



At the Valley School, we have a Transition Support Worker (TSW) who works closely with the year 11 students and Connexions to ensure that the best possible transition programme is in place for them if they are moving onto North Herts College (NHC) provision. We also work closely with the TSWs from other colleges such as Herts Regional College (HRC) and Oaklands if this proves to be the most appropriate provision either by location or by area of study.

The chart above shows the destinations of Valley school students over the past 4 years, based on transition data on their leaving the school at the end of June each year.

The vast majority of our students transition onto North Herts College (NHC) into the supported studies department where they will follow Pathways course for up to 2 years. After this time many will transition onto alternative courses, some mainstream other supported and some into supported employment – exact data is not available.

Students also transition onto the North East Transition (NET) which is part of the supported studies department of NHC. These students generally need a more protected learning environment, based more on the primary model. In 2018 the need for this level of support was higher than in previous years due to the specific needs of the cohort and some lack of confidence on the part of parents and carers. These students tend to remain on supported studies courses and some access supported living arrangements at Briar Patch.

Due to geographical considerations and academic needs, a higher number of our students transitioned onto learning at non North Herts based colleges, including one young man who is now following an animal care course at Oaklands College.

Of the 2018 cohort a number of learners required a fully bespoke programme of learning at post 16 coordinated by NHC.

For those students who require additional support due to their needs, be this to support learning behaviour or medical needs or to support students to access mainstream learning Higher Needs Funding is applied for and is used to support individual students.

TVS students can also access provision in other parts of the county, usually based upon geographical criteria, however at times there may be more appropriate learning programmes in another part of the county which would maximise positive outcomes for our pupils. This is most often via Oaklands College and Herts Regional College. For these students we work closely with other agencies and representatives from other colleges to ensure that robust transition provision is put into place.

Preparation to transit successfully to post 16 learning is embedded within the school curriculum both in Learning 4 Life and in the fuller curriculum. In year 10 and 11, the Enterprise and Skills courses are designed to prepare pupils for a college style learning pattern, integrating numeracy and literacy with work skills and Enterprise activities providing real life experiences of making and selling of products both within school and at The Valley School Market stall based in Stevenage indoor market.

In Key Stage 4, some students join pupils from mainstream school in a PLO (Practical Learning Opportunities) programme at some of the North Herts College sites, this year we have 3 pupils from year 10 and 1 from year 11 doing the first year of a Level 1 Btec "Introduction to Construction" course. We also have 2 year 11 students who are completing the 2nd year of the Level 1 Btec course after completing the first year with flying colours. We also have a year 11 student doing an equine course at a Hertfordshire stables.

All year 11 pupils spend Thursday morning at the North Herts College Stevenage campus as a link course. During this time, they are fully immersed into college life, having taster sessions in some of the full time courses available to them in year 12. They also have the opportunity to become familiar with the ways the college works, the college environment and to meet and work with college staff, supporting their decisions for future learning.

An open evening is hosted by The Valley School for all of year 10 and 11 pupils and families where representatives from the local providers attend to inform parents and young people about what the colleges can offer their children.

In Year 11 Connexions Advisers and the Transition Support Workers work closely with the school, pupils and their families to arrange taster sessions on various courses to ensure that appropriate pathways are selected to meet the individual strengths and needs of all pupils, including support for completing application forms, attending interviews and applying for additional funding where appropriate.