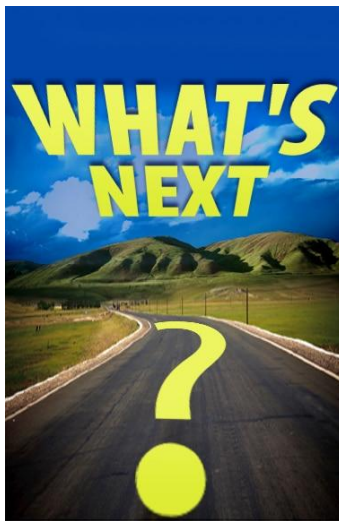




**Brookfields**  
Specialist SEN School

## **Moving On from Brookfields**

**Information for Families of pupils in the  
Enrichment Strand**



We understand that the process of exploring what would be the right next step for your young person may feel daunting. Please be assured that a discussion about next steps will form a part the annual review process from year 10 onwards.

Outside of the annual review, we encourage families to keep us up to date with the future plans for their young people if their decision about next steps were to change. By being aware of their destination as early on as possible, we can carefully plan our transition work to meet their individual needs.

Some of the options available after Brookfields:

- Further Education
- Support from Personal Assistant
- Adult Social Care

### **Further Education**

If you would like your young person to continue in Education, then start looking at colleges. Many hold open days or evenings from September to early spring, or contact them directly to request to an alternative date to visit. Have a look around and ask any questions you have. Find out about what courses they offer.

It would be worth checking/considering:

Which colleges are within your local authority?

How long does the college course last for?

Is the course full time?

How will your young person get to college?

## Reading College: Our House



The Reading College PMLD course takes place at Our House, an external provision located in Wokingham. It is a multi-sensory course which specialises in profound and complex learning difficulties. It offers opportunities to continue learning life skills using a specialised sensory and interactive approach.

### **Tier 1: Pathway to Exploration**

This programme provides for the needs of individuals with profound and complex learning difficulties including sensory impairment, physical disabilities and severe medical conditions. This programme will support all aspects of needs including health, care, therapies, medications, and educational development.

Learning groups are small with an average of six students a day, each with their own 1:1 support worker.

The course runs Monday - Thursday, for 36 weeks. Students have the opportunity to access this for 2 to 4 days a week dependent on needs and space available.

Nb Due to very limited space at Our House, they cannot accommodate any pupils with lots of personal equipment such as standers, chairs etc.

### **Application Process**

Initially please contact Donna Hopkins to discuss the course in further detail.

Email: [Donna.Hopkins@ActivateLearning.ac.uk](mailto:Donna.Hopkins@ActivateLearning.ac.uk)

Application forms can be found here:

<https://reading.activatelearning.ac.uk/college-life/how-to-apply/>

## Newbury College

Newbury College offers a range of programmes that are linked to the developing communication, life and living skills, focusing on careers not courses.

### **Connect**

This is a programme aimed at students with severe or profound and multiple learning and physical difficulties. The focus of learning is the development of communication and life and living skills, with a high level of support from trained staff. Students take part in sensory and creative activities and access the local community. Portfolios of evidence are gathered to support accredited work towards the City and Guilds Award, Certificate and Diploma in Personal Progress. Students are also assessed against departmental descriptors in Communication and Interaction, Life and Living Skills, Pathways to Employment and Personal Development. Staff work with speech and language, AAC, physiotherapy, occupational therapy and dietary needs professionals to deliver individual programmes tailored to meet needs.

### **Application Process**

When joining Newbury College, applicants will be assessed and offered the most appropriate programme to meet their individual needs. Before making an application, please contact them first, either by phone: 01635 845000 or email: [send@newbury-college.ac.uk](mailto:send@newbury-college.ac.uk) Application forms can be found here: <https://newbury-college.ac.uk/high-needs>

For more information, please contact Leanne Butters.

Email: [send@newbury-college.ac.uk](mailto:send@newbury-college.ac.uk)

Website: <https://newbury-college.ac.uk/>

## **Personal Development & Leisure opportunities**

### **The Ridgeline Trust**



<https://ridgeline-trust.org.uk/>

The charity operates a therapeutic garden with the aim of providing gardening and garden-related activities and training for people suffering from the effects of mental or physical disability, with a focus on wellbeing and increasing the opportunities for social interaction.

The two-hour sessions are led by a horticultural therapist and assisted by volunteers. Dependent on needs, clients may require 1:1 PA assistance. The site has disabled toilets but no hoist system at this stage.

### **4ME Activities**

<https://www.readingmencap.org.uk/services-for-adults/4me-activity-project/>

Reading Mencap's 4ME Activities Service offers exciting opportunities for adults with learning disabilities to enjoy a varied range of daytime pursuits.

Members are actively involved in choosing what they would like to do. Expert instructors can be invited to provide special sessions such as drumming, yoga and dance. Sessions include the opportunity to explore the local community, including local museums, garden and leisure centres, parks and cafes.

## Adult Social Care

### Local Offer:

- West Berks <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/local-offer>
- Reading <https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=n1-oXAajaO8>
- Oxford <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/children-education-and-families/oxfordshire-send-local-offer>
- Wokingham <https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/children-families-and-young-people/send-local-offer>

### Community Day Centres

Please note, Day Centres may have waiting lists in order to access these. These waiting lists, in our experience, can be up to a year so it is vitally important that if this is an area that you would like to explore either contact your Social Worker and let them know or, if you do not have a Social Worker, contact your local authority and request to be contacted by the Transition Social Worker.

