

HIGHER EDUCATION IN THURROCK - Thurrock pupils Aim Higher



There's a lot going on in Thurrock. You don't have to go away to study at a higher level. The traditional route to university from school or college is a good route but it's not the only route.

Some 40% of young people attending Palmer's go straight on to university

Thurrock pupils also have the opportunity to find out what higher education and university is all about by taking part in two of the schemes operating in Thurrock.

Each year some 150 young people from Thurrock & Basildon College continue in higher education

The first Scheme-Young People into Higher Education – which is an equal partnership between Palmer's College, Thurrock & Basildon College, Writtle College and Anglia Polytechnic University. Locally led by Thurrock and Basildon College this scheme has been running for three years now and is part of a national 'Aim Higher' campaign to widen participation in Higher Education.

Thurrock schools currently participating are Aveley, Ockendon and the new Gateway Community



Local Pupils 'Aim higher' at a College Event

College. It is a five year project commencing with 13 and 14 year olds in Year 8 and aimed at pupils who may not have considered higher education. It can be quite overwhelming to be the first person in your family to take this step.

Each year up to 40 youngsters can take part. The main event is three action packed, informative and fun filled days spent on co-ordinated activities with each partner. Parents and guardians are invited to join in for part of the time so that they too can have a taste of what modern university life is like.

In subsequent years, the young people have the opportunity to get together and have additional days at universities.

"They were three enjoyable days and we would all like to do it again!"

"We gained insight into further education learning alongside students in a college situation."

"It was such a different experience ..."

"We'd recommend it to our friends"

The second scheme is the **Cambridge Initiative** and is designed to raise aspirations, self-confidence and Awareness of Higher Education. This scheme is complementary to the above one but is aimed at 15 year olds in Year 10 and aims to enable them to become aware of their own potential. The lead partner is Palmer's College working in partnership with Cambridge University and a number of local schools. Three days of intellectual challenge and team working await the participants in this programme. 40 young people participated in the pilot now 80 pupils participate annually.

Clear progression pathways are identified across the three phases, secondary, tertiary and higher education. This has proved another successful programme helping young people to aim higher.



Local Pupils 'Aim higher' at a College Event

Our Local Colleges - providing young people

Palmer's College

"How do young people nowadays best increase their chances and choices in life?" The short answer is to achieve as high a level of qualifications as possible, starting at school, continuing at College, then to University and beyond. Learning is for life.

The best chance for young people is their first chance. So it is worthwhile getting your qualifications at the first opportunity and that is at 18 or 19, before moving on from College. This means achieving success at A levels or AVCEs (Advanced Vocational Certificates of Education) or BTEC Nationals, all of which open the doors to University and to professional careers. These are the courses that Palmer's College specialises in and which our students successfully complete.

The focus of Palmer's College is on supporting 16 to 19 year olds to achieve their potential so that when they are ready to decide on their future, they have the qualifications to do so. Many Palmer's students are the first generation of their family to go to University but they will certainly not be the last.

Some recent success stories from Palmer's are:

- Serena Page has just achieved a First Class Honours Degree in Geography from Cambridge University, a tremendous achievement. Serena left Grays Convent School with 6 A* and 3 A GCSE's and, during her time at Palmer's, gained 4 A levels at A grade, which enabled her to win a place at Cambridge.
- Darren Carrett joined Palmer's with 2 GCSE's at C grade and above from Torells School (now part of the Gateway Community College). He went on to achieve a GNVQ Int. Business, an AVCE Business and 2 further GCSE's. Darren then had a year out to help him raise the finance for University. His hard work paid off and he then went on to achieve a HND in Business at the University of Kent. Darren is aiming for a well eared career in business/finance.
- Razia Begum attended the Grays School and achieved 11 GCSE's, mainly A/A* grades. She went on to study at Palmer's, gained 3 A levels and 2 AS levels and is now reading Law at Kings College, London. Razia is well on the way to a successful career in Law.

