



## The College

Wyke Sixth Form College, one of the region's largest A-Level and Level 3 providers, serves Hull, East Riding, and North Lincolnshire. Offering 31 A-Levels, 12 Vocational courses, 1 T Level, and a Foundation Diploma in Art and Design, the college caters to 16-19-year-olds. With 2,452 students from a 20-mile radius, Wyke's robust transport system ensures accessibility. Approximately 50% of its students come from the lowest five deprivation index deciles, with 20% from the lowest decile, and 57% are first-generation university attendees.

Student destinations exceed local and national averages, with around 75% progressing to Higher Education, including 25% to Hull University. The remaining 25% typically enter apprenticeships or local employment, keeping 50% of the cohort within the area. This supports the college's careers programme and stakeholder relationships.

The College - rated Outstanding by OFSTED in 2023 - has 2,434 students and offers a curriculum influenced by local and national labour markets. Over the past four years, 33 students have gained Oxbridge places, and 47 have secured positions in medicine, dentistry, and veterinary fields. The student body is predominantly White British, with 20% from ethnic minority backgrounds. The College has worked closely with the former HEY-LEP (Hull and East Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership) and its successor body to adapt its curriculum to local skills needs.

## At Wyke Sixth Form College, Hull

Wyke Sixth Form College is an exceptional provider of education for 16-19-year-olds from Hull and the Humber region who aspire to progress into professional occupations. The College aims to inspire students to make more progress than they thought themselves capable of in an environment of supported independence. Students develop the character, skills, and knowledge to go on and make a positive contribution to society.

## Mission Statement and Values

The College's mission is:

*"To inspire and support all students to achieve exceptional success."*

The College's vision is:

*"To be the best sixth form provider in the country, a cornerstone of educational excellence in the Hull and Humber region."*

The College's values focus on:

- *Pride*
- *Academic Excellence*
- *Thriving In A Caring Community*
- *Ready For The World*

### **Career Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)**

The College has held the national **Quality in Careers Standard** for the last 6 years, most recently being successful in achieving re-accreditation in June 2023. For the College, achieving the **Standard** is national recognition of the high quality, independent, impartial, advice and guidance services that it provides to all of its students. The rigorous process allows the College to review its careers programme every 3 years. This enables the College to reflect upon and highlight new initiatives and developments that have been added as well as taking time to identify any potential gaps that need addressing.

The College strives for excellence in all that it does, the Head of Careers and Skills says:

*"We have a fantastic support system at Wyke with dedicated support from Corporation Governors, SLT and curriculum staff who are all invested in learners' next steps and positive destinations. It is this collaboration that I feel really sets us apart, careers are embedded in the curriculum and throughout the college. The scalability this allows is unprecedented and was highlighted in our recent Ofsted inspection."*

Below are extracts from the 2023 successful **Quality in Careers Standard** re-assessment report:

*"The Careers Programme at Wyke College is strongly embedded with a clear commitment to providing CEIAG that meets the needs of all its students. The Principal spoke about the Wyke Experience which is designed to enable students to develop their skills, character, and confidence, and how the focus on the student experience, threaded through the curriculum, is making sure that students are ready for their next step".*

**"Strengths:** *There are many areas of excellent practice at the College, including:*

- ***The Wyke Experience:*** *Focusing on developing students' skills, character, and confidence, ensuring they are ready for their next step.*
- ***An Integrated Careers Programme:*** *Embedded in the curriculum, supported by Enrichment and Next Steps, and embraced by all teaching staff.*

- **Strategic Planning:** Published Careers Programme with a timeline of key events, shared with students and parents.
- **CEIAG Policy and QIP:** Updated in January 2023, linked to the Gatsby Framework, and reviewed annually to identify strengths and areas for development.
- **Leadership and Support:** Led by Careers Leader, Gemma Hayes-Logan, with strong support from SLT and Corporation Governors.
- **Communication:** Between members of the CEIAG team and tutors is strong with weekly meetings. Gemma is a member of the College Leadership Team and the wider Pastoral team.”

**“Learning from career and labour market information:** Extensive evidence was provided to demonstrate that all students have access to up-to-date career and labour market information about career pathways covering the full range of opportunities in education, training, and employment. This included:

- Careers in the curriculum audits, completed annually by the careers team.
- Two-day careers convention in October with over 90 providers
- Displays within curriculum areas
- The tutorial programme with regular Unifrog sessions and other career topics
- LMI advertised to students on a regular basis
- The academic enrichment programme, including our aspirational Flyers programme
- As part of work experience
- During 1:1 careers guidance meetings
- Annual Y1 Parent event ‘ Next steps’ with access to providers and LMI content across three specific talks

Parents and carers can also access information via the College website.”

**“Addressing the needs of each student:** Wyke College is committed to personalised and impartial support for students from pre-enrolment. When prospective students are interviewed, they are asked about their intended destinations, and again when they enrol. This information is updated during induction and again whilst they are at college.

