Donovan
020 8604 7220
Melanie.O’Donovan@croydon.gov.uk

Adrian Taylor
020 8604 7219
Adrian.Taylor@croydon.gov.uk

SEN and Specialist Teaching Services
Children, families and learning
Floor 4, Zone A
Bernard Weatherill House
8 Mint Walk
Croydon, CR0 1EA
CROYDON ADULT LEARNING AND TRAINING (CALAT)

CALAT provides courses for adults with learning difficulties and disabilities. They cover personal skills, ready for work skills, literacy, numeracy and computer skills, creative skills.

Eligibility: New learners have to have an assessment before enrolling on a class. To book an assessment

020 8604 7061

Contact:
ALDD Department,
CALAT Coulsdon Centre
41 Malcolm Road, Coulsdon
Surrey CR5 2DB
aldd@croydon.gov.uk.
www.calat.ac.uk/adults-with-learning-difficulties-andor-disabilities-aldd

INDEPENDENT PROVIDERS

Pursuing Independent Paths: Provides packages of services for adults with learning difficulties. Can tailor services to meet scope of personal budgets.

Contact
4E Warwick Court,
Shirland Mews, London W9 3DY
0208 960 4004
info@piponline.org.uk
www.piponline.org.uk

RESIDENTIAL TRAINING FOR DISABLED ADULTS

You can apply for residential training if you’re an unemployed disabled adult. You can do this if there aren’t any suitable training courses available to you locally.

Eligibility: Aged 18 or over, unemployed, a UK resident with a disability

The courses can help you get a job, give you more experience to keep a job or become self-employed. There are 9 residential training providers located throughout England. Courses vary and can include NVQs in:

• administration
• catering
• retail
• horticulture
• leisure/tourism/travel.

How to apply: You can apply for residential training and find out what courses are available by contacting the Disability Employment Adviser (DEA) at your local Jobcentre Plus:

Contact
Jobcentre Plus, 17-21 Dingwall Road,
Croydon, CR9 2TN
0345 604 3719
Textphone: 0345 608 8551
You can use the 0845 code to call these 0345 numbers. Check with your phone company which code is cheaper for you.

SKILL (NATIONAL BUREAU FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES)

Provides information on post-16 education, training, volunteering and employment. Also has a young people’s site to help them make choices in education, training and work.

020 7450 0620
Helpline: 0800 328 5050
Textphone: 0800 068 2422
skill@skill.org.uk
www.skill.org.uk
UNIVERSITY

As with colleges, each university will have its own support for special needs and disabilities. This should be provided in the university prospectus. If you have a disability, mental health condition or learning difficulty, it’s a good idea to contact course providers to discuss what you might need as early as possible – even before sending your application.

For more information on university courses go to: 🌐 www.ucas.com

Here are a few things to check with the course providers you’re interested in:

- Does the support available meet your individual needs?
- How does the course provider currently support other students with a similar impairment?
- Can anyone help with applications for Disabled Students’ Allowances (DSAs)?
- Will you need to provide proof of your disability – if so, what is required?
- If you find it hard to talk to the course provider, can you nominate someone else on your behalf?

Find a disability officer: To find the disability officer at the university you wish to enrol at or the nearest disability officer to your home address go to: 🌐 www.dsa-qag.org.uk

Disability Rights UK Guide for Disabled Students: Provides information on accessibility, choosing courses, support and finance. Order a hard copy for free – 📞 0800 328 5050 or email: students@disabilityrightsuk.org 🌐 www.disabilityrightsuk.org/higher-education-2014

Accessing facilities: Check lecture halls, libraries and living accommodation are accessible. Visit them and discuss your needs with staff before you apply to find out what support is available.

Accessing your course: Choose the right course for you, as some courses might be more challenging than others. Think about the learning objectives, what you’ll have to do to get the qualification and what professional requirements you need for your future career. Consider structure and materials too – for example some courses require lab work, or art degrees need extensive visual analysis of paintings.

Don’t be put off by any assumptions about your impairment – most subjects and professions can be made accessible with appropriate support, and the Equality Act gives employers a duty to make ‘reasonable adjustments’ to make sure disabled people aren’t at a disadvantage.

Accessing study materials: See if the study materials are available in the formats you need. Course providers might have large print, Braille, e-books, audiobooks and digital talking books. Online reading software can be useful too – increasing font sizes, changing background colours and converting text to speech.

