

**NKC**  
**GRAVESEND**  
**COLLEGE**

# Course Guide

For School Leavers  
27/28



**16+**



**BE BOLD.**

**BE YOU.**

**BE READY.**

Your Future  
Starts with NKC  
Gravesend College

Find out about the new  
NKC Group on page 2.

# Explore NKC Gravesend College

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# Welcome to North Kent Colleges Group

**From September 2026, our campuses become colleges, each with its own distinctive identity, celebrating the important role every college plays within its local community.**

This exciting evolution reflects both our growth and our commitment to providing education that is locally focused and group supported. As North Kent Colleges Group, we bring together strong local colleges under one resilient organisation, combining the personal experience of a local college with the opportunities, expertise, and resources of one of Kent's leading further education groups.

**No matter which college you choose, you'll benefit from:**

- High-quality teaching from experienced industry professionals
- Modern, industry-standard facilities
- Strong links with employers and universities
- Outstanding student support
- A welcoming college community that understands your local area
- The wider opportunities that come from being part of a larger college group

Whether you're preparing for university, starting your career, developing practical skills, or exploring your passions, we're here to help you achieve your ambitions and take your next step with confidence.





Local Colleges

Group Strength

Endless Opportunities

### **Our Promise to You**

Choosing a college is one of the most important decisions you'll make. Wherever you study within North Kent Colleges Group, you'll be joining a college that is proud of its local community while benefiting from the scale, investment, and opportunities of a successful college group.

We look forward to welcoming you and helping you build the skills, confidence, and experiences you need for a successful future.

### **A Message from David Gleed CEO and Executive Principal**

*"Our evolution reflects both our growth and our commitment to local communities. Every one of our colleges plays a vital role within its local area, and becoming North Kent Colleges Group provides greater clarity about how we operate – locally delivered, group supported."*

*Our colleges are deeply rooted within the communities they serve. This new structure combines strong local responsiveness with the strength, expertise, and resilience of a wider college group, allowing us to continue providing outstanding education and opportunities for every student.*

*While our identity is evolving, our commitment remains the same: to support our students, communities and employers with high-quality education that changes lives."*



# Welcome to NKC Gravesend College



**CONSTRUCTION  
TECHNICAL  
EXCELLENCE  
COLLEGE**

At NKC Gravesend College, we are passionate about giving students the skills, knowledge and experience they need to succeed in a changing world. As part of North Kent Colleges Group, we combine the strength and expertise of a wider college group with a strong local identity and deep connections to the communities and industries we serve.

NKC Gravesend College has a distinctive reputation for industry-focused education, providing students with the opportunity to learn in specialist facilities and realistic working environments that reflect the world of work. Whether you are looking to build a career in construction, engineering, catering, or another specialist trade industry, our courses are designed to help you develop the practical skills and professional confidence employers are looking for.

The College is proud to be a "Specialist Technical Excellence College" - one of 10 specialist construction colleges across the UK and home to professional construction and engineering workshops and specialist facilities that allow students to learn through practical, hands-on experience. Our strong links with industry also provide valuable opportunities to understand what it is really like to work in your chosen sector, helping you make informed decisions about your future.



Our courses are designed around real careers and real opportunities. From developing technical expertise and gaining industry experience to progressing to an apprenticeship, employment, higher education, or further study, we will support you throughout your journey.

And there is more to NKC Gravesend College than the specialist trade facilities. Our college is a place to build confidence, make new friends, discover your strengths, and develop the independence you need for your next step. Whatever your ambition, our dedicated staff are here to help you achieve it.

Alongside the courses featured in this guide, NKC Gravesend College offers a range of additional study options and progression pathways, giving students the flexibility to find the route that best matches their interests, abilities, and career ambitions.

# A Welcome Message from the College Principal

Choosing your next step is an exciting time, and I hope this guide helps you discover the opportunities available to you at our college.

NKC Gravesend College is proud of its strong technical and vocational heritage and its close relationships with industry. Our students benefit from specialist facilities, expert teaching, and opportunities to develop the practical skills and experience that can make a real difference when they progress into their chosen careers.

Whether you have always known what you want to do or are still exploring your options, you will find a supportive and ambitious community here. We want you to challenge yourself, discover what you are capable of and leave college with the confidence and skills to take your next step.

Most importantly, we want every student to have the opportunity to build a future they can be proud of.

I look forward to welcoming you to NKC Gravesend College and seeing you thrive as part of our college community.

**Mark Andrews**

**NKC Gravesend College Principal  
& Deputy Executive Principal  
(Strategy & Partnerships)**



# Open Events And College Tours

Our Open Events take place throughout the year, giving you the chance to explore everything NKC Gravesend College has to offer.

It's the perfect opportunity to tour our facilities, meet tutors and students, and discover which course is right for you. You can also apply for a September 2027 start.

Keep an eye on our website for full details and to pre-register!



Find out more

**APPLY  
NOW**



## **NKC Gravesend College Open Events**

**2026**

**Tuesday 3rd November**  
3:30 pm – 7:30 pm

**2027**

**Thursday 25th February**  
3:30 pm – 7:00 pm



## **North Kent Colleges Group Open Events**

### **NKC Dartford College**

**2026**

**Tuesday 13th October**  
3:30 pm – 7:30 pm

**Thursday 15th October**  
3:30 pm – 7:30 pm

**2027**

**Tuesday 23rd February**  
3:30 pm – 7:00 pm

### **NKC Hadlow College**

**2026**

**Saturday 7th November**  
09:30 am – 1:30 pm

**2027**

**Saturday 23rd January**  
09:30 am – 1:30 pm

**Wednesday 9th June**  
3:00 pm – 7:00 pm

### **NKC Tonbridge College**

**2026**

**Wednesday 4th November**  
3:30 pm – 7:30 pm

**2027**

**Wednesday 3rd March**  
3:30 pm – 7:00 pm



# Where Are We?

## 1 NKC Gravesend College

Lower Higham Road,  
Gravesend, Kent,  
DA12 2JJ

## North Kent Colleges Group Locations

## 2 NKC Dartford College

Oakfield Lane, Dartford,  
Kent, DA1 2JT

## 3 NKC Hadlow College

Tonbridge Road  
Hadlow, Kent, TN11 0AL

## 4 NKC Tonbridge College

Brook Street, Tonbridge  
Kent, TN9 2PW

# How To Get To Us

**APPLY  
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## Public Buses

The 490 and 190 Arriva bus routes stop on Dickens Road just outside the College. More information is available on the Arriva or KCC websites.