We wish them all every success.



EMA (Educational Maintenance Allowance)

A major new benefit for 16 year olds that wish to go onto further education courses either in sixth form or Further Education Colleges.

EMA is a weekly payment worth up to £30. It is available for students where their household income is around £30,000 or below.

There are also bonuses of £100 if you remain on your course and progress with your learning.

Local Education Authority (LEA) representatives have been visiting colleges and schools to promote this new scheme. If you like further information please contact us on 01375 652511/12



Thurrock & Basildon College

“I didn’t realise there were so many ways to go into higher education”

Experience the Difference

Going onto Higher Education doesn’t have to mean studying A and AS levels. A range of specialised courses can help you gain a place studying what you want.

For example:

‘Do you want to work with children?’

Many of our students at Thurrock & Basildon College do!

Charlotte Marlowe, Lauren Burton, Jenna Harrington and Laura Rydings studied from a range of Childcare courses at the College such as BTEC National Diploma in Early Years, CACHE Diploma in Childcare & Education and the BTEC National Certificate in Early Years.

Now Charlotte and Lauren are studying for an Early Years degree, Jenna Harrington Psychology, and Laura Rydings has joined the BA in Playwork and Youth Studies here at Thurrock & Basildon College.

Our programmes prepare young people for entry to higher education whether they wish to move on to university or continue to study in Thurrock. We try to offer as many higher education programmes as we can so that those people who want to study locally can continue to do so.

‘Do you want a career in Fashion?’

Thurrock & Basildon College has had many successful Fashion students.

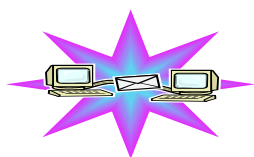
One outstanding student from last year was Ben Dobson (pictured right) who completed a BTEC National Diploma in Fashion & Clothing and is now studying BA (Hons) Fashion at Middlesex University.

We have every confidence Ben will be successful in achieving his degree and has an exciting future ahead of him in the fashion industry.



New Developments in Higher Education Finance

A new system is being developed between your Local Education Authority (LEA) and the Student Finance Company. Students will be able to apply for financial assistance on line, and keep track of their applications as they progress through the system for payment.



Local LEA representatives have been visiting colleges and schools to promote this exciting new system. If you would like further information please contact us on 01375 652511.

Connexions is an information, advice, guidance and support service for all 13 to 19 year olds (and older for some young people with learning difficulties and disabilities). If you want to progress to higher education your Personal Adviser will be able to advise you on the steps you need to take.

All young people have access to Connexions whether they are at school ... in further or higher education ... training or employment ... unemployed ... or doing voluntary work. Connexions encourages young people to make the best choices for them personally. Parents and carers may also access support on behalf of their son or daughter.

Thurrock Connexions Centre is located at 24-28 Orsett Road, Grays RM17 5EB where you can drop in from 10 am to 4.30 pm or phone on 01375 413735.

**KEY CONTACTS:**

Palmer's College
www.palmers.ac.uk

01375 370121

Thurrock & Basildon College
www.tab.ac.uk

0845 601 5746

Connexions (under 19)
www.estconnexions.org.uk

01375 413735

Anglia Polytechnic University
www.apu.ac.uk

01245 490835

Education Maintenance Allowance Information

01375 652511

Higher Education Finance Information:

01375 652511**THURROCK LEARNING PARTNERSHIP—Working together for you****Partners:**

- Anglia Polytechnic University
- Connexions
- Government Office-East
- Jobcentreplus
- Link-Ed Consortium
- Palmer's College
- Private Sector Training Providers
- Thurrock Association of Schools and Colleges
- Thurrock Adult Community College
- Thurrock & Basildon College
- Thurrock Business Forum
- Thurrock Council
- Thurrock Council for Voluntary Service
- Thurrock District Association of Industries
- Thurrock Libraries and Cultural Services
- Thurrock Primary Care Trust
- Thurrock Youth and Play Service