

SUMMARY GUIDE FOR MINERAL SUMMARY GUIDE FOR

2025/26

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Summary Guide for CAREERS ADVISORS

Herefordshire, Ludlow & North Shropshire College incorporates five colleges situated in Hereford, Ludlow, Walford and Oswestry. We work together to boost skills and improve knowledge right across the Herefordshire and Shropshire region, contributing to increased economic prosperity, innovation and inspiration. From A Levels to apprenticeships, vocational courses to higher education – there's something for everyone.





Herefordshire College Folly Lane, Hereford HR1 1LS

0800 032 1986 enquiries@hlnsc.ac.uk hlnsc.ac.uk



Our College offers an outstanding learning environment, designed to give our students the practical skills, knowledge and experience for successful progression to their chosen career.

Students can choose from a range of education and training options from foundation studies through to degree-level courses, apprenticeships, work-based training and more.

Interactive Tour

Are you ready to experience an immersive 360 tour that you won't forget? Then head to our website to get started.

Discover more at hlnsc.ac.uk





CONTACT US:

Holme Lacy College Holme Lacy, Hereford HR2 6LL

01432 870000 enquiries@hlnsc.ac.uk hlnsc.ac.uk



Set above the beautiful River Wye, our College boasts a 224 hectares mixed organic farm, with animal care and equestrian centres, an arable, cow and sheep farm, woodlands, cider apple orchards and lakes.

Our College's Rural Craft Centre is home to the National School of Blacksmithing and has the largest training-based forge in Europe. It is also home to the Hereford School of Farriery - the UK's historic farriery training centre.

Low Carbon Technology Training Centre

The state-of-the-art centres primary mission is to support local businesses, the construction industry, and homeowners by providing comprehensive training for professionals and enthusiasts alike.





Ludlow Sixth Form College Castle Square, Ludlow SY8 IGD

01584 872846 enquiries@hlnsc.ac.uk hlnsc.ac.uk Located in the beautiful market town of Ludlow. Our College is a fantasitc choice for students wishing to study A Levels, with many students going on to achieve outstanding results in Russell Group universities.

Spread across 3 sites (Castle Square, Palmers Hall and Lower Mill Street) students learn in a range of superb buildings which date from the Middle Ages to the 21st century.



CONTACT US:

Walford College Bashchurch, Shrewsbury Shropshire, SY4 2HL

01939 262100 info@hlnsc.ac.uk hlnsc.ac.uk Set in its own idyllic rural estate, Walford College is home to a wide range of specialist land-based courses. The campus benefits from a large pasture based dairy system with arable land and a sheep flock as well as an Equestrian Centre, Animal Care Centre and Motor Vehicle Centre.

High quality managed residential facilities are available for those who have to travel further and need to live on site.



Piscover more at hinsc.ac.uk





Piscover more at hinsc.ac.uk





North Shropshire College Shrewsbury Road, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 4QB

01691 688000 info@hlnsc.ac.uk hlnsc.ac.uk Our College offers a wide range of learning opportunities including apprenticeships and full-time programmes. We are a relatively small college, allowing us to support every student to achieve their personal best: we treat you as an individual, not a number.

We have an exciting, modern campus with top-of-the-range facilties including a training restaurant, hair and beauty salon and plumbing and electrical workshops.



Piscover more at hinsc.ac.uk



Let's make it EASY

We want to make your life as easy as possible by giving you all the information you need in order to advise your students about their next steps. At all of our colleges we offer careers advice and support both before and after a student applies.

We come to you: Our advisors can visit your school to talk about course options and answer questions

For North Shropshire College, Walford College and Ludlow Sixth Form College

Contact Hannah Miller h.miller@hlnsc.ac.uk

For Herefordshire College and Holme Lacy College

Contact Sophie Featherstone s.featherstone@hlnsc.ac.uk

- You can come to us: We host visits
 to our colleges by arrangement

 so students can see for
 themselves what's on offer
- Open events are held several times a year, offering course-specific advice and guidance Visit hlnsc.ac.uk for details and to book your place
- College prospectus sent to you every year and also available on our website

One-to-one advice and support on course choices available for prospective students and teachers. We are also here to help students to apply.