## Train

From Gravesend Station you can catch a 490 or 190 bus to the College.

## Car

Take the Gravesend East junction off the A2 and head towards Gravesend – there is ample FREE car parking available when you get here.



More information  
on how to get to  
**NKC Gravesend College**



# Reasons To Be Part Of NKC Gravesend College

## A local college with big opportunities

Located just outside the town centre, NKC Gravesend College is proud to be one of the only ten Construction Technical Excellence Colleges in the UK.

With a wide range of vocational and technical courses, students benefit from strong local employer links and industry standard and specialist facilities that prepare them for successful careers.



## Construction Technical Excellence College

The College is helping tackle critical construction skills shortages by training future bricklayers, roofers, electricians, and many other trades. Part of a £100 million initiative, the programme supports the industry's 35,000 vacancies and the government's target of 1.5 million new homes.

## Learn in real working environments

Our workshops reflect the standards of top employers, with professional grade equipment and realistic working environments. From engineering workshops and construction bays to commercial kitchens, salons and restaurants, students develop practical skills in professional facilities that reflect the workplaces they'll progress into after college.

## Employer Connections & Work Experience

We work closely with employers to provide meaningful work experience, industry placements and real workplace projects that build skills and confidence for the future.

## Recognised Quality

We are rated 'Good' by Ofsted (2024), with an 'Outstanding' judgement for Behaviours and Attitudes, reflecting our positive, focused learning environment and strong student support.





Good Ofsted  
rating (2024)

**Outstanding**  
for Behaviours  
& Attitudes

## Specialist Industry Facilities

Home to the National Maritime Training Centre, a leading provider of maritime education.

Students train with up-to-date equipment in specialist classrooms, a dedicated Fire Training Ground and a Thameside Jetty – offering hands on experience that mirrors real maritime careers.

## Industry-experienced Tutors

Our tutors bring more than teaching expertise – they bring real industry experience, professional knowledge and valuable employer connections. Their passion and experience help bring learning to life, while strong links with employers ensure students gain relevant skills, practical knowledge and opportunities that prepare them for future success.

## Supportive Environment

Our students are ambitious and their high expectations are supported by our experienced tutors. We are proud of our inclusive culture, where students feel safe, respected and motivated to succeed.

**APPLY  
NOW**



**Find out more  
by visiting the  
NKC Gravesend  
College website.**

# Learner Voice



## > Every voice matters

It is important to us that all our learners are encouraged to have their voices heard and for them to play an active part in College life.

Learner Voice provides opportunities for our learners to share their views, represent their peers and help shape their experience at NKC Gravesend College.

Through learner surveys, forums and feedback opportunities, we listen to what our learners have to say and use their feedback to continually improve their College experience.

## > Developing future leaders

Our learners can also take on representative and leadership roles, giving them the opportunity to work with fellow learners and College staff, contribute ideas and get involved in activities across the College.

These activities help our learners develop valuable communication, teamwork and leadership skills, preparing them for their next steps into further study, an apprenticeship or employment.

# Learner Enrichment

## > More than just a course

At NKC Gravesend College, enrichment plays an important part in helping our learners make the most of their College experience.

Alongside their studies, our learners have opportunities to try new things, meet new people and develop skills that support both their personal development and future ambitions.

## > Opportunities to get involved

We are committed to providing a broad and varied enrichment programme as part of a learner's educational programme of study. Some elements of enrichment will be facilitated through a learner's curriculum area and others will be College wide to broaden their horizons even further.

We have a newly converted Enrichment Hub where we want to develop a fun, engaging and vibrant zone for learners to develop their social, intellectual and physical skills as well as expand their personal development with positive interactions with many diverse learners; building a safe, sense of community and belonging at NKC Gravesend College.



# Qualifications Explained

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**Whatever your starting point, there's a qualification pathway to suit you.**

## Entry Level Certificates

Available to those who may not have the GCSE grades to go straight on to a Level 1 mainstream course, acting as a step-up qualification.

## UAL, NCFE & BTEC Diplomas

One or two year full-time courses specialising in a specific vocational area at Levels 1 to 4. They accommodate the needs of employers and allow for progression to university, providing practical real-life learning with theoretical background. Level 3 Diplomas can be taken instead of A-Levels as a route to Higher Education.

## VRQ (Vocationally-Related Qualification)

These courses, much like BTECs, specialise in specific vocational areas from Level 1 to 3. They aim to prepare you for the world of work focusing on a practical hands-on approach to learning, with theory to support this.

## T Levels

Advanced Level 3 courses and equivalent to 3 A-levels. T levels offer longer periods of Industry Placement (usually 45 days across the 2-year programme). The course is a combination of in-class study and work placement.

## Access to Higher Education

For people over the age of 19 who are interested in taking on an undergraduate degree programme, but who do not already have the required qualifications.

## Apprenticeships

With an Apprenticeship you will be employed with an organisation and will do your technical training at college. This means you will get paid and achieve a qualification at the same time. An Apprenticeship can take between one and four years to complete and covers over 1,500 job roles in a wide range of industries.

## Foundation Degrees and HNC/Ds

Undergraduate qualifications that are equivalent to years 1 and 2 of a university Bachelor's Degree. These programmes offer a more vocational element to university degrees, often with links to the industry itself.

## Professional Qualifications

These provide practical and work-related skills and the opportunity to gain nationally recognised qualifications, including I.M.I (Institute of the Motor Industry), and CITB (Construction Industry Training Board).

## English and Maths Requirements for 16–19 Learners

In line with government policy, all students aged 16–19 who have not yet achieved a Grade 4 (standard pass) in GCSE English and/or Maths are required to attend a minimum of 100 hours of face-to-face, whole-class lessons in each academic year.

Most students will work towards achieving a GCSE qualification in English and Maths. However, for a small number of vocational learners on Entry 3 and some Level 1 courses, who have previously achieved a Grade 2 or below, an alternative pathway may be available. Where appropriate, these students may study Level 1 Functional Skills as a stepping-stone qualification to support their progression.



