

CONTINUUM

NORTHAMPTON COLLEGE
AUTISM SPECTRUM
CONDITIONS
PATHWAY



Continuum

What is Continuum?

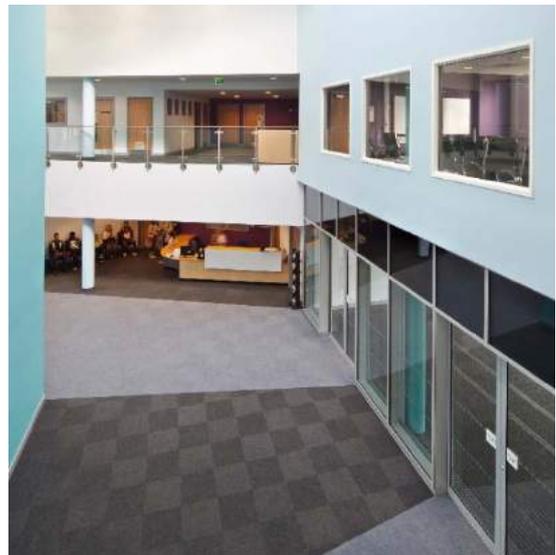
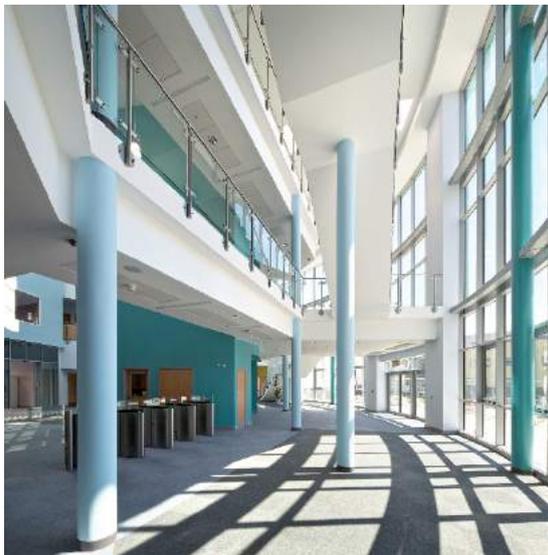
'Continuum' is a transition pathway in place to support and offer guidance to students with Autism Spectrum Conditions, helping them settle in to college and ensuring they have a positive start to their experience.

What will Continuum provide?

Applying for College

When you apply for a place at Northampton College, you will receive an information pack including:

- Photographs of important places in the college
- Guidance on what to expect when you start college
- A map of the college building
- Top tips about college life from existing students



Starting College

When you start at Northampton College, you will receive an individualised support package created to meet your needs. This may include:

- Weekly tutorials with one of the Autism Support Specialists
- Outcome workshops
- Exam access arrangements
- Specialist equipment
- Support from an Additional Support Assistant
- Access to English and maths support
- Use of a quieter working space when studying independently

You will also be offered tours of the building at various times throughout the college day. The Autism Support Specialists will notify you of dates where you can come and look round in a group or individually.



How the Continuum Pathway works:

1.

- If you have a diagnosis of Autism and apply to Northampton College you will follow the Northampton College Autism Spectrum Conditions pathway, called 'Continuum'.

2.

- Our Enrolment team will inform Additional Learning Support (ALS) that an applicant has shared they have additional needs.

3.

- An initial interview will be arranged with the right specialist, such as an Autism Support Specialist, a member of the Well-being and Mental Health team, or a Dyslexia Specialist.
- At your initial interview, the ALS staff will talk to you about how we can support you at college. This will be shared with your subject area.

4.

- You will be invited to a course interview. If you have not already done so, you must contact Northamptonshire County Council to name Northampton College on your EHCP if you have one.

5.

- If you achieve the entry requirements for your chosen course you will be offered a place by the Enrolment team.
- If you do not achieve the entry requirements for your course you will be offered alternative courses.

6.

- In July/August, you will be sent a pre-course welcome and essential administration letter.

7.

- In September, you will complete your pre-course welcome and essential administration days and start your course.

What will my college interview be like?

After you have applied for your chosen course, you will be invited by letter for an interview. The initial interview is done by an Autism Support Specialist and is an informal opportunity for you to share information about yourself, your support needs and what strategies will help you to be successful at college.

On the day of the interview you will be met at Reception by an Autism Support Specialist and taken to a small interview room. You may have to walk through the college at busy times when there are other students moving between lessons, but the Autism Support Specialist will stay with you.

The Autism Support Specialist has to fill in a form with you to find out:

- What support you have had in school
- What support you will need in college
- Any exam access arrangements you need
- If you are eligible for transport to college

You will also be asked to complete a one page profile so college staff can learn more about you and what things will help you.

The Autism Support Specialist will then pass on this form to the Enrolment Centre and you will be invited to attend a course interview. This may take a bit of time depending on the time of year you apply, but don't worry - a place will be held open for you.

Following your initial interview, if you would like more information or if you have any questions, feel free to contact the Autism Support Specialists. You could also look on our website, where there is a virtual tour of the college (which may help you get used to what everything looks like). There is also a section on the 'Continuum' pathway, with contact details of the Autism Support Specialists available.

