

# PREPARING FOR SUCCESS

## Parent Guide



## WHY CHOOSE QA

As a specialist sixth form college, we place particular emphasis on nurturing independent learners and encouraging parents to be part of this journey. The latest achievements at A Level signify the high standard of teaching and support available at Queen Alex Sixth Form College.

We are well placed to offer a bridging gap between school and university or employment, providing support and helping students achieve their best. Results are important; however, we also focus on developing students to achieve their personal best in a supportive, welcoming environment.

Queen Alex Sixth Form College offers a unique environment for A Level success, with experienced teachers, dedicated support staff and outstanding facilities supporting learning and development.

Our academic results continue to impress, and this year we celebrated another improvement on our A Levels by achieving a 100% pass rate. This puts Tyne Coast College which Queen Alex is a part of, 10.9% above the national average in terms of A Level achievement rates. (NART Tables, 18/19).

Tyne Coast College is also ranked in the top four FE institutes nationally for AS achievement rates (NART Tables, 18/19).

At Queen Alex Sixth Form College, the first thing you will notice is that our teachers are passionate about each and every pupil's success.

Our class sizes enhance classroom based performance whilst offering extra support through one-to-one tuition. Alongside lessons, independent learning and self-study is encouraged in free periods.

Queen Alex Sixth Form College provides a unique combination of academic and personal support, guaranteeing a highly rewarding A Level experience.

## STUDENT SUPPORT

At Queen Alex Sixth Form, supporting our students is at the forefront of what we do. We treat each and every student as an individual, and have a team of experts on hand to offer whatever support is needed.

### Personal Progression Coaches

All students are allocated a Personal Progression Coach (PPC) who provide one-to-one progression reviews, personal targets, university application support, including personal statements and CV writing.

Students will meet with their tutor and PPC every six weeks. During these meetings they will be assessed and future targets set, and agreed by the student to keep them on track with their studies. Through this regular communication, tutors and PPC gain a personal understanding of the student and their performance.

### Mental Health and Wellbeing

We take the wellbeing and mental health of our students very seriously. We have dedicated on-site mental health ambassadors who are on hand for a chat and to offer support when needed. We also have an on-site counsellor available to all students.

### Student Services and Financial Support

Our friendly Gateway team can help with a range of support including course information, careers advice, available financial support, welfare and general enquiries.

### Careers Guidance and Higher Education Advice

Our Careers Hub is available to all students who would like advice about further education, prospective interviews, CV building and Higher Education opportunities.



OFSTED RATED  
**GOOD**

(OCTOBER 2019)



- ✔ "Lecturers use their subject expertise to design high-quality learning resources and activities that help learners to develop their knowledge."
- ✔ "Learners benefit from useful careers advice which helps them to make realistic plans for their future. A high proportion of learners achieve their qualifications and progress to further study, higher education or employment."
- ✔ "Learners feel safe and know how to report any concerns. Safeguarding incidents are responded to appropriately and referrals are made to external agencies to keep learners safe."

## ABOUT TYNE COAST COLLEGE



**TyneCoastCollege**

With a mission to provide outstanding educational opportunities for all, and a vision to be a world-class centre of learning, Tyne Coast College delivers the exceptional qualifications, skills and training that inspires students to success.

Created from the merger of South Tyneside College and Tyne Metropolitan College, we are bigger, better and stronger by design, and perfectly positioned to meet the learning needs of young people from across the North East for years to come.

Market-leading brands such as South Tyneside College, Tyne Metropolitan College, Queen Alexandra Sixth Form College and the world-renowned South Shields Marine School, combine with a highly innovative and broad curriculum to give students the precise support they need to enter the career of their choice.

With superb links to the region's employers, we have the resources to positively shape our students' current and future lives.

TO FIND OUT MORE, VISIT [TYNECOAST.AC.UK](http://TYNECOAST.AC.UK)

## WHAT PARENTS SAY

"Since attending QA, Kiefer's confidence has increased amazingly and for the first time he has made friends, and enjoys lessons. Prior to this, Kiefer had his own room due to his ASD and other difficulties, but thanks to the support he has received from the teaching and tutorial staff, he has improved in all areas. He has recently received an unconditional offer from Newcastle University. Without the dedication and support from QA staff, this would never have been possible. I thank them from the bottom of my heart."

Helen Bradley (parent of Kiefer Bradley)

"Queen Alex has proved to be an ideal choice for both my sons. They both had different needs and expectations when joining QA, yet all were met, from confidence building to encouraging a mature outlook and taking responsibility for themselves. Being respected by their teachers has meant a win win relationship for both parties. I would highly recommend QA for school leavers requiring a shift from a school environment to a more adult way of learning."

Sandra Oakes (parent of Jake Oakes)

"My daughter Orla is studying maths and further maths, and I am so grateful for all of the support she has received not only by setting great work, but for the constant willingness to offer feedback, helping to keep students motivated. The passion for the subjects and the commitment to your students is evident. Many thanks to the whole team at QA for maintaining very high standards."

Paula Kennedy (parent of Orla Kennedy)

DID YOU KNOW?



all subjects achieved a **100%** pass rate

## WHAT STUDENTS SAY



**Alistair McKinlay**

"I've enjoyed my time at Queen Alex so much that I've decided to stay on for an extra year to do media studies, even though I've already completed and passed my A Levels in Sociology, Geography and Applied Science. I've had such a good experience and I truly believe that if you work hard, then anything can be achieved."



**Michael Hayden**

"I want to be a lawyer, so doing well in my law exam was very important to me. With the grades I gained after my first year, I'm confident about doing well in the second year of my A Levels."



**Jodie Tuffin**

"I'm so pleased with my grades. I've been accepted to study Psychology at university. I wouldn't be where I am today without the help and support from staff at Queen Alex."

## WHAT SCHOOLS SAY

"We have worked in partnership with Queen Alex Sixth Form College for many years and value the relationship that we have. The team at Queen Alex work exceptionally hard with our students to help them understand the pathways and possibilities that are ahead of them with objective advice that truly helps them to make the right decisions as they enter post 16 education.

Our close partnership with Queen Alex also means that we continue to share in the successes of our students after they leave us. There are countless stories of amazing achievement over the years with students accessing a wide range of courses that meet their individual needs, interests and ambitions. Every year we hear of amazing achievements by past John Spence students with many students going on to study at some of the UK's top universities and then into fantastic careers.

We wholeheartedly believe that Queen Alex is a great destination for our students, in particular for those who wish to progress to university, due to the quality of the provision alongside the care and support that the students receive. We know that the future of John Spence students is safe in their hands."

John Spence Community High School  
Headteacher, Jonathan Heath



## GET IN TOUCH

Queen Alexandra Sixth Form College,  
Battle Hill Drive, Wallsend, NE28 9NL

0191 229 5000  
enquiries@queenalex.co.uk  
queenalex.co.uk

f /queenalexcoll  
t queenalexcoll  
i queenalexcoll