



support for your success
Learner Support at South Thames College

Support for your success

At South Thames College we want to remove as many barriers to access and learning as possible so that you can reach your true potential on your chosen course.

Each year we provide support to over 1,000 learners, many of whom have a disability or learning difficulty. We encourage you to disclose information to us as early as possible so that we can plan to meet your support requirements.

To discuss your support requirements or to get more details of the support we offer, please contact our Learner Support Liaison Officer:

020 8918 7486 (voice)

020 8918 7969 (text)

learner.support@south-thames.ac.uk

You can also contact the co-ordinators for each type of support directly. Their contact information is in this booklet.

Would you like to get involved in discussing disability issues at South Thames College?

We run learner forums where you can share your views and ideas and we can let you know how to contribute to the College's decision making processes.

For more information, please contact our Learner Support Liaison Officer:

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The support available to you

A member of the Learner Support Team will meet with you to assess your requirements. Depending upon the results of your assessment, you may then be offered support for:

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Physical disabilities and medical conditions

If you have a physical disability, such as cerebral palsy or muscular dystrophy, we may offer one-to-one support inside and outside of the classroom from a learner support worker/learning mentor.

They can also meet your personal care requirements. We can also assess your assistive technology requirements and

provide equipment such as adapted keyboards and specialist software.

If you have a medical condition, such as epilepsy or HIV, that affects your learning we may provide a learner support worker/learning mentor to help you keep up-to-date with lessons inside and outside the classroom.

Contact our Learner Support Lead – Disability

Wandsworth Campus
020 8918 7394 (voice)
020 8918 7969 (text)

Merton Campus
020 8408 6472

Mental health or emotional/behavioural difficulties

If you have mental health support needs that affect your learning, we can support you with a learning support worker/learning mentor who has mental health experience. They can work in class or provide support for your learning outside the classroom.

They can help you talk to your teachers and manage your studies.

The College also has counsellors and welfare advisers who can assess any support requirements you may have that are not learning related.

Contact our Learner Support Lead – Mental health and well-being

Wandsworth Campus
020 8918 7317

Merton Campus
020 8408 647

Jordan Martin first joined South Thames College to study a BTEC sport course. He progressed to our Level 3 Games Development course.



“I was an extremely shy student when I first joined South Thames College and when I started my course I was feeling very nervous.

“I’ve had support for my learning difficulty and mental health concerns over the last three years. My lecturer explained to me how to access support on my first day at the College, I filled in a form and there was a really quick response. I had my support all set up within two weeks.

“The support I get helps me to get my work done, and to understand the course more fully. I have more confidence now and am happy to work alongside all the other students. The support staff here are fantastic, there’s never been a problem they can’t help me with, I’m really thankful.

“In the future, I hope to study computer science at university and then become a computer programmer.”

Specific learning difficulties

If you have a specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia, dyspraxia, dyscalculia, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and/or Asperger's Syndrome, we can provide support outside the classroom to look at how you learn best and develop strategies to help you progress. We also have a wide range of specialist software and equipment such as scanners and reading and speech recognition software.

You may be offered support in the classroom as well from a learner support worker/learning mentor.

We can also provide out-of-class speech and language therapy support if you have difficulties expressing yourself or find it hard to understand what others are saying to you.

Contact our Learner Support Service Manager

Wandsworth Campus (Wed)
020 8918 7180

Merton Campus (Mon/Tue/Thu/Fri)
020 8408 6527



Carl Brooks first joined South Thames College to study a BTEC sports course. He progressed to our Level 3 Sports Development course

“When I started on a Level 2 in sports I was a little bit shy and I had trouble with spelling, reading, writing and my speech.

“With help from my support teachers, my skills have really improved and now I’ve grown in confidence. I get in and out-of-class support and it has helped me to achieve a lot over the last three years. My support teacher helps me with my note-taking and spelling and teaches me strategies for planning my work and for remembering things. I am very thankful for all the help I have been given as I don’t think I could have done my course without it.

“In the future, I am hoping to go and work with coaching people of all ages.”

Other learning difficulties

Some people with learning difficulties choose to study on one of our courses specially designed for those with learning difficulties. They receive support from learning mentors inside and outside the classroom.

You may receive one-to-one support in the classroom from a learner support worker/learning mentor or use enabling technology to help you succeed.

Contact our Learning Difficulties and Disabilities Team
on **020 8408 6645**

Blind or partially sighted

If you are blind or partially sighted we may provide you with a one-to-one learner support worker/learning mentor. We can also assess your assistive technology requirements and provide equipment and specialist software such as JAWS and SuperNova.

We can also provide materials in alternative formats such as braille, MP3 and large print.

Contact our Learner Support Lead – Disability

Wandsworth Campus
020 8918 7394 (voice)
020 8918 7969 (text)

Merton Campus
020 8408 6472



Kayleigh Toogood first joined South Thames College to study an Entry Level 1 Skills for Working Life course at the Merton campus and progressed to Entry Level 2

“Without my support I would have not been able to enjoy all the things I like here like cooking and flower arranging. We have even done some fund raising and we went away on a residential abseiling and water rafting trip.

“I have also been using a lot of specialist equipment, like computer software that talks to me and my tutor changes my work sheets in a different format and this has made my life in College a lot easier and has helped me to succeed.

“Next year, I would like to go on Level 3 and in the future do something in IT, if I am able to go on to a mainstream course.”

Deaf or partially hearing

If you are Deaf or partially hearing, we may provide technological aids or in-class support from a communicator and/or note taker.

We can also provide support outside the classroom from a specialist tutor of the Deaf from Deaf First at Oak Lodge School.

Contact our Learner Support Lead – Disability

Wandsworth Campus

020 8918 7394 (voice)

020 8918 7969 (text)

Merton Campus

020 8408 6472

Access arrangements in exams

If you have one of the above disabilities or learning difficulties, you may be entitled to access arrangements in exams such as extra time, a reader, scribe or prompter.

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Our aim is to provide you with the right support to produce results that are a true reflection of your abilities.



Adolf Kristapsons, Art and Design Level 2

“This is the first time I have had College support, I never had it in the past. When I first joined the College I was wondering how the support would help me and what was it going to be like, but now I think it is fantastic and it makes everything clearer for me.

“I have a 1-1 communicator and when I first started the course I was not fluent in British Sign Language (BSL). My teacher and I were a little worried I would not be able to access the course but now I have passed a BSL Level 2 course and have gotten over my disadvantages.

“In the future, I am aiming to go to university and do something that will make me feel really proud of myself.”

**Contact our Learner
Support Liaison Officer**

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020 8918 7969 (text)

learner.support@south-thames.ac.uk

 **@souththamescoll**

 **/souththamescollege**

