

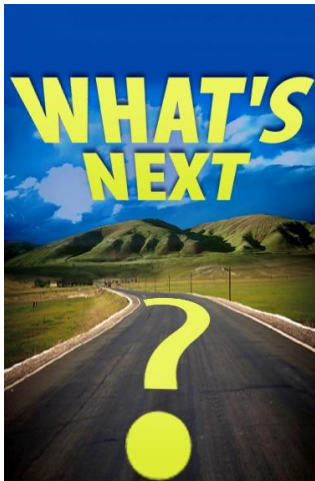


Brookfields
Specialist SEN School

Moving On from Brookfields

Information for Families

for pupils in the Engagement 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
- Internships
- Find a job

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 is worth checking:

Which colleges are within your local authority.

How long does the course last for?

Is the course full time? Many are not but they may be able to offer advice on what to do on the day(s) that your young person are not at college.

What qualifications are required to do the course?

What are their job prospects after the course?

Further areas to consider...

How will your young person get to college? Which are closest? Could they travel there independently or could they learn to do that by the time they leave Brookfields?

Local Colleges:



Course Overview

This course is for young people who have severe learning difficulties or disabilities with EHCP who will benefit from a high level of support.

Course Structure

The course will focus on working towards EHCP outcomes and developing social skills. This may include:

- Cooking
- Shopping
- Travel training
- Gardening
- Projects in the local community
- Creative projects
- Work in a cafe

English and Maths skills will also be taught.

Application Process

To apply for a place at Henley College please follow this link: <https://www.henleycol.ac.uk/apply/application-process>

For more information, please contact Amanda Rowe.

Email: arow@henleycol.ac.uk

Website: <https://www.henleycol.ac.uk/courses/view-all-courses/item/84/entry-1-pathways-1>

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

Focus

This is a study programme where students begin a journey of up to three years and develop skills in independent living and employability. The programme covers topics such as Personal Development, Communication and Interaction, Life Skills, Employability and Essential Literacy and Numeracy Skills. Coursework units will vary each year depending on the previous qualification gained.

Application Process

When joining Newbury College, applicants will be assessed and offered the most appropriate programme and pathway to meet their individual needs and goals. Before making an application, please contact Newbury College first, either by phone: 01635 845000 or email: 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

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

Basingstoke College of Technology

There are two Foundation Learning courses in the at BCoT that would suit learners from the Enquiry Strand.

Prospects (employability skills)

The course will lead to the NCFE Level 1 Employability Certificate and you will then undertake a supported work placement so you can develop your work skills in a safe and understanding environment. You will also study English and maths and have regular speakers and sessions from people in industry. You will also be given a 'job coach' who will support you to move onto employment.

Foundation and Future Pathways

These courses incorporate English, maths, personal development and life skills which are studied alongside a mainstream vocational course which includes work experience. The Future Pathway has bigger classes, with longer lessons and works through at a faster pace.

Application Process

Email: nextyear@bcot.ac.uk

Telephone: 01256 306679

Website: <https://www.bcot.ac.uk/subject-areas/foundation-learning/>

The majority of learners in the Engagement strand would suit the style of learning offered in the Tier Two course at Reading College.

Tier Two: Pathway to Independence and Supported Work

This programme provides for the needs of individuals with severe to moderate learning difficulties who want to continue to build on essential skills for living, employment and community

Application Process

Initially please contact Helen Greenwood to discuss the course in further detail.

Helen Greenwood:

Email: Helen.Greenwood@ActivateLearning.ac.uk

Telephone: 0118 9554514

Application forms can be found here:

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

Other Colleges which could be considered:

New Directions College



<https://www.newdirectionsreading.ac.uk/>

City of Oxford College



<https://oxford.activatelearning.ac.uk/courses/further-education/send/>



Supported Internships **shaw trust**

Supported Internships are unpaid study programmes for young people aged 16-24 who have an EHCP (Education Health & Care Plan). The course helps participants to upskill and find out what working is all about.

During the course, the young person will be enrolled at college (or sometimes at school) and therefore the internship usually runs in line with the academic year. The young person spends most of the week (typically 3-4 days) in the workplace and the remainder of their time in education.

Supported Internships generally run for a year and pupils usually start these in Year 14 or Year 15.

We have links to both Route to Recruit and Shaw Trust, who offer Supported Internship placements locally.

Personal Development & Leisure opportunities

The Ridgeline Trust



<https://ridgelinetrust.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

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/
- <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/direct_ory/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://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/direct_ory/advice.page?id=abRYjnqTf3o

https://servicesguide.reading.gov.uk/kb5/reading/direct_ory/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

Finding a job

Julie Grant and Lucy Bellman in the Way 2 Work Team can offer advice and support around the search for a job. They have many local contacts and can guide and refine the search for jobs.

Contact Julie Grant: jgrant@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk and Lucy Bellman: lbellman@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk for more advice.

The National Careers Service may offer further advice

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>

Independent Travel is an important skill for the future. Opportunities to build travel training skills are taken throughout secondary and sixth form. If further advice and support is required, contact Cathy Gingell, cgingell@brookfields.w-berks.sch.uk our Subject Specialist TA for Town Training.

Key Dates 2025-2026



21st 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

BCoT: Mon, 13 Oct 2025 16:30 - 19:00 and Sat, 22 Nov 2025 10:00 - 12:00 <https://www.bcot.ac.uk/>

Henley College: Tuesday 30th September 17:30 - 20:00 and Thursday 16th October 17:30 - 20:00
<https://www.henleycol.ac.uk/>

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