Assessment arrangements: Ask about alternative study and assessment methods if you need them. Assessments are a regular part of life in higher education – if you need additional support or time, tell the disability coordinator as soon as you’ve registered for a course. Course providers can make other arrangements, ensuring your work can be assessed in the same way as other students – solely on merit. For example a student with a physical impairment might be able to take exams at home.

Check what facilities there are for personal carers: Whether you choose to live on or off campus, you may need to consider getting additional help and support in your daily life – e.g. for cooking, cleaning or transport. Start making arrangements as far in advance as possible to make sure you have what you need. In some cases it can take a year or more to get everything in place.

See what you have to do if you need to arrange communication support. Communication support workers, signers or note-takers can help you get the most out of your course. To cover the costs of this you can apply for Disabled Students Allowance. You should start applying for it six to nine months before the course begins.
Financial Support

Disabled Students Allowance

Higher education students can apply for a Disabled Students Allowance if they meet the following eligibility criteria:

- a physical or mental impairment
- a long-term health condition
- a mental health condition
- a specific learning difficulty, such as dyslexia.

You must also:

- be an undergraduate or postgraduate student (including Open University or distance learning)
- have a condition that affects your ability to study
- qualify for student finance from Student Finance England
- be studying on a course that lasts at least a year

Your course: Your course must be in the UK and one of the following:

- a first degree, eg BA, BSc or BEd
- a Foundation Degree
- a Certificate of Higher Education
- a Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)
- a Higher National Certificate (HNC)
- a Higher National Diploma (HND)
- a Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE)
- a postgraduate course
- Initial Teacher Training

You need to check with your university or college that your course is recognised.

You can’t get DSAs from Student Finance England if you’re:

- an EU student
- eligible for an NHS Disabled Students’ Allowance (this is a separate scheme – SEE BELOW)
- getting equivalent support from another funding source – eg from your university or a social work bursary

Evidence of eligibility: You will need to show evidence that you are eligible to receive a DSA:

- Disabilities or long term health condition: Report or letter from your doctor or consultant
- Mental health condition: Report or letter from your doctor or consultant – you can also fill in the Mental Health Evidence form (PDF, 60KB)
- Specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia: A ‘diagnostic assessment’ from a psychologist or suitably qualified specialist teacher – you’ll need to get reassessed if you had this done when you were under 16

DSAs are awarded on top of other student finance and don’t have to be repaid. Assessment is entirely needs based and isn’t measured against income. Also there’s no age limit. DSAs are given purely to cover the cost of support you need as a disabled student. They’re typically used to pay for specialist equipment and nonmedical helpers – like a note-taker or reader.

How to apply: Your application should be made to Student Finance England – you will find application forms on: www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsas

You will need to be assessed so once you have had confirmation that you are eligible you need to arrange for an assessment – to identify the support you will need.

You can use the Disabled Students’ Allowances Quality Assurance Group (DSA-QAG) website to search for assessment centres near your university or college. DSAs can take up to three months to arrange, so make sure you apply for one as soon as possible.

Further information may be found here:

- www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsas/overview
- www.sfengland.slc.co.uk/media/664653/sfe_dsa_guide_1415_d.pdf

NHS Disabled Students Allowance

Eligibility: You need to be:

- An Allied Health professional: You must be on or have been accepted onto a NHS funded course at an English university leading to professional registration as one of the following healthcare professions:
  - Audiologist
  - Chiropodist
  - Dental hygienist
  - Dental therapist
  - Dietician
  - Occupational therapist
  - Physiotherapist
  - Prosthetist and orthotist
  - Radiographer
  - Speech and Language Therapist
- A nurse or a midwife: You must be on, or have been accepted onto, a NHS funded course at an English university leading to professional registration as a nurse or midwife. Enrolled nurses on conversion courses may also be eligible.
- A doctor or dentist: year 5 (or beyond) of an undergraduate programme or years 2, 3 or 4 of a graduate programme.

For further information and application forms go to:

www.yourdsa.com/dsa/eligibility-nhs

Disclaimer

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information provided, we cannot accept responsibility or liability for any errors which may have occurred. It is therefore, recommended that you always check details with providers to ensure their service meets your requirements.