



The College

Kirklees College is a large further education college with two main centres in Dewsbury and Huddersfield. The College has over 18,000 students across full time study, apprenticeships and part time courses, offering a wide range (over 300) of courses.

The mission statement of Kirklees College is *“Creating opportunity, changing lives”*.

The goal at Kirklees College is to nurture, develop and stretch students to equip them with the skills they need for the world of work and progression to higher education.

Kirklees College provides extensive student support to make sure students are able to work well and are successful. This includes financial support, which can include help with childcare for young parents, the learner support fund and the bursary to help with travel and other costs.

There is a confidential counselling service offered by professionally trained college counsellors. Additionally, there is student support from the tutor, personal tutor, team leader for success, progress coach and where appropriate an additional learning support adviser. This ensures that student needs in college are met wherever possible such as educational needs, careers guidance, personal and emotional issues and financial matters. Special advisers provide support for looked after children and young carers.

The *Kirklees Economic Strategy* has identified the regeneration of Dewsbury town centre as a major priority. As part of this regeneration, two new Kirklees College centres (Dewsbury Learning Quarter) are planned for a 2018 opening:

- The Pioneer House opposite Dewsbury railway station will be a centre for higher level skills, apprenticeships and post -19 studies, specialising in creative and digital industries, media and art, healthcare and business. The centre will also have hair and beauty salons and a café open to the public.

- A new centre will also be built in the heart of Dewsbury town centre for full time students aged 16-19 including foundation learning, creative and digital industries and motor vehicle.

Career Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)

The College has an absolute commitment to providing effective CEIAG for its learners. There is clear and active involvement of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and CEIAG is central to the core values of the College.

The College mission statement of *“Creating Opportunity, Changing Lives”* fits well with the ethos of good practice in CEIAG. One of the strategic objectives is to *“attract, nurture and develop a highly skilled, efficient and professional workforce”*.

Careers provision is a high priority at Kirklees College and is well resourced. The team of Careers Advisers have a dedicated careers room located very centrally in the atrium of the college and staff this daily. They have a careers information library, computers for students to use and offer a drop-in and appointment service.

The college has a contract with C&K Careers, whose Careers Advisers work alongside the college Careers Adviser who has recently achieved her QCF level 6 Careers Guidance Diploma. The service provision in college is managed by a senior manager who also looks after the information and school liaison teams, the application process and internal progress.

The College believes that its overall careers provision has greatly benefited from working alongside and linking in with C&K Careers to plan events such as the annual Careers Fairs.

Information and advice is available on entry to the college via the Information team. Careers Advisers are available at open day events. 16-18 year-old students are appointed a Progress Coach who, as well as offering pastoral support, provides training and support around careers information and advice. These Coaches provide a triage service for the careers team, refer students needing careers guidance and link with the team to provide careers education in tutorial sessions. ‘Confused’ or unsuccessful applicants to the college are referred to the careers service by the application team for additional support.

The college has a clear commitment to careers education and has launched a new strategy entitled *“Route To Work”*. The ethos behind this strategy is that all students enter college on a route to work and will be supported by tutors in their specific industry knowledge, in tutorial receiving training in employability skills and through careers guidance. Careers Advisers support this process taking *“Route to Work”* referrals and guiding students through the learning process.

There is also a dedicated arm of the college “*KC Works*” which engage with employers and set up work placements for students specifically targeting students who are leaving college or who have strong employability skills perhaps gained outside college through volunteering and part-time jobs. For year 2017/18 the target is to offer all students a 30-hour work placement as part of their study programme.

The college has dedicated two weeks to careers activity. “*Employability week*” is timetabled for March to tie in with National Careers and National Apprenticeship week; and an HE week is held in May, targeted at level 3 first year students to inspire them to consider Higher Education and set them on track with their course research before the summer.

The Careers team work alongside the schools’ liaison team and *KC Works* to organise employer talks for employability week and help to organise careers fairs at the two main college sites in Huddersfield and Dewsbury. Major national employers and small local employers attend to talk to students about future careers and job choices.

The college first gained the **Quality in Careers Standard** back in 2011 (originally named then as the C&K Careers Quality Standard) and has been through two successful reaccreditations since then. The most recent review was in March of this year (2017).

The college has also held the **matrix** quality standard since 2014 and has also been successful in keeping this accreditation at their three-year assessment again earlier this year, June 2017.

Student engagement in CEIAG/Student voice

All students at Kirklees College are surveyed within a few weeks of entering college and later in the academic year where they are asked to feed back their thoughts about careers and other issues. The results of these surveys are relayed to the relevant departments and may feed into the College Quality Improvement Plan. From the most recent survey, some students fed back that they did not know where the careers service was located in college or how to access the service, therefore, the team has been working on marketing and promotion developing leaflets, visiting classrooms and have set up Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Student Voice activity has now been embedded at the college within tutorial which is labelled as *Progression, Development and Achievement* (PAD) for all 16-18 year olds facilitated by Progress Coaches.

All curriculum areas have a student representative who is nominated and elected; he/she can collect and feedback student views to Student Voice. Every area also now has a ‘super representative’ who links in with Governors and attend wider meetings.

Students provide feedback for the corporation via Student Governors. These are the Student Union President plus one elected student representative. Students are also involved in walk-throughs of curriculum and non-teaching areas.

The Student Voice Flowchart provides a model and timeline for Student Voice activity across the college community.

There is also an annual student conference, which provides an opportunity for students to engage in themed workshops with relevant directors and managers. A member of the careers team attends the student conference to speak to student representatives, ask questions and gain valuable feedback.

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