

Dear student

BMet has, alongside Dudley College of Technology and Halesowen College, announced changes to how further education provision will be run across Stourbridge and the Black Country.

The change to day-to-day operations of the college will see Stourbridge students transferred to Dudley and Halesowen colleges by the start of the new academic year in September 2019.

We will be holding an event on Saturday 11 May between 10am -2pm at Stourbridge College and the Art and Design Centre in Brierley Hill where you will have a chance to ask any questions and also given the opportunity to meet with some of the teaching staff from Dudley College of Technology and Halesowen College.

COSE

Please note COSE will remain with BMet and there will be no changes for students studying at COSE. They will continue to study at COSE.

Kidderminster Academy

As part of the changes across the Black Country, Kidderminster Academy will close in September but all students will be able to continue with their studies.

Those students at Kidderminster Academy on hair and makeup, hospitality and animal care will move over to Kidderminster College. We are liaising closely with Kidderminster College for a smooth transition.

All students studying fashion, media, games design and textiles will move to the Art and Design Centre at Brierley Hill with Dudley College of Technology.

Dudley College of Technology will take over apprenticeship provision, art and design, construction equine, foundation learning, digital and ICT and motor vehicle; and Halesowen College will take over responsibility for business, early years, health and social care, public services, sport and science. COSE will remain with BMet and there will be no changes for students studying at COSE.

As a result of the changes the Stourbridge College building will not be utilised by any of the colleges and the building will be put on the open market for sale – the college will cease all activity from this site. BMet will manage the sale of the property. However, the Brierley Hill Art and Design Centre, the Independent Living Centre and Skills Shop at Merry Hill will remain open for learning.

Under the proposed transfer Dudley College of Technology and Halesowen College have committed to ensuring that every student has a place with them.

Most importantly, we want to reassure you that you still have a place to study in September. In addition, all apprentices will continue to work with their employer.

We have not taken this decision lightly but firmly believe that this is in your best interest. Dudley College of Technology and Halesowen College are rated as outstanding and good by Ofsted.

We are in the process of finalising the transition plans with Dudley College of Technology and Halesowen College and we are committed to keeping you informed throughout the process.

As part of the handover if you have to travel to either of the colleges from September onwards you will be provided with free bus travel for the first year at your new college. We will confirm this month which college you will be based at.

We do hope that you will attend the event on the 11th May but if in the meantime you have any questions please do call our contact centre on 0121 446 4545.

We take your privacy seriously and only share information for reasons that relate to your education.

As the College is proposing to transfer your course to either Dudley Technical College or Halesowen College we will need to transfer the data that we hold about you to the relevant college. This is so that arrangements can be made to ensure the continuity of your education.

To reflect this we have updated our privacy notice. Please visit <https://www.bmet.ac.uk/privacy-notice/> to download our updated privacy notice - for your convenience we have shown the changes in bold on p4 four of the document. If you would like a printed copy of our privacy notice, please call 0121 446 4545.

We thank you for your continued support.