If you have not achieved a grade 9–4 or above in English or maths at GCSE level, you will work towards this at college.

This Information is accurate at time of print.  
Please check the website for the most up-to-date information.



# Entry Requirements & Progression Routes

| LEVEL OF STUDY     | EQUIVALENT TO                                                     | QUALIFICATION OFFER                |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>ENTRY LEVEL</b> | 2 GCSEs at Grade 2–1                                              | Entry Level Courses                |
| <b>LEVEL 1</b>     | 5 GCSEs at Grade 3–1<br>NVQ Level 1,<br>BTEC Introductory Diploma | UALs, BTEC, Diplomas, Certificates |
| <b>LEVEL 2</b>     | 5 GCSEs at Grade 9–4<br>BTEC Diploma                              | UALs, BTEC, Diplomas, Certificates |
| <b>LEVEL 3</b>     | 2 or 3 A levels,<br>NVQ Level 3,<br>Access                        | UALs, BTEC, Diplomas, T Levels     |
| <b>LEVEL 4</b>     | HNC, Foundation Degree,<br>NVQ Level 4                            | Foundation Degree, HNC             |
| <b>LEVEL 5</b>     | HND, Foundation Degree (Year 1),<br>NVQ Level 5                   | Foundation Degree (Year 1), HND    |
| <b>LEVEL 6</b>     | Degree (Final Year)                                               | Degree (Final Year)                |



Indicative entry requirements – some programmes may have higher entry criteria because of industry standards.



| ENTRY REQUIREMENTS                                                                                                                               | PROGRESSION OPTIONS       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| No GCSEs or formal qualifications required.<br>Entry via interview.                                                                              | <b>LEVEL 1</b>            |
| You should have at least 2 GCSEs at grades 2–1                                                                                                   | <b>LEVEL 2</b>            |
| Usually 4 GCSEs at Grade 3 or above, including 2 core subjects. For specialist trades, you may need a Level 1 City & Guilds or NVQ qualification | <b>LEVEL 3</b>            |
| Usually 4 or 5 GCSEs at Grades 9–4, or a BTEC, UAL, City & Guilds Level 2 Diploma (or equivalent) with a Merit grade                             | <b>LEVEL 4</b>            |
| You must be over 18 and have relevant Level 3 qualification                                                                                      | <b>LEVEL 5</b>            |
| You must be over 18 and have relevant Level 3 or 4 qualification                                                                                 | <b>LEVEL 6<br/>DEGREE</b> |
| This is a Degree Level qualification and you must have relevant Level 5 qualification                                                            | <b>LEVEL 7<br/>DEGREE</b> |

# What Courses Where?

## NKC Gravesend College Courses

### Construction & Engineering

|                                        |         |
|----------------------------------------|---------|
| Brickwork                              | 2       |
| Carpentry & Joinery                    | 2       |
| Multi Trade Construction               | 1       |
| Craft Engineering                      | 1 2     |
| Electrical Installation                | 1 2     |
| Engineering                            | 3 4     |
| Motor Vehicle                          | E 1 2 3 |
| Painting, Decorating & Interior Design | 2       |
| Plumbing & Heating                     | 1 2     |
| Refrigeration & Air Conditioning       | 2       |
| T Level Civil Engineering              | 3       |

### Hairdressing

|              |       |
|--------------|-------|
| Hairdressing | 1 2 3 |
|--------------|-------|

### Hospitality & Catering

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Catering Professional Chef | 1 2 |
|----------------------------|-----|



## NKC Dartford College Courses

### Access to Higher Education

Access to Nursing & Healthcare 3

### Business & Finance

Business 2 3

T Level in Accounting 3

T Level in Business 3

### Computing & Game Design

Game Design 2 3

IT 2

T Level in Digital Software Development 3

### Creative Industries

Acting 2 3

Next Gen Animation & Visual Storytelling 3

Architecture, Interior & Product Design 3

Art 1 2 3

Dance 2 3

Fashion 2 3

Graphic Design 2 3

Media 2

Media - TV & Film 3

Media - Digital Journalism 3

Media - Content Creation 3

Miskin Voice 2 3

Music Performance 2 3

Music Technology 2 3

Musical Theatre 2 3

Photography 2 3

Technical Theatre 2 3

### Course Level

E Entry Level

1 Level 1

2 Level 2

3 Level 3

4 Level 4

For the most up-to-date information, please check the website as courses can change.

### Early Years & Health Care

Early Years 1 2

Health Care 1 2

Social Care 3

T Level in Education & Childcare 3

T Level in Health/ Adult Nursing 3

### Hair & Beauty

Beauty Therapy 1 2 3

Hairdressing 1 2 3

Media Make-up 2 3

Theatrical Make-up 3

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## NKC Dartford College Courses

### Hospitality & Events

Hospitality & Event Management **3**

### Legal Administration

Legal Administration **2 3**

### Public Services

Uniformed Services **1 2 3**

### Sport

Gym Studies **2**

Personal Training **3**

Sport **2**

Sport and Exercise Science **3**

Sport Coaching **3**

### Travel & Tourism

Vocational Studies **1**

Travel & Tourism **2 3**

One of the  
UK's top  
performing  
land-based  
colleges

### Course Level

**E** Entry Level

**1** Level 1

**2** Level 2

**3** Level 3

**4** Level 4

For the most up-to-date  
information, please check the  
website as courses can change.