Once a young person joins our College community, they will also be offered support in:

- Choosing the best courses for their future goals
- Researching different careers
- Preparing their CV
- Completing job applications
- Interview techniques
- UCAS applications, personal statements and more

Come along to an OPEN EVENT

We hold several open events throughout the year where school leavers and their parents or guardians can visit our colleges. They are advertised on the college website at hinsc.ac.uk/openevents

Open events offer the perfect chance to visit the campus and get specialist course-specific advice from tutors and vocational experts. If a student decides they would like to apply, we can guide them through the application process then and there, or make an appointment to speak with them again.



TOUR OUR **FACILITIES**



MEET OUR **TUTORS**



A great opportunity to find out everything you need to know.

Herefordshire College

Saturday 9th November 2024

10:00am - 12:00pm

Wednesday 15th January 2025

5:00pm - 7:00pm

Tuesday 4th March 2025

5:00pm - 7:00pm

Walford College

Saturday 19th October 2024

10:00am - 12:30pm

Saturday 8th February 2025

10:00am - 12:30pm

Saturday 14th June 2025

10:00am - 12:30pm

Ludlow Sixth Form College

Tuesday 3rd October 2024

5:00pm - 7:00pm

Saturday 11th January 2025

10:00am - 12:00pm

Tuesday 8th July 2025

4:30pm - 7:00pm

North Shropshire College

Saturday 9th November 2024

10:00am - 12:00pm

Wednesday 12th February 2025

5:00pm - 7:00pm

Wednesday 11th June 2025

5:00pm - 7:00pm

Holme Lacy College

Saturday 9th November 2024

10:00am - 12:00pm

Saturday 5th April 2025

10:00am - 12:00pm

We have something for everyone at our colleges including Apprenticeships.

Support for students with additional needs

HLNSC is constantly working towards removing barriers to education.

Tailored support is available from our Learning Support and Accessibility team for anyone who has a physical disability, sensory impairment or learning difficulty.

Visit hlnsc.ac.uk/learningsupport for further details.

Get in touch or find out more

Our website includes tailored pages for school leavers, parents/guardians and school careers advisors for signposting and more. Visit hlnsc.ac.uk/careers for further information.

In Herefordshire:

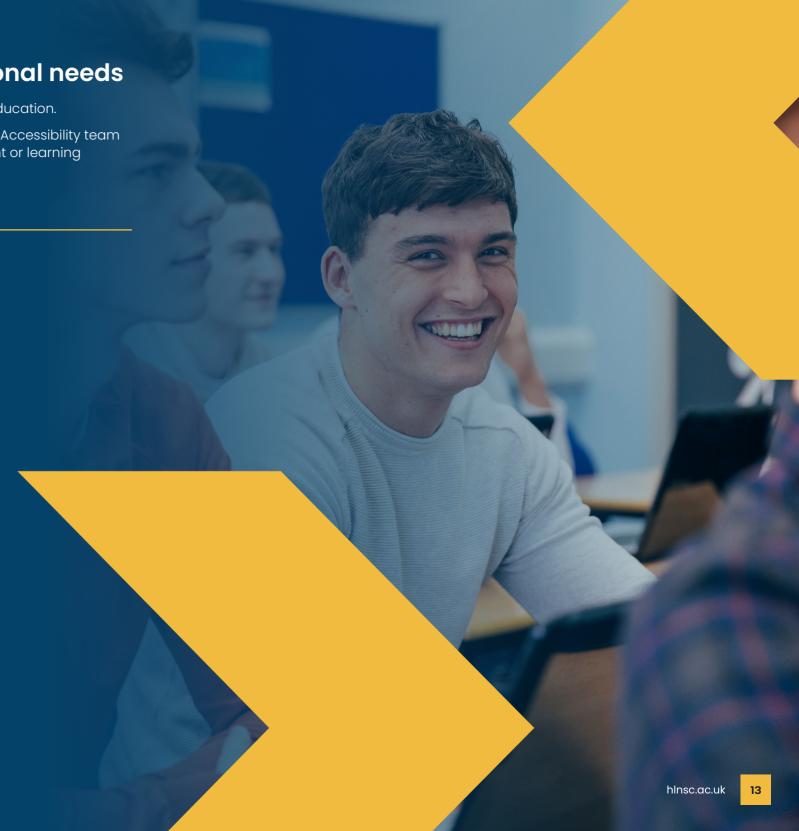
Nicky Stallwood Student Progression Advisor (Herefordshire College & Holme Lacy College) Tel: 01432 365382

