

sixteen  
to  
eighteen



**EDUCATING** THE NEXT GENERATION OF **EXPERTS**

**PRINCIPAL** Lee Nixon

**STOKE STUDIO COLLEGE**

Moorland Road, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 1JJ

**T** 01782 603171

**DISCOVERY ACADEMY**

Discovery Drive, Stoke-on-Trent, ST2 0GA

**T** 01782 882100

**EXCEL ACADEMY**

Milton Road, Sneyd Green, Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 6LG

**T** 01782 882700



# OUR **VISION**

Stoke Studio College offers a strong foundation for a successful career. Offering excellent teaching and learning, one-to-one coaching, real **work experience** and the development of core **personal skills** including teamwork and communication, students will leave us confident and with a sense of purpose.

# OUR **ETHOS**

Our ethos centres on being professional, inclusive and adopting a **strong work ethic**.



# OUR **MOTTO...**

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Expect Excellence

# OUR FOCUS

For most people, being successful in life depends in a large part of being successful at work.

Our aim is to ensure that young people are successful at work and that they have the core skills and qualifications that will help them to be **successful in life.**

**EDUCATING** THE NEXT GENERATION OF **EXPERTS** - Stoke Studio College has a curriculum designed to ensure that young people are ready for the next step in their career, able to demonstrate and use a wide range of skills which are not taught automatically in a traditional education setting. Employers sometimes talk of new recruits being poor at English and Maths, not being punctual or just lacking the softer skills to be successful in the workplace. We will ensure that when our students leave us they will be ready from day one, whatever their progression route.



## WHAT IS A **STUDIO COLLEGE**?

Studio Colleges are a new type of pioneering 13-19 state school for young people of all abilities who want to succeed in life. They are based on extensive research and best practice from Britain and around the world and offer **a unique, practical and project-based approach to learning**. The curriculum specialises in enterprise projects and real work. Students aged 16-19 specialise in one discipline, leading to university, an advanced apprenticeship or full time employment.



## WHAT HAPPENS IN A **STUDIO COLLEGE**?

The key elements of a Studio College are tried and tested; students enjoy project-based learning, and they learn enormously from working with employers and getting an insight into the world of construction, engineering, manufacturing and business. Stoke Studio College brings all this together with the **curriculum rooted in the real world**. It is a bold and different approach and helps students develop the skills they need to succeed.

## WHAT CAN I **STUDY**?

This college delivers qualifications in construction, engineering, business and a range of A'Levels. Academic excellence is important; **students are expected to work hard to achieve their goals**. Stoke Studio College delivers its courses in a format designed for students who want something different and prefer to work in a mature and business-like environment.

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# WHY CHOOSE STOKE STUDIO COLLEGE?

## **Creativity is crucial in construction and engineering.**

Think about what you have, do and use in your everyday life.

- Where would you be without the things you take for granted?
- Who came up with these ideas?
- What type of education and skills did they need?
- Do you want to be part of creating solutions?
- Do you want to think about how to solve problems for people and how to suggest solutions for problems that people don't even know about yet?
- Do you want to develop your practical skills?
- Do you want to increase your personal skills and confidence?
- Do you want to learn how to create wealth?



We need experts who can work together to solve problems and make the most of our resources to create a sustainable future.

Students at Stoke Studio College have a passion for their subject, wanting to understand our world, how it works, and how we use our knowledge to invent our future. Students with different strengths and ideas work together on exciting experiences and projects. All students gain enterprise skills and understand how to work effectively in a real work environment with support from their teachers (learning coaches) and pastoral mentors (personal coaches).

Achieving academic and technical qualifications some will start an apprenticeship or a great job, some will go to university or further study and some will decide to set up their own business.

What makes us different is a focus on offering a curriculum that offers the opportunity to study technical subjects and delivering these qualifications in a different way. We take learning out of a traditional classroom setting on many occasions; real-life, themed, project-based learning in the College and the surrounding community consolidates the relevance of what is taught.

# IS THIS COLLEGE **RIGHT** FOR ME?

We understand that choosing a college that is right for you is an important decision to make. You should now have more information about what we aim to achieve at Stoke Studio College and the exciting learning environment we provide.

You can be confident that this type of college is endorsed by **local and national employers** who are telling us that we need to take this approach to education to ensure that students are more fully prepared for progression to the next steps in their learning, the world of work and life.