**APPLY  
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## NKC Hadlow College Courses

### Land-based

Agriculture **1 2 3**

Agricultural Engineering **2**

Animal Management **1 2 3**

Equestrian Studies **1 2 3**

Fisheries Management **3**

Floristry **2**

Horticulture **1 2 3**

Introduction to the  
Land Based Sector **1**

### Construction & Engineering

Carpentry & Joinery **2**

Motor Cycle Maintenance  
& Repair **2 3**

Motor Sport **1 2 3**

Motor Vehicle Maintenance **1**

Motor Vehicle Maintenance  
& Repair **2 3**

## NKC Tonbridge College Courses



### Business

Business 2 3

### Computing

Computing 2

T Level in Digital Software Development 3

### Construction & Engineering

Multi Trade Construction 1

Electrical Installation 2

Painting, Decorating & Interior Design 2

Plumbing & Heating 2

### Creative Industries

Applied Theatre 2 3

Art 1 2 3

Fashion 2 3

Graphic Design 2 3

Media 2 3

Music Performance 2 3

Photography 2 3

### Early Years & Health Care

Early Years 2

Health Care 1 2

Social Care 3

T Level in Education & Childcare 3

### Hair & Beauty

Beauty Therapy 1 2 3

Hairdressing 1 2

### Hospitality & Catering

Catering Professional Chef 1 2

### Public Services

Uniformed Services 1 2 3

### Sport

Sport 2

Sport and Exercise Science 3

### Travel & Tourism

Travel & Tourism 2 3

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NOW**

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# Options After Your GCSEs

There are many routes after your GCSEs, from vocational programmes and A Levels to Apprenticeships – all of which can lead to your chosen career. The key is finding the right path for you. Here's an overview of your options.

## Levels of study

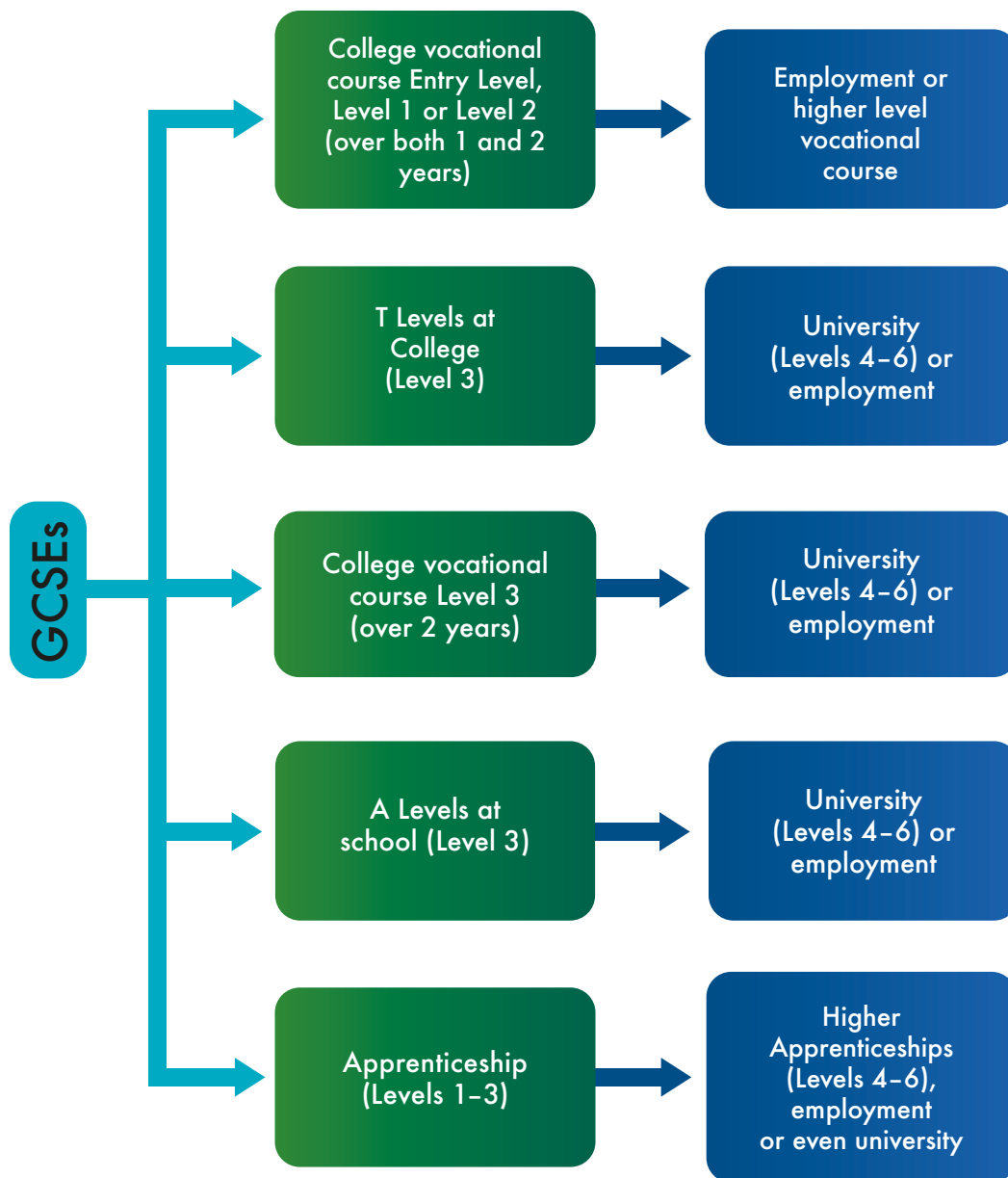
Based on your GCSE results (or predicted grades), our tutors will advise you on the most suitable level of study. This will be discussed at your interview and can be adjusted at enrolment once results are confirmed.

After GCSEs, you may start at Entry Level, Level 1 or Level 2, which are usually one-year programmes. From there, you can progress to Level 3, which is equivalent to A Levels. Alternatively, you may begin directly on a two-year Level 3 programme, leading to progression onto university (Level 4 and above) or employment.

For students aiming for university, a Level 3 Extended Diploma is typically required in the subject area (or a closely related field). We offer a wide range of courses that provide strong progression routes into Higher Education.

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# Work Placements

**We believe that real experience is one of the best ways to prepare for your future career and make you stand out to employers.**

If your course includes a work placement, you'll have the opportunity to gain subject-relevant experience with local SMEs, well-known organisations and innovative start-ups.

Work placements can be a valuable part of your learning, allowing you to apply your skills in real workplace settings. Many students also progress into part-time or permanent roles, or even apprenticeships, with their placement employer.

Whether or not your course includes a placement, you'll receive support with CV writing, applications and interview skills. We'll guide you through the process, helping you build the confidence and professionalism employers are looking for.