Email: n.stallwood@hlnsc.ac.uk

Peter Smith Student Services Manager (Herefordshire College & Holme Lacy College) Tel: 01432 365589 Email: p.smith@hlnsc.ac.uk

In Ludlow & North Shropshire:

Faye Bonner Student Services Manager (Ludlow Sixth Form College, North Shropshire College, Walford College) Tel: 01691 688020 Email: f.bonner@hlnsc.ac.uk



FAQS FROM CAREER ADVISORS

Here are some answers to questions we are most often asked by careers advisors who are advising their students about their next steps toward vocational study or training.

Q: What type of student is best suited to our colleges?

A: Herefordshire, Holme Lacy, North **Shropshire and Walford Colleges** offer a range of vocational courses for learners of all abilities across our sites.

If a student is a practical learner who eniovs a blend of classroom and workshop/hands-on learning, they would be well-suited to a vocational course.

College facilities and programmes ensure students build the practical skills and behaviours for their career area as well as the theory knowledge.

Ludlow Sixth Form College offers an A Level study programme for those with 5x GCSEs at grade 4+.

Q: What course level is right for the student I'm advising?

A: The following gives a general guide.

Note that skills based courses such as Brickwork, Carpentry and Plumbing will require students to start at Level 1 to build their skills foundation.

For some apprenticeships 1 year full-time is required first.

Predicted grades at GCSE / current qualifications	Recommended course level to apply for	
In need of additional support / no qualifications	Entry Level / Level 1 on Foundation Studies programme	
GCSE grades 2 including maths and English	Level 1 course	
GCSE grades 3 including maths and English	Level 2 course	
GCSE grades 4+ including maths and English	Level 3 course	
5x GCSE grades 4+ including maths and English	Level 3 course T Level (Health, Engineering)	

O: What if the student doesn't achieve the grades they were predicted?

A: The College will contact the student and refer them to a lower-level course or suggest another suitable course. The College will work with the student to find the course that is right for them.

Q: Is Foundation Studies just for the low achievers?

A: No, the Foundation Studies programme is an entry point for a wide range of students: those who have had an interrupted education, those who are low in confidence or have anxiety challenges, for those who have lower abilities or learning challenges. It offers a variety of experiences to build confidence and good study habits to enable a student to progress to a mainstream course.

Q: When can a student apply for a course?

A: The application cycle is open from after the October half term through to October of the enrolling year. Early applications are advised to secure a place.

- 1. Apply online from the course page hlnsc.ac.uk/courses
- 2. Personal email is needed so that admissions staff can send important information about the application
- 3. IAG (information, advice & quidance) session: applicants will be sent a link to book in for an IAG session where they will meet the tutor
- 4. Offers: following the IAG meeting, an offer/referral will be emailed to the applicant.
- 5. Accept the offer through the online system

Q: If a student goes to college, can they still go on to university or an apprenticeship?

A: Yes. Many of our students who achieve Level 3 qualifications go on to study at university or take an apprenticeship.

The College works closely with local employers and employment support organisations to help students progress to a range of employment destinations including apprenticeships and supported internships.

Support and advice is given to students wishing to change courses and move on to the next level/ apprenticeship.

Q: What exactly are T Level courses?

A: We have a section on T Levels and other qualifications on pages 20.



QUALIFICATIONS GUIDE

Ways in which to learn and gain qualifications are changing, courses are now more flexible and there is a broader range to choose from.