# THIS **COLLEGE** IS RIGHT FOR YOU IF YOU:

- Have an interest in developing skills related to Engineering or Construction.
- Are excited by the concept of project-based learning
- Want to work things out, think for yourself and respond to the challenge of solving problems
- Relish the idea of being treated as an adult and working in a mature and business-like environment
- Would feel supported by having a personalised learning plan
- Want to build positive relationships with learning coaches and personal coaches
- Want to be an independent learner and a future expert
- Receive expert teaching and feedback

Challenge Yourself

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# COURSES AT STOKE STUDIO COLLEGE

## BTEC Level 2 First Diploma in Engineering

This course is aimed at learners who are moving into entry-level roles in the engineering sector, such as maintenance, manufacturing, electronic and general engineering. The course covers a wide range of engineering subjects and activities including workshop skills such as using hand tools and machines, making and testing electronic circuits, engineering materials, engineering mathematics and science.

This course is equivalent to **4 GCSEs** and has a mixture of coursework and external examinations.

## BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Engineering

This course provides the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills in the design, development and manufacture and maintenance of engineering products and systems. Learning is achieved through the completion of projects and assignments based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands. The level 3 Extended Diploma is equivalent to **three A-Levels** and allows progression to higher education, higher apprenticeships or employment.

## BTEC Level 2 First Diploma in Construction

This course is aimed at learners who are moving into entry-level roles in the construction sector, such as Trainee Site Technician, a Trainee Surveyor, a trainee architectural technician or a craft apprenticeship. The course covers a wide range of construction subjects such as sustainability in the construction industry, use of science and maths in construction, construction drawing techniques, construction processes and operations, construction methods and techniques in joinery and of brickwork. This course is equivalent to **3 GCSEs** and has a mixture of coursework and external examinations.



## BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment

This course provides the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills in construction and the built environment and reflects the managerial nature of the professional careers within the sector and combines academic learning with hands on experience of construction and the built environment. The Level 3 Extended Diploma is equivalent to **three A-Levels** and allows progression to higher education or employment.

All of our Level 2 courses  
allow for progression  
to **Level 3**

# ENTRY CRITERIA

We ask for a certain level of academic attainment in order to progress onto a pathway here at Excel Further. We have set entry at this level because we believe if you have achieved to this standard, you are prepared for the challenge of advanced level study. Therefore, from September 2016, there are two sets of criteria; one for an A Level Pathway and one for the BTEC pathway.

If you are interested in studying Programme 1: 3 A Levels @ Excel Further: You should have at least 5 A\* - C Grades including English and Maths

If you wish to study English and Maths at A Level, you should have at least a B Grade in both English and Maths GCSE

If you are interested in studying Programme 2: BTEC level 2 Diploma @ Studio College you should have at least 4 A-D grades at GCSE including English and Maths

If you are interested in studying Programme 3: BTEC level 3 extended diploma @ studio college you should have at least 5 A\*- C grades at GCSE including English and Maths Have at least a B Grade in Maths GCSE

Programme 4 can be discussed at interview.

## Programme 1:

The A level course will be undertaken over a period of four days per week and, unlike any other providers, the other one day will be given to work experience which we will arrange for the young person. This will give them the educational values and the life skills and experiences which universities, apprenticeship providers and other employment establishments desire, alongside qualifications.

## Programme 2 and 3:

in addition to the A Level pathways, we will also be offering a route into other exciting courses provided by the Studio College. For example, students interested in pursuing careers in Engineering, Built Environment, Science or Business, they will have the choice of BTEC courses at both level 2 and level 3. These qualifications can lead to University, Advanced Apprenticeships or employment

## A Level:

English Literature, Maths, History, Biology, Art, Photography, PE/Sports Studies, Sociology, Psychology, Travel and Tourism, Media BTEC: Engineering, construction, Health & Social.

**First of all you need to decide what type of qualification you want or need to study...**

### Programme 1:

3 A levels @ Excel Further

### Programme 2:

BTEC Level 2 Diploma @ Studio College

### Programme 3:

BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma @ Studio College

### Programme 4:

BTEC and A Level combinations.



# WHERE OUR COURSES LEAD

The qualifications you will achieve at Stoke Studio College provide a wide range of progression opportunities- higher education, advances apprenticeships or employment.

You will receive advice and guidance on progression routes via our Personal Coaches and Specialism Directors to enable you to make an informed decision about your future.

BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma Entry to Degree/HNC/HND		A Levels		AS Levels	
Grade	UCAS points	Grade	UCAS points	Grade	UCAS points
D*D*D*	420	A*	140	A	60
D*D*D	400	A	120	B	50
D*DD	380	B	100	C	40
DDD	360	C	80	D	30
DDM	320	D	60	E	20
DMM	280	E	40		
MMM	240				
MMP	200				
MPP	160				
PPP	120				



## Key-

**D\***= Distinction Star. It reflects achievement at more than 90%, equivalent to A\* at A Level

**D**= Distinction

**M**= Merit

**P**=Pass

## Higher Education

If you decide to apply for higher education you will have the opportunity to attend university open days to discuss entry requirements and attend workshops on writing personal statements and student finance. The following table shows the possible achievements for Stoke Studio College students and how they relate to UCAS Tariffs and A/AS Levels.

## Employment

Stoke Studio College has a team of personal coaches able to advise and guide students who wish to enter full time employment. They can assist with job searches and identification of entry level vacancies.

## Advanced Apprenticeships

Advances Apprenticeships allow students to work towards a level 4 qualification or potentially a foundation degree. Many larger employers are starting to offer this option and recruitment usually starts after examination results are received ready to start work in September. This is a very competitive option, but the additional skills gained by our students due to their experience of work and contact with employers are a real advantage. Students are supported throughout the recruitment process and assisted with research into opportunities, applications, CVs, and interview techniques. Information about apprenticeships can be found at [www.apprenticeships.org.uk](http://www.apprenticeships.org.uk)

**You will receive advice and guidance on progression routes via our personal coaches and specialism directors to enable you to make an informed decision about your future**

## **Safeguarding young people**

Student safety and well-being is paramount, and we are required to take any reasonable action necessary to ensure the safety of our students.

If any member of staff is concerned that one of our students may be subject to ill-treatment, neglect or any form of abuse they will inform our designated Safeguarding Officer.

Our policy is consistent with national standards for safeguarding procedures.

## **Everyone is equal**

At Stoke Studio College we provide appropriate opportunities for everyone to maximize their potential regardless of background, circumstances, faith, gender, sexual orientation or disabilities.

We will promote a supportive environment free from discrimination.

## **Supporting you in your learning**

Stoke Studio College understands that each student has their own abilities and talents, we want each of them to maximise their achievement and have a range of support available to ensure that they are able to do so. We set the bar high and encourage our students to strive to achieve their best. Academic excellence, a positive attitude and a willingness to develop new skills and take all the opportunities offered are the expectations we have for all students.

Our learning coaches deliver the curriculum and ensure that students develop the skills and knowledge which employers are looking for. Students also work in mixed groups on projects, sometimes involving employers, to secure extensive subject and vocational knowledge as well as employability and enterprise skills. Top performers in all fields have coaches, someone who looks at how they perform and offers advice and guidance on how to improve.

Each of our students is supported by a personal coach who will help with all aspects of college life, helping them stay on track, achieve their full potential and enjoy their time with us.

# FINANCIAL **SUPPORT**

## **Free breakfast**

At the Studio College we offer a free breakfast club for all our students from 8am to 8.45am daily, where they can get cereal and drinks before starting their classes.

## **Reduced cost bus travel**

Smart Pass- Anyone who lives within Stoke-on-Trent and plans to travel within Stoke-on-Trent can apply for a Smart Pass. It can be used 7 days a week and saves the hassle of wondering about the cost of your journeys.

## **Subsidised travel**

There is also travel support available for students who:

- Live over 3 miles away from the college
- Live in a household with total earnings less than £20,000 per year
- Live independently and claim income support
- Are 16-18 years old.

For more information on these offers, please contact the Studio College office on 01782 603171.

## **iPad scheme**

The Studio College offers new students the opportunity to take part in our iPad scheme. The idea is that the parents/carers of students who wish to take part will agree to make a monthly contribution for two years, at the end of which the iPad is theirs to keep.

The iPad is for use at both College and at home. This scheme will help students to achieve the success of which they are capable. It will allow students to have access to a computer whenever one is needed, to give them more control over how they approach projects- helping every learner achieve and succeed.

Inspire and be inspired

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# LINKS WITH **BUSINESS** AND **WORK EXPERIENCE**

## **Links with business and work experience**

Strong links with employers lie at the heart of our curriculum. Employers are keen to support the school, to grow new talent and to shape their workforce of the future.