## The Benefits of a Work Placement:

- 1 Gain real experience in your chosen industry
- 2 Apply your learning in a real workplace
- 3 Learn directly from industry professionals
- 4 Build connections with potential future employers
- 5 Strengthen your CV and stand out when applying for jobs
- 6 Use relevant part-time work as part of your placement
- 7 Enhance your UCAS application for university progression



**APPLY  
NOW**

# Start Your Career With An Apprenticeship



**We are one of the leading Apprenticeship providers in the UK.**

**Whether you're just starting out in the world of work or if you want to change career, you can develop skills, knowledge and experience, and earn while you learn.**

## **What is an Apprenticeship?**

It's a great way to learn on the job, working alongside experienced professionals. You'll gain valuable skills and knowledge, and earn recognised qualifications at the same time.

Around 20% of your working hours will be training and development, either at college or in the workplace, while the rest of your time will be spent building real experience.



## **Find out more**

Please check our website for the most-up-to-date apprenticeship information as these are subject to change.



## Apprenticeship FAQs

### > Do Apprentices get paid?

You'll usually be employed to work a minimum of 30 hours per week and be paid a wage no less than the National Minimum Apprenticeship Rate - £8.00\* per hour, for the time you are in work and in off-the-job training.

If you are a part time employee, we will review your working hours and extend the duration of your Apprenticeship.

The amount you are paid is based on previous experience and current skill set, and your wage may increase as you make progress. You will also receive the same benefits as any employee, including holiday pay.

### > Who can do an Apprenticeship?

Anyone who is 16 years old and over can do an Apprenticeship, if you have a right to work in England and are not in full time education. There is no upper age limit, and it doesn't matter if you are just starting out or have already been employed.

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\*Price correct at time of print.

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## Apprenticeships offered at NKC Gravesend College

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Advanced and Creative Hair Professional

---

Engineering Operative

---

Engineering Technician

---

Motor Vehicle Service & Maintenance Technician

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Maintenance and Operations Maritime Mechanical and Electrical Mechanic



## Levels of Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are available from entry level through to degree level, offering opportunities to progress throughout your career. The level of Apprenticeship is based on the skills, responsibilities and knowledge required for the job role – not just the qualifications you already have.

## Apprenticeship Levels are set and equivalent to:

**2** **Level 2 (Intermediate):**  
GCSEs

**3** **Level 3 (Advanced):**  
A-levels

**4** **Level 4 (Higher):**  
Foundation degree

**5** **Level 5 (Higher):**  
Foundation degree/first year of bachelor's degree

**6** **Level 6 (Degree):**  
Bachelor's degree

**7** **Level 7 (Degree):**  
Master's degree

## What do I need to know about English and Maths?

English and Maths are an important part of your Apprenticeship. If you do not already hold the required qualifications, you will study English and Maths alongside your Apprenticeship.

Entry requirements vary depending on the Apprenticeship programme and your age, so please contact us for more information.

## What is the End Point Assessment?

At the end of your Apprenticeship's practical training, you will complete an End Point Assessment (EPA) to demonstrate the skills and knowledge you have developed during your training.

The assessment is carried out by an independent assessor and may include practical observations, exams, professional discussions, projects or a review of your work portfolio, depending on your Apprenticeship programme.

## Apprenticeships offered NKC Dartford College

Hair Professional

Advanced and Creative Hair Professional

Early Years Educator

## Apprenticeships offered at NKC Hadlow College

Crop Technician

Horticulture and Landscape Supervisor

Horticulture or Landscape Construction Operative

Sports Turf Operative

Advanced Sports Turf Technician

Golf Greenkeeper

Golf Course Manager

This Information is accurate at time of print.  
Please check the website for the most up-to-date information.



# Progression and your next steps

**We're committed to helping every student to progress.**

## Higher Education

Continue your studies with at Degree level, with our Higher Education Programmes.

## Tuition Fees

Access high quality education at a fraction of university costs! Find up-to-date fee information on our website.

## Study Locally

Stay close to home, keep your support network and save money by not moving away to university.

## Supportive Environment

Our small size means greater personalised support throughout your studies.

## Mature Students

If you're 21 and over, we'd love to hear from you. Even without the usual entry grades, relevant industry experience may make you eligible - we encourage you to apply.

# Construction & Engineering

Our workshops, laboratories and classrooms are designed to meet the highest industry standards.

## Why us?

1

### Real workshops

Train in our excellent workshop environments that reflect the standards, equipment and practices used in industry.

2

### Strong business links

Our partnerships with local employers create valuable opportunities, with many students progressing into Apprenticeships and employment.

3

### Industry-expert tutors

Learn from experienced professionals who bring real-world knowledge and skills to every lesson.

4

### Skills competitions

Challenge yourself through local and national competitions, showcasing your talents and building confidence for your future career.



## Apprenticeships

We have a great record for getting our students onto apprenticeships with reputable companies.

To read more about the apprenticeships we offer, please visit

**[gravesend.ac.uk/apprenticeships](https://www.gravesend.ac.uk/apprenticeships)**



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## Our courses

### Building Services Engineering

32

- Electrical Installation
- Plumbing
- Refrigeration and Air Conditioning

### Construction Crafts

34

- Bricklaying
- Carpentry and Joinery
- Construction - Civil Engineering
- Multi-Trades
- Painting, Decorating and Interior Design

### Craft Engineering

36

### Electrical/Mechanical Engineering

38

### Motor Vehicle

40

- Motor Vehicle Industry and Vehicle Technology
- Motor Vehicle Maintenance and Repair

# Building Services Engineering

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NOW**



**Find out more**

**Do you want a career in the Building  
Services Engineering Trade?**

Our building services workshops  
and laboratories are state-of-the-art  
and designed to meet the  
highest industry standards.

Every effort has been made  
to ensure the accuracy of  
this guide. However, NKC  
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no responsibility for errors or  
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right to amend the information  
at any time. Information is  
correct at the time of printing.



## Courses

### Electrical Installation

Foundation in Electrical Installation **1**

Electrical Installation **2**

### Plumbing

Foundation in Plumbing **1**

Plumbing **2**

### Refrigeration and Air Conditioning

Refrigeration and Air Conditioning **2**

Level **1** **2**



#### Entry Requirements

For more information, please see page 16.