Student intended destinations are recorded on the innovative ‘Tiles’ system which links to the Progress Log. ‘Tiles’ shows each student’s intended destination, as recorded by staff. Students are also able to add other areas of interest. For example, their first intended destination may be to study a subject at university, but they can also say they are interested in apprenticeships and other subject areas.

At enrolment, students meet with the Additional Learning Support Team (ALS) to discuss whether any adjustments are needed. This information is considered throughout their time at college and including where relevant, in discussions about their intended destinations. There are a small number of students (currently 13) with EHCPs. A member of the ALS will attend the EHCP review with referral to the Careers Adviser if needed. Due to the high level of educational achievement, students with EHCPs have excellent destinations and their additional needs (in the main) are about physical adjustments. They are each supported to make effective transitions to their next step.”

**“Linking curriculum learning to careers:** Extensive evidence was provided to show that careers education is embedded within all areas of the curriculum, to a high standard. This included:

- A cross-curricular audit, carried out by the Careers team annually.
  - Noticeboards showing careers linked to specific subject areas (e.g. Accounting)
  - schemes of work for subject delivery include explicit careers links focusing on the relationship between the skills used in the subject and the wider world of work
  - Regular employer led skills activities and guest speakers
- Trips to Universities and employer premises*
- Students are encouraged to sign up for Academic Enrichment related to their career aims, e.g., Pre-Law, Pre-Med, Pre-Vet, Pre-Nursing and other pre-industry, Oxbridge, the Flyers programme. Students can take part in entrepreneur events and competitions.”

**“Experiences of Workplaces:** The Careers Team supports all students to access an experience of a workplace which, depending on their course, will be either a work placement, work shadowing, or a workplace visit which includes talks from different members of staff about their job roles.

*All curriculum areas are audited to ensure they are offering these opportunities, and students will only miss them if they are not attending due to sickness, etc.*

*The students spoke about how work experience opportunities had been tailored to meet their career interests. For example, staff arranged for a student to have a pre-work experience meeting (prior to a placement at the Guildhall in Hull) which led to the planned activities being adjusted to accommodate her career aim to become a Barrister rather than a Solicitor.*

*Another student spoke about how her tutor had helped her set up interviews with local professionals working with sufferers of domestic violence, to enable the student to create a short documentary video, demonstrating her suitability in her application for a BBC TV Apprenticeship. Another student spoke about the two hospital work placements he had.*

*Students are supported to prepare and reflect on these experiences either in curriculum sessions by subject teachers (where the work experience is organised by the curriculum area), or by their tutors. They can record their learning on the new Unifrog platform.”*

**“Encounters with employers and employees:** All students have the opportunity to have at least two meaningful encounters with employers/employees during their study programme through a range of activities and events, which include:

- **Employer and Professional Talks:** Students engage with a variety of employers, alumni, and professionals through curriculum-integrated talks and Academic Enrichment sessions, including WIME presentations.
- **Parent and Enterprise Adviser Contributions:** Parents and the Enterprise Adviser provide insights into their professions through talks, enhancing students’ understanding of different career paths.
- **Industry Leads in Vocational Areas:** Eight Industry Leads have been appointed to vocational curriculum areas to integrate industry standards into skill development.

- **Centralised Engagement System:** A centralised system, created by Gemma, manages and monitors all interactions with external partners, ensuring staff can easily connect with the right contacts and track activities.

**Personal Guidance:** All students have the opportunity to have a 1:1 career guidance meeting with a qualified careers advisor. All students are invited to book a careers guidance appointment using the booking system. Students can also be referred via their personal tutor or ALS staff. The Careers Advisers reported that referrals from Tutors are highly effective.”

**“Destinations:** Destinations data is collected for each student. The College carefully analyses the destination data to evaluate the success of the careers programme. The HESA retention report shows that Wyke is out-performing sixth forms in the private sector. 100 students chose to take a gap year (for financial or work experience reasons) after completing their course in 2022, and 80 of those students then re/applied to university. The rest were supported to apply for employment/apprenticeship opportunities.”

**“Evaluation:** Wyke College has developed an outstanding Careers Programme to prepare its students for their future goals.

The assessor wishes to highlight here the strengths of the college’s CEIAG provision:

- Strong leadership with a strategic approach, underpinned by systematic data analysis and good evaluation processes, The Head of Careers and Skills, is well supported by the Vice Principal, and both have an open-minded approach, looking to continuously improve the offer to students.
- The Corporation, the Principal, and other members of the SLT are actively supportive of the Careers Programme, and there is clear evidence of a whole college approach to CEIAG.
- An excellent tutorial programme (Next Steps) delivered by committed, and highly professional staff who are fully aware of and informed of their role and expectations for the Careers Programme.
- CLMI is embedded across the curriculum via the Careers in the Curriculum strategy and delivered by knowledgeable subject teachers who are enthusiastic about the added value of making the links between their curriculum subject and industries / the world of work.
- There are many contacts with a wide range of employers, education providers and alumni who supply a very wide range of input, activities, and support for students.”

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