### **Employers are involved with:**

- Advising on the content of the curriculum and the qualifications we offer
- Delivering sessions or master classes to students
- Mentoring students and providing careers guidance
- Delivering mock interviews
- Designing real life project briefs
- Sponsoring competitions
- Supporting educational visits to their premises



16-19 students are able to undertake up to 2 days per week on work placement. This can take various forms and will be tailored to the outcome required by each student. Some may choose a placement which enables them to gain valuable experience and skills in their chosen field, for others paid employment may be a preference. Whichever is important to them, we will ensure that they receive the support and guidance to help them achieve their aim.

CONSTRUCTION PLACEMENTS HELPING TO  
**CEMENT LEARNING EXPERIENCE**

The Studio College uses its close links with construction firms to offer vital experience to students during the summer holidays.

Both Seddons Construction and Kier Stoke took on students willing to sacrifice some of their summer holidays, on week long placements to offer a taste of the industry under the guidance of experienced professionals.

“The Chamber and its members are committed to raising expectations and educational standards across Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire by working in partnership with schools and colleges.

The Studio College represents a fantastic opportunity for young people to learn exciting, relevant subjects in a beautiful environment. We are proud that the Studio College has joined the Chamber as it is both an excellent business and a superb education facility. We look forward to working together to develop stronger links between business and the Studio College.”

**Sara Williams, Chief Executive of the North Staffordshire Chamber of Commerce.**

# BENNETT ARCHITECTURAL

## ALUMINIUM SOLUTIONS

"We have worked with Stoke Studio College on their placement programme for students, and this has proven to be a very positive experience, both for the business and the individual student. It has given us the opportunity to work with and assess the ability and enthusiasm of the young person, and given them the experience of the work environment associated with their subject of interest. We were so pleased with our first student that we offered him a permanent position with us when he finished college, and he has now developed into a valuable member of our Design team, working with architects and main contractors on our major projects. He has developed strong CAD skills, and is a very productive and respected member of the team. We believe he has a very bright future ahead of him.

We now have two students on placement to give them the same experience, which will be invaluable to them in identifying their development path for their future careers. We are pleased to offer them that experience and learning.

The concept of the Studio College is a good one, as it really does offer a good, vocational route for students to learn about the subjects that they are interested in, and offers employers the chance to work with, and help to develop, potential employees for the future. The more that businesses in the region participate, the more successful the College will become.

As a company, we are committed to creating and developing opportunities for young people starting out in their careers, and we believe that Stoke Studio College offers us a great route to finding the right students"

## KIER **STOKE**

Callum Olenczuk, 16 and Dan Edge, 18 spent two weeks at Kier Stoke where they were out and about gaining a wide range of experience. Both have been on placement before but saw the summer placement as a great opportunity to further their experience and enhance their CVs.

Holly Boulton and Steve Manifold, both Operational Team Leaders at Kier made sure that Callum and Dan saw firsthand what opportunities there are in the real world.

"We took them both on site visits where they gained experience in surveying, health and safety, scope of works and most importantly, dealing with customers." Said Holly.

"I know from my time at College what a great opportunity placements are. Both Callum and Dan understand this and turned up with commitment and an eagerness to learn."

Steve added: "The placement gives a real insight to the construction industry. There are so many facets to the job which you just don't see until you come out of the classroom environment."

Richard Wall, Head of Operations said "Kier Stoke recognises the importance of up skilling youngsters and we are proud to be able to invest in our local area and support local up and coming talent. The Studio College 'Team Challenge' was the perfect opportunity to provide real work experience and show how important it is to support future growth within Stoke-on-Trent, and supply the skills needed to develop the future of the UK construction industry."

## GREEN PM

The construction industry is currently facing yet another skills shortage.

The Federation of Master Builders said that its latest poll of SME construction firms found employment picked up for the 6th quarter running and the growth was expected to continue over the coming three months, accompanied by rising pay for construction workers. But repeating concerns from other construction-sector reports, about half of the 400 or so companies surveyed said they were struggling to recruit the right staff. Brian Berry, the trade association's chief executive, said a skills shortage continued "to loom large over our industry".

With this in mind Green PM has offered a work experience placement to a post 16 Construction student; Jack Simpson. Jack is currently in his final year studying the BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Construction and the Build Environment. Based on his work so far Jack has said that he has found the work placement opportunity 'so rewarding' and feels that the placement has been invaluable in helping him apply the knowledge and skills obtained during his studies in a real work environment.