You will learn current and relevant skills to set you up for your next step in plumbing, electrical installation or refrigeration and air conditioning. All of our staff are from industry, highly qualified and use their experience to give you the best support and to start your future. We have developed strong business links with local employers, providing great benefits to our students and giving learners experience of the workplace.

## Future Careers

Electrician

Gas Engineer

Pipe Fitter

Plumber

Refrigeration &  
Air-conditioning  
Technician



# Construction Crafts

## and Professional Construction



Find out more

**Do you want to work in the  
construction industry?**

Our workshops are designed to help you to develop the skills and knowledge you need to forge a lasting career in many of the trades as well as in professional construction.

**APPLY  
NOW**

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## Courses

|                                          |         |
|------------------------------------------|---------|
| Bricklaying                              | 1 2     |
| Carpentry and Joinery                    | 1 2     |
| Construction - Civil Engineering         | T Level |
| Multi-Trades                             | 1       |
| Painting, Decorating and Interior Design | 1 2     |

Level 1 2



### Entry Requirements

For more information, please see page 16.

Here at NKC Gravesend College, we have programmes in Bricklaying, Carpentry, Painting, Decorating & Interior Design and in professional construction.

We give you up to date skills that you can put directly to use either on the tools or in the planning of construction. We use modern methods of construction and work to give you as much understanding of the sector as possible, meeting with employers and developing mastery of skill.

## Future Careers

|                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Bricklayer        | Painter & Decorator |
| Carpenter         | Surveying           |
| Civil Engineering | Tiling              |
| Interior Design   |                     |



# Craft Engineering



Find out more

**This hands-on, practical subject introduces students to foundational engineering principles. It targets those interested in how industrial equipment functions.**

The courses provide an entry point into manufacturing, teaching the core skills required to build, maintain, and repair mechanical components and basic electrical assemblies safely within modern industrial workshop environments.

**APPLY  
NOW**



## Courses

### Craft Engineering

Level **1** **2**



#### Entry Requirements

For more information, please see page 16.

## Future Careers

Assembly Operator

Lathe/Milling Machinist

Engineering Apprentice

Maintenance Assistant

Junior Welder

Mechanical Fitter



These courses prioritise manual, hands-on learning, with around 50% of time spent completing practical exercises in industry-standard workshops. Students learn technical hand skills, including precision filing, cutting, drilling, and mechanical turning.

The Level 2 pathway expands into mechanical manufacturing processes like welding and milling, alongside circuit assembly. A strong emphasis is placed on introducing industry-standard Computer-Aided Design (CAD) software packages to translate conceptual sketches into physical components.

Alongside technical practice, the study programme incorporates mandatory core math and English development tailored to trade requirements. Crucially, courses provide opportunities for real-world work experience, allowing students to build networks with local engineering employers while actively finishing their qualifications. Assessment utilises continuous tutor observation of competence, portfolios of evidence, and end-of-unit knowledge tests.

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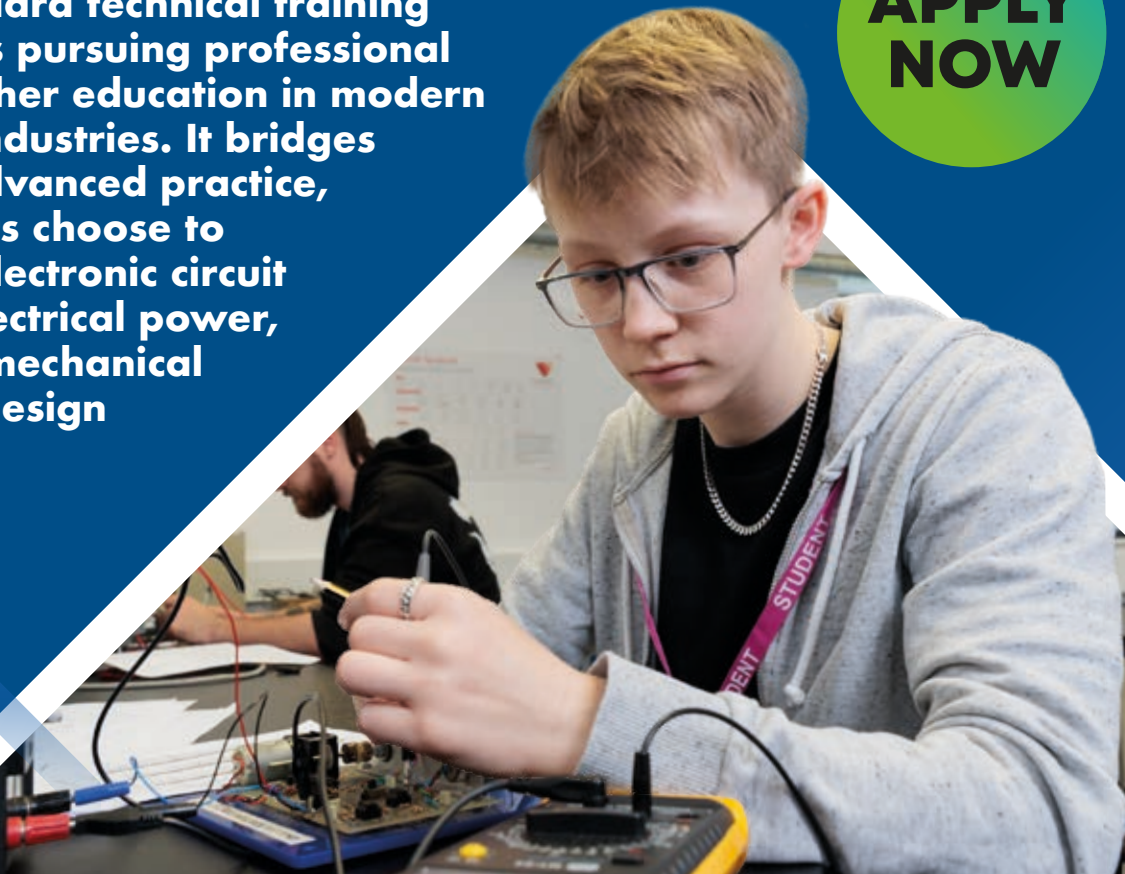
# Electrical/ Mechanical Engineering



Find out more

This advanced subject delivers industry standard technical training for individuals pursuing professional careers or higher education in modern engineering industries. It bridges theory and advanced practice, letting learners choose to specialise in electronic circuit design and electrical power, or advanced mechanical systems and design principles.