### General information:

- Information about Day Centres within West Berkshire: <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/communitydaycentres>
- Day services and supported activities collated by Brighter Futures (Reading Local Authority) [https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/results.page?adultchannel=4\\_1](https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/results.page?adultchannel=4_1)

### Specific day centres which may be worth exploring:

- Greenfield House Day Centre  
<https://www.westberks.gov.uk/greenfieldhouserc>
- Their cohort include some younger adults and is open all year, Mon-Fri, apart from Bank Holidays. Greenfield provides staffing for most, but if an individual's needs (medical or behavioural) are greater than they typically cater for then they can bring their own PA. Catchment is prioritised to those living in West Berks. Activities are planned in four-week cycle and will be adjusted suit cohorts attending each day. There is a waiting list for spaces.
- Optalis Day Centre  
<https://www.optalis.org/services/learning-disabilities-day-support> Optalis run a number of day centres in Berkshire, Wokingham, Windsor & Maidenhead. The different centres are set up to cater for different needs. The centres try to offer as many community visit opportunities as possible. There is structure to the day, with activities planned around central themes, but this is flexible. The centres are open all year, Mon-Fri, apart from Bank Holidays. Staff are allocated within the centre but customers can bring their own PA if required. OT available as part of the centres but other therapies would need to be coordinated through a social worker. You need to bring your own food to these centres.
- Strathy Close Day Centre  
<https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/service.page?id=KeZd8PDLr5c>

## Other avenues for support:

- Autism Berkshire  
<https://www.autismberkshire.org.uk/helpline-one-to-one-support-for-adults/>
- <https://acrereading.org/alafia/> The Alafia Family Support Service offers family support with activities and general advocacy. They work with families from ethnic minority backgrounds caring for a child or children aged between 0 – 25 years with a disability or special educational needs
- Me2 <https://me2club.org.uk/>
- AutAngels [autangel.org.uk/about/](http://autangel.org.uk/about/)
- <https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/for-parents-carers/send/> Reading Local Authority information and advice page
- **Annual Health Checks** are available to anyone aged 14 or over who is on their doctor's learning disability register
- <https://www.autism.org.uk/autism-services-directory> a directory of local services and opportunities
- <https://www.ipsea.org.uk/Pages/FAQs/Category/signposting-for-further-advice-and-information> this is a list of organisations who offer advice on a range of topics, as well as details of how you can contact professionals such as educational psychologists or health therapists.
- West Berks SENDIASS  
<https://westberkssendiass.info/special-educational-needs-sen-support/>
- Reading SENDIASS <https://www.readingiass.org/>
- Local clubs  
<https://www.readingmencap.org.uk/services/for-adults/>
- There may be opportunities to volunteer at Woodley Repair Café, fixing other people's items and reducing landfill  
<https://woodleyrepaircafe.co.uk/>

## **Transition-specific avenues of support**

Transitioning to Adult Social Care from Children's Social Care

West Berks:

<https://www.westberks.gov.uk/article/38944/Transition-from-Children-s-Services>

Reading:

<https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/family.action?familychannel=3-10>

West Berkshire LA Preparation for Adulthood / Transition guidance

[https://www.westberks.gov.uk/media/42639/West-Berkshire-Council-s-Adult-Social-Care-Transitions-Information-Guide/pdf/20240311-Transitions\\_information\\_guide\\_A4\\_v3\\_110624\\_Final.pdf?m=1720779565303](https://www.westberks.gov.uk/media/42639/West-Berkshire-Council-s-Adult-Social-Care-Transitions-Information-Guide/pdf/20240311-Transitions_information_guide_A4_v3_110624_Final.pdf?m=1720779565303)  
<https://parentingspecialchildren.co.uk/parents-carers/transition-to-adulthood/transition-to-adulthood-workshop-berks-west/>

Reading LA Preparation for Adulthood / Transition

guidance <https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Preparing-for-Adulthood-guide-for-parent-carers-final-small.pdf>

<https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/advice.page?id=abRYjnjTf3o>

<https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/directory/localoffer.page?familychannel=3-10>

## Leaving school before year 14



Pupils can leave Brookfields School to attend college from the end of year 11. Or they can choose to attend Sixth Form at Brookfields School for one, two or three years.

If your young person is considering leaving Brookfields School to attend a different college or sixth form, there are two things that we would ask you to do:

- Please talk to us to let us know as soon as possible, ideally at their annual review. Even if you change your mind, the sooner we know the sooner we can support.
- If you are definitely leaving you need to let your Local Authority (LA) know your intentions. The LA will need to update your EHCP to reflect your wish to leave school.

If you are considering college for the next step, this is how it works:

1. Make an application (either your young person or you need to do this)
2. Let school know and we can then inform your Local Authority (LA)
3. Once applications have been submitted, the LA will consult with the college to determine if they can meet need. During this they may ask for paperwork

such as their EHCP to review and ask to meet the young person, either in school, college or both.

4. If they feel that they can meet need, the college will let the local authority know.
5. The LA will then update the EHCP (with your agreement) to name the next education provider. The school will then plan their transition.

If you choose to leave Education altogether you still need to let your Local Authority know. Your EHCP will then cease.

You can ask for support from Social Care who will be able to support with finding other options when you leave.

Once you have let us know your intentions to leave earlier than Yr14, we can start supporting you every step of the way. For further questions and support please contact Katie Gray [kgray@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:kgray@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk)

## Key Dates 2025-2026



21<sup>st</sup> October: What's Next? evening at Brookfields School. A variety of representatives from day centres, colleges, social care and

transition officers will be available to share information about their setting or what support they could provide

### Open days

Newbury College: dates to be announced on their website <https://newbury-college.ac.uk/high-needs>

Reading College: 15 October 4:30pm - 7pm and 8 November, 9:30am - 12pm  
<https://reading.activatelearning.ac.uk/>

**College applications generally need to be submitted by the end of March**