Jack is studying at Stoke Studio College which opened in September 2012 as a brand new concept in education and the first of its type in the area with state of the art facilities, specialising in Construction and Engineering training for 14-19 year olds. The College is looking for other businesses like Green Project Management Ltd to provide students with a genuine experience of the working environment and prepare them for moving into permanent employment or apprenticeships. They also have a scheme available whereby they are able to pay students for their time working with your company.

Maximum Effort

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# INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

## What do I need to know?

Enabling a young person to make a decision about selecting a college which is right for them can be difficult; your experience of education will be different to theirs, and their future holds opportunities and technologies different to anything you have already experienced.

Stoke Studio College believes that a strong relationship with parents, guardians and carers is essential. We will keep you up to date with what is happening at college with regular newsletters, parents' evenings and events.

In addition our website

**[www.stokestudiocollege.co.uk](http://www.stokestudiocollege.co.uk)**

contains further information on:

- The curriculum
- Staff
- Dates of events and open evenings
- School policies
- Term dates
- Frequently asked questions



## OPEN DAYS

If you are interested in applying for a place at Stoke Studio College you are welcome to attend one of our open events. These give you the chance to find out more about us meet representatives of the team and see our facilities.

Please see our website for details of dates and times

**[www.stokestudiocollege.co.uk](http://www.stokestudiocollege.co.uk)**

You will be invited to attend an informal interview with a member of staff to discuss your achievements so far and what you'd like to study next.

Our students are encouraged to set high expectations for themselves in terms of both their academic outcomes and skills development. The college environment will be supportive, happy and designed to encourage all learners to take pride in their attainment. If you have a particular question that is not answered by this guide please email

**[adminsupport@stokestudiocollege.co.uk](mailto:adminsupport@stokestudiocollege.co.uk)**  
and we will respond promptly.

# HOW TO **APPLY** AND **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

We would be delighted to receive your application to study at Stoke Studio College, and it's really straightforward to apply.

## Here are the steps

1. Complete an application form which you can download from [www.stokestudiocollege.co.uk](http://www.stokestudiocollege.co.uk)  
  
You can either apply online or print and return your completed form to:  
The Recruitment Team  
Stoke Studio College  
Moorland Road  
Burslem  
Stoke-on-Trent  
ST6 1JJ
2. You will be invited to attend an informal interview with a member of staff to discuss your achievements so far and what you'd like to study next. You'll also complete an initial assessment to enable us to establish the level at which you are currently working. The courses on offer have entry requirements which help us to ensure that you embark on a pathway which meets your needs and will lead to a successful outcome. These requirements will be explained to you at your meeting.
3. We'll offer you a place, subject to you meeting any entry requirements for the course, which will be confirmed when you receive exam results. If you are accepted onto a course and do not have a grade C or above in English or Maths we will help you to achieve or work towards achieving this in both subjects.
4. You will have the opportunity to attend a taster day in July at the Studio College prior to joining us, at which point we will give you enrolment details.
5. After results come out in August we will invite you in to enrol, ready to start the course in September.

## Entry requirements for **Level 2** programmes

To access the Level 2 qualifications we offer you will need to have achieved or be predicted to achieve at least four GCSEs at grade D or above including English and Maths.

If you are applying whilst you are in Year 11 and have not yet completed your GCSEs a conditional offer will be made linked to agreed outcomes in your Key Stage 4 results.

## Entry requirements for **Level 3** programmes

To access the Level 3 qualifications we offer (BTEC Level 3 Extended Diplomas) you will need to have achieved or be predicted to achieve at least four GCSEs at grade C or above including English and Maths.

If you are applying whilst you are in Year 11 and have not yet completed your GCSEs a conditional offer will be made linked to agreed outcomes in your Key Stage 4 results.





COLLEGE  
ACADEMIES  
TRUST

The Studio College is an independent educational establishment which is part of 'The College Academies Trust'.

All our policies can be accessed from our website.

Company No: 7272906  
Independent Schools No: 861/4003, 861/4001  
Principal: Lee Nixon  
Chair of Governing Body: David Heywood



Floor 2 A Block | Moorland Road  
Stoke-on-Trent | ST6 1JJ

**Tel:** 01782 603171

**Email:** [adminsupport@stokestudiocollege.co.uk](mailto:adminsupport@stokestudiocollege.co.uk)

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