

# What does life at HNC genuinely look like for students?



**The information below provides additional advice, information and support for students who may be considering if HNC is the right place for their post-16 education.** We are committed to being transparent and open about what life at HNC looks like for students, to enable our applicants to have all the information they need in order to make the best decision for them.

Below you can find further information reflecting some of our most common FAQs about life at HNC.

## **Information for students who may currently have blended learning/ online learning arrangements in place**

HNC is unable to offer or facilitate distance/ online learning. Any student who enrolls at HNC is expected to be in a position to engage in a full-time, Campus based experience where a minimum of 95% attendance is required (90% is our reasonable adjustment for students with evidenced SEMH). This level of attendance is critical to ensuring students can thrive in their studies.

Level 3 study at HNC features significant amounts of group work, critical thinking and debate, as well as more challenging taught content. Due to the nature of teaching delivery at HNC, students who cannot attend well will quickly fall behind through missed learning and not being able to access the same level of face to face support from teachers. HNC offers

non-compulsory education, and where students are unable to attend well, this will trigger our supportive Fitness to Study Policy and potentially loss of a place if absences are at a level we cannot support.

This is why we carefully review attendance, as we believe it would not be in the student's best interest to offer them a place on a programme of study that their prior experience of education would indicate they are not suitably prepared for at this stage. For students who believe that an online, blended or remote learning model suits them, we advise that they explore institutions who offer this and are experienced specialists in ensuring that young people who learn in this way achieve their full potential.

## **Information for students who experience anxiety or challenges in large spaces**

We encourage students who feel they need to gain a realistic experience of the day-to-day college environment and HNC's expectations of their students within this busy, open-access environment, to contact our LSC team about transitional visits (these can be arranged at any point in the academic year).

HNC is large provider of post-16 education with up to 2800 people on campus at any one time. While the campus is large with lots of space, there are naturally times when key spaces become extremely busy, including lesson change over, lunch times and arrival/ departure.

## Information about use of time out cards/ quiet spaces

HNC offers a 'time out' card systems to support students with SEMH. These are designed to be used on a minimal basis, and students in receipt of one are expected to return to lessons within ten minutes or less – this is naturally because every minute of missed lesson will impact upon a student's ability to achieve their full potential. It is important to note that excluding for exams where an assessment has been made and access arrangements put in place, we do not offer students the option to work in a quiet room away from the main class during lesson time. Any student who enrolls at HNC needs to be confident they are in a position to engage fully in the HNC experience, and understand that the time out card system is not something that is available to use on an unlimited basis.

## Information about what the amount of learning time looks like in reality

While it is certainly true that students are not in face to face lessons in the same way as at school, it is important to note that post-16 education at HNC is full time and in its entirety is likely to compromise of more learning time than at GCSE. For every hour of face to face teaching, students are expected to complete at least one hour of independent learning – this means that on a weekly basis, students will be completing an average of 16 hours of work in their study periods in addition to the lessons in their timetable. Students will need to manage their time carefully to ensure that they do not fall behind.

## Information about expectations at HNC

While certain aspects of college life are different to school, in reflection of how students are young adults– for example, a uniform is not required and students may call their teachers by their first name – College does have high expectations for behaviour, and attitude to learning which have consequences for students who do not meet them. Students who fail to address any unacceptable behaviour or lack of commitment to learning are at significant risk of losing their place, as they would in the workplace if in

breach of key employer policies. We recommend that students review the Behaviour for Learning Policy to ensure a full understanding of our high expectations, and the process that will be followed if these are not met.

## Information about travelling to HNC

We encourage every applicant to carefully consider how they will travel to HNC, and the impact a journey will have on their daily routine. This is particularly important for those who may be recovering from health conditions or have had punctuality concerns discussed at interview. While the dedicated College bus service is highly convenient, it does make only one journey to College, and leaves at the end of the college day, meaning students must be confident that they can reach their designated stop in time and understand that they will need to await the departure of the buses at the end of the day, irrespective of if they are in the last lesson of the day or not.

Applicants may wish to complete trial journeys to arrive by 8.30am to ensure they have a realistic understanding of the journey demands as part of any decision making process.

## Information about punctuality

We do not facilitate late starts/ late arrival times to lesson, due to the amount of missed learning that results in. As a student at HNC you will need to be confident you can arrive on time to every lesson. Every minute of learning counts at HNC, and is an important part of developing excellent punctuality habits that are expected in the workplace. Students who arrive late to lessons are asked to knock and wait and late marks will be recorded. We understand from time to time that students may have some unavoidable lateness, however, we have high expectations and should this continue into College, students may find this is addressed under our Behaviour for Learning contract system.

***We hope that this additional information supports applicants to make an informed decision. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further advice if you require additional information. We are committed to providing all the information you need to support a decision, so please do not hesitate to contact HNC with any queries.***