HLNSC specialises in offering vocational programmes. These are courses, often with a large practical element, on which you will learn about specific crafts and industry. This approach enables learners to develop skills relevant to the workplace or entry in to higher education, often gaining a range of industry specific qualifications during the course.

Entry Level Courses

These courses are suitable for people who have finished school, have few or no formal qualifications and may have learning difficulties. Extra support may be required to assist learning. From entry level courses, learners can progress onto Level 1 courses in their chosen area.

Level 1 Courses

Level 1 courses are full time and are usually completed over 1 year. Learners will need to show enthusiasm and commitment to the programme. Successful completion can then lead to the study of Level 2 courses, either studying full time in college or for an apprenticeship.

Level 2 Courses

These Level 2 (intermediate) courses are full time and completed over 1 year. They are the equivalent to 4-5 GCSEs at grade 4 (or C in Wales) or above. You will usually be required to have some GCSEs at grades 2/3 (formally grade E) and above to start a course at this level, or to have successfully completed a Level 1 programme. Level 2 Diploma courses have an emphasis on practical, work-related projects and assignments. You will develop skills that will help you either start your career or progress onto a Level 3 qualification.

A Levels

A Levels are completed over 2 years. A Levels offer you the opportunity to study in usually 3 subject areas in greater depth than your GCSEs. A Levels are offered at Ludlow Sixth Form College.

T Levels

T Levels are an alternative to A Levels, apprenticeships and other 16 to 19 courses. Visit page 20 for more information.

Apprenticeships

An apprenticeship is a way to earn as you learn. Our apprenticeships have been designed by employers themselves to meet their needs for a particular sector or job role.

Subsidiary Diplomas, Foundation Diplomas, Diplomas and Extended Diplomas

The Subsidiary Diploma is equivalent to 1 A Level qualification* (usually 1 year's full-time study), the Foundation Diploma is equivalent to 1.5 A Levels (usually 1 year's full-time study) the Diploma (1 or 2 years' full-time study dependant upon subject) is equivalent to two A Level qualifications* and the Extended Diploma (usually 2 years' full-time study) is equivalent to three A Level qualifications*.

Extended Diplomas are full Level 3 (advanced) courses. They are widely accepted by universities as an entry qualification. These courses will give you a broad-based vocational understanding of your chosen career. You will usually be required to have 5 GCSEs at grade C/Level 4 and above (to include maths and English), a Level 2 Diploma or a Level 2 work-based Diploma for entry onto a course at this level.

*Exact equivalents will depend on grade achieved and UCAS points gained.

Advanced Technical and Advanced Extended Technical Diplomas

Technical Qualifications are practical courses that have been designed with

employers. The advanced technical Diploma is equivalent to 1.5 A Levels (usually 1 year's full-time study) and the advanced Extended Technical Diploma is equivalent to 3 A Levels (usually 2 year's full-time study). With these qualifications, you can progress to an apprenticeship, university or go straight into a job.

GCSE English and maths

This is a one-year GCSE course designed for students wishing to develop their maths and/or English skills and improve their grades.
Students will require a grade 4 (grade C) in both subjects to progress to any A Level course or Level 3 Vocational course.

The course will help you to improve on the areas you find the most difficult, building your confidence as well as your understanding and skills. For students who do need to re-sit either (or both) GCSE maths or English, it will be accommodated into your programme of study, as day and evening classes are available.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Higher National Certificates and Diplomas (HNCs and HNDs) and Foundation Degrees

A HNC is a higher national certificate and a HND is a higher national diploma. Many HNDs include the HNC within their structure. The time it takes to complete each qualification will vary between different providers.

These qualifications tend to be of a more practical and vocational nature. They are designed to give you the skills to put specialist knowledge to effective use in a particular job.

They are reputable qualifications that are highly valued by employers both in the UK and overseas, and can also count towards membership of professional bodies and other employer organisations.

HTQs (Higher Technical Qualifications)

HTQs are technical qualifications that have been developed by employers and awarding bodies, to provide the right training, knowledge, and skills to succeed in the workplace.