**APPLY  
NOW**



## Courses

|                                   |         |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Electrical/Electronic Engineering | Level 3 |
| Mechanical Engineering            | Level 3 |



### Entry Requirements

For more information, please see page 16.

## Future Careers

Aerospace Technician

Automation Engineer

CAD Technician

Control Systems Engineer

Electrical Engineer

Electronics Designer

Mechanical Engineer

Project Manager

Renewable Energy Engineer



These advanced Diplomas balance theoretical engineering science with professional laboratory application delivered by industry experienced tutors and supported by local employers.

Students utilise industrial-grade facilities including advanced Robotics, machine automation, Industrial AI, and computer suites equipped with Autodesk CAD software. In response to modern employer's demand for multiskilled engineers ready for the modern world of Mechatronics and Industrial Automation, learners develop a combined understanding of digital systems, electrical science, manufacturing systems, and mechanical machines and dynamics.

Project management, analytical troubleshooting, and collaborative communication skills are developed through a combination of assignment-based coursework, controlled tests, and engineering presentations. Completion provides a pathway directly toward university degrees, Higher National Certificates (HNC), or advanced technical apprenticeships.

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# Motor Vehicle

**APPLY  
NOW**



**Find out more**

**Are you hoping to forge a career  
in the Motor Trade?**

We have state of the art workshops  
to help you develop the skills  
you need to forge a career  
working with vehicles.

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## Courses

|                                                               |         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Introduction to Motor Vehicle Industry and Vehicle Technology | Entry 3 |
| Motor Vehicle Maintenance                                     | 1       |
| Motor Vehicle Maintenance and Repair                          | 2 3     |

Level 1 2 3



### Entry Requirements

For more information, please see page 16.

At NKC Gravesend College, we have courses at all levels, designed to meet the ability of each learner.

In our state-of-the-art workshops at Levels 1 and 2 you'll learn everything you need to know about how a car works, from fuel lines to brakes and air-conditioning to engines. At Level 3, you'll gain a deeper understanding of car systems and learn how to diagnose a problem as well as how to fix it. You'll be working each day in a state-of-the-art workshop and you will be taught by professionals who have worked in the Motor Trade. Our links with the trade helps my students gain meaningful employment at the end of their programmes.

## Future Careers

Automotive Mechanic

Master Technician

Diagnostic Technician

Vehicle Technician



# Hairdressing



**2026  
EDUCATOR  
OF THE YEAR  
WINNER**



**PROUD TO BE  
THE ONLY  
LEE STAFFORD  
ACADEMY SALONS  
IN KENT!**

**Our Lee Stafford Academy salons bring world-class hair education to Kent**

Our Salons are the only Lee Stafford affiliated in Kent and South East London. The quality of education and the skills being delivered by our master trainers is exemplary.

You will receive training in up to 24 fundamental skills and techniques which you will learn to what Lee calls 'Michelin standard'.

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## Courses

### Hairstressing

Level **1** **2** **3**



#### Entry Requirements

For more information, please see page 16.

## Why us?

**1**

### Real salon experience

Develop your skills through hands-on experience in our commercial salons and spa, which are open to the public and reflect real industry standards.

**2**

### Industry-expert tutors

Learn from highly qualified tutors with extensive experience across hair and beauty, including salon ownership and work in TV and film production.

**3**

### Outstanding facilities

Develop your skills in our industry-standard professional salons.



## Trips and enrichment

- Hair and Beauty Students visit Salon International at Excel London
- Lee Stafford Education have the opportunity to participate in the annual Lee Stafford Education photoshoot competition
- Hair Students participate in Training focus days with Wella Education



**Find out more**

# Hospitality & Catering

**Our modern, professional catering facilities at NKC Gravesend College feature industry-standard kitchens, service areas, and the Gallery Restaurant, which is open to the public. You will also benefit from highly equipped classrooms designed to support your learning.**

As part of your study programme, you will have access to professional industry experiences, helping you build valuable knowledge and develop the practical skills needed for a successful career in the Hospitality and Catering industry.

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**Find out more**

**APPLY  
NOW**



## Courses

Catering - Professional Chef

1

Catering - Advanced Professional Chef

2

Level

1

2



### Entry Requirements

For more information, please see page 16.

## The Culinary Academy

The Culinary Academy combines our hospitality curriculum with hands-on work experience, enrichment opportunities, and our training restaurant, The Gallery. From day one, you'll be a part of the hospitality industry, developing practical skills in a real-world setting.



## Recipe for Success: Former Student Shines on MasterChef

**Hospitality and Catering Student Competes In The Chefs' Forum Student Pastry Chef of the Year 2023.**

Former North Kent College student Chloe McCoy has gone from strength to strength since leaving the College in 2017.

And if she looks familiar that is because Chloe, who studied Professional Cookery at the College, reached the last six of the prestigious BBC One show MasterChef: The Professionals in 2024, after entering the competition with 32 other up and coming chefs from across the country!

After graduating from the College, Chloe has gone on to work at prestigious restaurants such as the Michelin-starred Glasshouse, Duck and Waffle, The Georgian House and more recently Kitchen W8. Chloe currently works at The Tin Shed in Notting Hill.

# Learner Success

**Meet some of the current learners and former students making their mark at NKC Gravesend College and beyond.**



**Discover more**

## **Mollie Thomas**

### **Level 2 Bricklaying**

Since completing her studies in 2025, Mollie Thomas has launched her career in construction and is now working as a brickwork improver with local housebuilder GSK.

Mollie has quickly established herself as a talented and hardworking member of the team and is currently gaining valuable experience working on the Ebbsfleet development.

She recently returned to College alongside former learner Harley Donno and representatives from GSK to share her journey with current Brickwork students, offering an insight into the skills employers value and the opportunities available within the industry.

Mollie's success is a great example of how skill, determination and a strong work ethic can lead to a rewarding career in construction.





