



## Post 16: Frequently Asked Questions for Students and Parents – 2011-12

### Which Centres are part of the Stevenage 14-19 Partnership?

All six 11-19 community schools, plus The Valley, Lonsdale School, the ESC and North Hertfordshire College: each institution is known as a Centre.

The following Centres are working together at Post 16: Barclay, Barnwell, Heathcote, Lonsdale, Marriotts, Nobel, North Hertfordshire College and Thomas Alleyne.

### Terminology

**Home Centre** – this is the Centre where a student is officially enrolled. For example, if you stay on at Post 16 in the school where you take your GCSEs in Year 11 that school is your Home Centre. If you leave the school at 16 and enrol at North Hertfordshire College then the College becomes your Home Centre.

**Teaching Centre** – this is the Centre where a course you study is taught. Often this will be in your Home Centre: however, if you travel to another Centre to take a course you are moving to a different Teaching Centre.

**Guest students** – Guest Students are those students taking a course at a Teaching Centre that is not their Home Centre. If you travel to another Centre to take a course you are a Guest Student in that Teaching Centre.

### How does the Partnership work?

The Post 16 courses are organised across five columns. Each column occupies up to 5 hours each week, and around 9 – 10 hours a fortnight. An AS, for example, will fit into one column; a 6 unit Applied AS fits into two. All the columns are timetabled at the same time in each Centre: each one occupies a single day. This means that students can take a course at another Centre without missing time from a course in their own Centre.

### Why take a course in another Centre?

The most popular courses have been spread across the week. This means that if two subjects you want to take are in the same column in your Home Centre you can still get the combination you want by taking one of the courses at another Teaching Centre.

No one Centre can offer every Advanced Level subject. By working together the Stevenage Centres can offer every Advanced Level student far more subjects to choose from. 'Minority' subjects can be taught in a couple of Centres yet be available to students from all Centres.

A subject with only three students from one Centre would not run: it would be far too expensive to operate and it would be a poor learning experience, with not enough ideas and views to share. However, if students from a number of Centres join up then the course becomes viable.

You will need to complete a Guest Student Enrolment Form before going to another Centre. Your Home Centre will only put your name forward for your enrolment on a course in another Teaching Centre if they believe you can complete and pass the first year of the course.

### How will courses be delivered?

In all the Centres you will be taking a subject for the whole day. However, the time will be divided up with breaks. More importantly, it will usually be the case that you will cover different parts of the syllabus with a team of two staff.

So, you might work on aspect A with teacher or lecturer Y for part of the day and then work on aspect B with Z for the rest of the day. It will be different from most students' experience of GCSE and will be much closer to work and learning at 18+. Your teachers and lecturers will ensure that you are not doing the same activity for long stretches.

Having a whole day devoted to one subject allows groups to make visits without disrupting other subjects. It allows for sustained and developed practical work in many areas.

### Do I have to attend my Home Centre when I haven't got a lesson?

This will be decided by your Home Centre; students will follow their Home Centre's regulations.

### Will all Advanced Level courses run for two years?

At the end of Year 12 many students choose to continue with, for example, three of their four AS courses. This means there is a chance that some subjects might see a drop in numbers below the level required to continue the course into A2. However, we have taken steps to try to make sure that courses can continue by putting some subjects on twice in the same option column. If numbers do fall then groups can be combined so that students can follow the course through to the end of Year 13.

### When must I finalise course decisions?

If you are a Guest Student you will have up until the end of September to commit to a course in a Teaching Centre that is not your Home Centre. The same is likely to apply in your Home Centre: by the end of September you will be well into the first AS unit and it will normally be too late to shift into another subject.

### What if I want to change my course?

You **must** speak with the Head of Post 16 in your Home Centre to discuss your concerns and, if necessary, negotiate any change of course.

### What information will a Teaching Centre know about Guest Students?

A Teaching Centre that is not your Home Centre will receive information on all your GCSE results, your average GCSE point score, emergency contact details and any Special Needs information. You can also let your new teachers and lecturers know something about your preferred ways of working and learning.

If staff in a Teaching Centre need to contact your home for any reason they will do so via your Home Centre.

### When will I take examinations?

All AS students will be entered for examinations in the summer of Year 12 although in some subjects you may be entered for the January examinations – your Teaching Centre will give you details.

Students will be able to resit AS examinations in January and/or June of Year 13. You will be asked to pay for any resits, except in very special circumstances.

### How will my progress be monitored and reported?

Your Home Centre can work out target grades for each of your subjects at the start of each course, based on prior performance (including your GCSE average point score).

There will be a half termly review of progress in each subject. A current performance grade will be determined and recommendations for how improvements can be achieved. You will receive reported Progress Checks at October half term, immediately before the Christmas break, and full written report just before the Easter break. This follows a common format throughout the Partnership.

All students will have regular review and guidance interviews with a personal tutor. These will focus on subject assessments in relation to career plans.

Each Centre provides at least one consultation session with subject staff for students and parents per year. Parents of Guest Students are invited to attend these subject evenings, as appropriate, at the Teaching Centre.

### Daily routines

Students will register at the Teaching Centre where their course runs that day having made their own way to the Centre. In cases where students are attending courses beyond their home town, free transport will be arranged each way by the 14-19 Office. Students will take breaks and lunch at their Teaching Centre.

### How is attendance monitored?

Your attendance is monitored by your Home Centre and by any other Teaching Centre on a daily basis. If you know in advance that you will be absent then you need to inform the Teaching Centre in good time.

There is, as you might expect, a very close link between good attendance and good results.

### Contacts

<b>Centre</b>		<b>Centre Tel No</b>
Barclay:	Mrs J Harrop, Post 16 Leader	232221 ext 229
Barnwell:	Mrs J Johnson, Learning Leader Post 16	761950
Marriotts:	Mr M Greenacre, Head of 6th Form	760400 ext 324
Nobel:	Mr L Gerhard, Head of Sixth Form	222600 ext 209
North Hertfordshire College:		
	Mrs A McLean, Head of School, A Levels	01462 424242
Thomas Alleyne:	Mrs P Frost, Director of Post 16 Education	344341