They are based on the same set of standards as apprenticeships and T Levels and have been approved by the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education as meeting the occupational standards for the relevant sector.

There are many different types of HTOs, such as:

- Higher National Diplomas
- Higher National Certificates
- Foundation Degrees
- Higher Education Diplomas

They're for students over 18 who want to study a subject to prepare them for skilled jobs, and also for adults looking to retrain or upskill.

They would suit those who are looking for a more practical, employer-led programme.

Degrees (BA, BSc, BEd, BEng)

Undergraduate or bachelors degrees are nationally recognised qualifications consisting of academic study designed to give you an in depth understanding of that particular subject.

There are different titles and levels of degree, such as:

BA - Bachelor of Arts

BSc - Bachelor of Science

BEd - Bachelor of Education

BEng - Bachelor of Engineering

Foundation Degrees (FdA, FdSc)

Foundation degrees are nationally recognised qualifications focusing either on a particular job or profession; they combine work place learning with academic study.

The study methods can be very flexible, which means that they are available to people already in work, those wishing to embark on a career change and to those who have recently completed Level 3 qualifications (e.g. A Levels, Advanced Apprenticeships or NVQ3).

A foundation degree is equivalent to two thirds of an honours degree. They aim to enhance the professional and technical skills of staff within a profession or those intending to go into that profession.

You can use a foundation degree to:

- Change careers or progress your current career
- Gain technical and professional skills
- Gain professional recognition
- Achieve a full honours degree through further study



T-LEVELS

THE NEXT LEVEL QUALIFICATION

T Levels are courses which follow GCSEs and are equivalent to 3 A Levels. These 2-year courses have been developed in collaboration with employers and businesses so that the content meets the needs of industry and prepares students for work.

T Levels will offer you a mixture of classroom learning and 'on-the-job' experience during an industry placement of at least 315 hours (approximately 45 days). They will provide the knowledge and experience needed to open the door into skilled employment, further study or a higher apprenticeship.



Nationally recognised

When you complete your T Level you will receive an overall grade of pass, merit, distinction or distinction*. You will get a nationally recognised certificate which will show your overall grade and a breakdown of what you have achieved.

Gain UCAS points

To help you get into higher education, UCAS tariff points will be allocated to T Levels. UCAS points will only be allocated to the overall T Level grade. You must achieve at least an overall pass grade to receive UCAS points.



What is involved?

T Level courses include the following compulsory elements:

- A technical qualification, which will include:
- Core theory, concepts and skills for an industry area
- Specialist skills and knowledge for an occupation or career
- An industry placement with an employer
- A minimum standard in maths and English if students have not already achieved them

Progression after a T Level

Progression options include skilled employment, an apprenticeship and higher education. To help T Level students get into higher education, UCAS tariff points will be allocated to T Levels. UCAS points will only be allocated to the overall T Level grade. Students must achieve at least an overall pass grade to receive UCAS points.





INDUSTRY PLACEMENTS

The College is encouraging Level 3 students to take part in a minimum of 45 days of industry placement. The idea is for you to build and develop your skills in a genuine working environment, taking the theoretical knowledge of your course and putting this into practice. Your placements will take place outside of your normal college days, which may be one or two days a week, or in blocks.

- Employers are always keen to take on workers with some experience under their belt, which can be difficult straight after finishing your qualification. You can add this to your CV and stand out from other candidates
- An industry placement will offer you the chance to learn more transferable and industrial skills from the industry's experts
- If you make a good impression on the employer, they may be interested in taking you on as a paid employee, either on a part-time basis, or as an apprentice
- This placement could be the first stepping stone to your future career

Top tips for finding your industry placement

Utilise your connections

Speak to your friends and family, tutors, careers advisers or neighbours. They may know of somewhere suitable for you to enquire about a placement.

Search your local area

Have a look around your local area for businesses that you may not know about.
Newspapers are also a good way to find local employers.

Try a different angle

Look for part-time vacancies in your chosen industry. You could get a work experience trial which leads on to employment.



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