## Fran Price

### T Level Design, Survey & Planning in Construction

Fran completed a 315-hour industry placement with Vistry Group, gaining hands-on experience across production, commercial, design and planning.

“

Both the College and my employer were very clear and supportive throughout my placement. It gave me the opportunity to work with industry professionals, gain hands-on experience and put what I'd learned at College into a real-life setting.

The experience boosted my confidence and helped me decide which area of construction I'd like to pursue after my T Level.

”

## Alex Kot-Medes

### Level 3 Motor Vehicle Apprenticeship

After initially studying Motorsport Engineering at university, Alex realised he wanted a more hands-on career and chose an Apprenticeship.

He now works four days a week at Horsepower Motor Centre, alongside studying at College.

“

Don't be afraid of taking a step back if you think it's the right thing. I don't regret leaving university – what I'm doing now makes me much happier. The facilities and knowledgeable teaching staff at NKC Gravesend College have made it a great place to study.

”



# How To Apply

**So, you've found the perfect course and you're ready to take the next step – great choice!**

1

## Apply Online

Simply visit **gravesend.ac.uk** to submit your application. Year 11 students in Kent can also apply through the Kent County Council online system – your school will be able to guide you.

2

## Application Check

We'll review your form and contact you if we need anything else.

3

## Interview Invitation

Once we have processed your application, you'll be invited for an interview to discuss your course options – don't forget to bring your latest school report. Interviews run throughout the year, and we aim to contact you with a date within three weeks of your application.

4

## Your Interview

This is your chance to tell us about yourself, and to learn more about us. You may receive an unconditional or conditional offer, or we may suggest a more suitable course.

5

## Offer Confirmation

We'll email your offer, well done! Accept it to secure your place, after which we'll send details about accommodation, finance and fees.

6

## Taster Events

All successful applicants will be invited to a Taster Event, whereby you will get the chance to meet members of the curriculum team and find out more about your course.

7

## Enrolment

You'll receive joining instructions over the summer. Enrolment takes place at the end of August. If your exam results are slightly lower than expected, don't worry – we'll work with you to find the right level within your chosen subject.



**APPLY  
NOW**



## **NKC Gravesend College**

Scan for more information  
on how to apply.

# Student Welfare



## Student Welfare

For more information on welfare and safeguarding support, scan the QR code to visit our website.

## Careers Advice

Our qualified advisers offer year round, confidential guidance on career choices, university routes and job applications.

## Counselling

College life can bring challenges, so our confidential, non-judgemental counselling service supports students with emotional wellbeing and personal difficulties when they need to talk.

## Equal Opportunities

We are committed to a respectful, inclusive environment where no-one receives less favourable treatment, on any grounds including age, race, colour, nationality, ethnic origins, creed, disability, HIV status, sexual orientation, sex, marital or parental status, political belief or social or economic class. We actively support learners with difficulties or disabilities.

## Disability Support

Specialist staff advise on appropriate support so all students can access the full curriculum.

## Welfare & Safeguarding Support

We help students settle into college life so that they can thrive, with a range of support services.

## Personal Tutors

Every student has a Personal Tutor for academic guidance, target setting and pastoral support.

## SEN Support

Our Learning Support Team assists students with EHCP's and other disabilities and learning needs including exam access arrangements.





# Student Financial Support

Money and Finance doesn't have to be a worrying experience. We want your transition into college to be as smooth as possible.

North Kent Colleges Group administers bursary funding to assist with additional course costs for low-income families.

Students aged 16-18 do not pay tuition fees for Further Education courses.

19+ Students who are on a full-time course funded either by the Government or via a 19+ Advanced Learner Loan, may also be entitled to assistance with the additional course costs.

Additional costs may be payable, such as kit, uniform, equipment, travel to and from college, trips, free college meals and childcare.

If your household is on a low income, you may be entitled to assistance with a contribution towards these costs.

The bursaries the college administers does not cover tuition fees for 19+ students.

## Free College Meals

Students must be aged between 16 and 18 on the 31 August 2027 to be eligible to apply for free college meals and must meet the eligibility criteria set by the Government. Students aged 19 – 24 who have an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP) who meet the eligibility criteria are also entitled to Free College Meals.

### How to apply

To apply for any of the college bursaries, please complete and submit the online application form, along with the required evidence. The application form can be found on the website of the college you are applying to.

**The bursary portal will open after the Easter break.**

# Your Journey Towards NKC Gravesend College

 September  
2026:

## 1 Explore Options

Start thinking about your next steps. Pick up a School Leavers' Guide or browse courses online.

 October–November  
2026:

## 2 Visit & Apply

Come to our open events, meet tutors and students and tour our facilities. You can apply on the day and start receiving monthly VIP email updates.

 December 2026  
–February 2027:

## 3 Find Out More

Keep in touch! We're happy to answer any questions. If you missed our open events contact us to book a tour. And if you've already decided to apply, we'll send your interview date and then your offer.

 May–June  
2027:

## 6 Good Luck

Best of luck in your exams. We can't wait to hear how you get on, and if you need any support we are here for you.

 March–April  
2027:

## 5 Revision Time

Exams are coming up and we've got loads of revision tips on our website. Remember to look after yourself too during this busy time.

 February–March  
2027:

## 4 Another Chance to Visit

More open events, more opportunities to explore NKC Gravesend College and apply on the day!



May–July  
2027:

## 7 Taster Events

All successful applicants will be invited to a Taster Event, whereby you will get the chance to meet members of the curriculum team and find out more about your course.



July  
2027:

## 8 Summer Break

Enjoy your summer!

You'll receive your enrolment invitation in August, and we are still here to help over the summer, just get in touch.



August  
2027:

## 9 Results & Enrolment

Got your results? We hope it's what you needed.

But if they're not what you expected or are better than you predicted, don't worry there will be options and we'll help you find the right level for you.



September  
2027:

10

## Welcome

Congratulations, you're officially a NKC Gravesend College student! You'll receive your start date and ID at enrolment and we'll look forward to welcoming you.

**Thanks for choosing us and best of luck!**



**BE BOLD.  
BE YOU.  
BE READY.**

**gravesend.ac.uk**



**NKC Gravesend College**  
Lower Higham Road,  
Gravesend, Kent,  
DA12 2JJ