What will happen on your pre-course welcome and essential administration days?

After you have received an offer letter from the College and accepted your place, you'll be sent a pre-course welcome and essential administration letter at the beginning of July/August. You must phone the college to confirm your place, but if you find this too difficult, a parent or carer can phone on your behalf.

On these days, you will come to the college Reception where there will be lots of college staff directing you to the right place. Unfortunately, a parent or carer cannot stay with you during the induction. If you feel you need support during the tour one of the Autism Support Specialists can stay with you.

Part of the induction will take place in the large sports hall. There will be lots of other students there too so it might be noisy. The other part of your induction will take place in a classroom. This will be called your 'base room' and a teacher will take you to this room on the first day of your induction. You will complete some enrolment activities in this room.

During the pre-course welcome and essential administration days, you will:

- Have a tour of the college in a group of about 20 students and a course leader
- Need to bring your ID, GCSE certificates and your completed medical information form
- Have your photograph taken for your college ID badge
- Complete a data form
- Listen to a talk from the Senior Leadership team
- Get your timetable of when and where your lessons are
- Complete a free writing task
- Complete a literacy and numeracy assessment

What will happen when you start at Northampton College?

On your first day, you will be expected to find your way to your classroom and be on time for your lesson. If you need someone to greet you at Reception and help you find your way to your lesson this can be arranged. The Autism Support Specialists will come to find you before or after your lesson to arrange support tutorials with you.

There are some things at college that will be the same as school, but some things will be different. Below are some of the similarities and differences you can expect:

What will be the same as school?	What will be different to school?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ You need to be punctual➤ Lessons will be taught by a teacher and there may be other staff in the classroom to support students➤ You need to be respectful towards college staff➤ You need to be respectful towards other students➤ You will need to bring appropriate equipment to lessons➤ You will need to bring a packed lunch from home or buy food from The Lookout (our cafeteria)➤ You will need to complete assignments outside of lessons and hand them in on time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ You do not have to wear uniform (however, your clothing should be sensible and appropriate for college activities)➤ Not all students start and finish lessons at the same times➤ You may have breaks between your lessons and you will have to decide how to use that time➤ You will be expected to manage the course workload (for example, handing assignments in on time)➤ You must wear your ID badge at all times and use this to access the college buildings➤ You can use your phone around the college, but not in lessons➤ You will have an online learning profile called an Electronic Individual Learning Profile (eILP), this is where you can find out course information and see messages from college staff➤ You will call your tutors by their first name.

What to do if...

Problem	What you can do
You lose something that belongs to you, such as your coat or bag.	When items are found, they are usually handed in to Reception. Go to Reception and ask if anything has been handed in. You will probably have to describe the item so they can make sure it is yours. If you need help going to Reception, come to Additional Learning Support in E3:10 and a member of staff will help you.
You forget your college ID badge.	You must go to Student Services and explain that you have forgotten your ID. They will print you a temporary badge for the day. Remember your badge the next day.
You are late for a lesson.	Knock on the classroom door, wait for the teacher to answer and apologise for being late (the teacher may ask why you are late). Try not to be late for the next lesson.
You feel ill whilst at college.	Let your tutor know if you feel unwell. If you are not well enough to be in college, arrangements will be made so that you can go home. If you don't want to tell your tutor, you could let a member of staff from the Additional Learning Support team know.
You are lost at college.	Ask a member of staff for help with finding where you need to be. Refer to your map and remember that the college is like a big diamond and is colour and letter coded.
You need to go to the toilet during a lesson.	Quietly ask your tutor and you will be able to go to the toilet. Try and go to the toilet in your breaks so you don't miss important information in your lessons.
You do not have the right equipment with you for a lesson.	Your teacher will probably be able to lend you the equipment that you need but try and remember to bring it next time.
You are not sure what to do in the breaks between your lessons.	You can spend time in The Lookout, The Library or the Additional Learning Support area during the breaks between your sessions. You can spend this time doing any work or assignments that you need to do for your lessons.

What is The Lunch Pad?

As part of your individual support package, you will be given the opportunity to attend The Lunch Pad – a space for students to socialise, eat their lunch and have some reflective time. This takes place everyday between 12.00pm – 1.30pm, with activities such as books and games. There will always be two members of staff from the Additional Learning Support team who will be available during this time, who could also support you in using The Lookout if you wish to do so.

If you are interested in attending The Lunch Pad, please ask a member of the Additional Learning Support team for further details.



Top tips from Northampton College students:

If you need somewhere quiet to work, the Additional Learning Support study area (in room E3.10) is a really good place to go.

If you're not sure what to do at Lunchtime, The Lunch Pad is a good place to go. You can take part in activities like chess.

If you get confused about where you need to go, you can talk to a security guard and they will help you.

Even though The Lookout can be really busy and noisy, there are quieter times you can go. The food is good and there is lots of choice.

Make sure you check Moodle regularly, as you can get lots of information about your course on there, such as lesson notes from your tutors.

If you need help, the Additional Learning Support team are really friendly and approachable.

There are lots of books to help you with your course in The Library NC and the librarians are really helpful.

At first you'll be worried that you won't know anyone, but you will make friends. Lots of new students don't know anyone else.

If you need help, don't be afraid to ask for it. The college staff are happy to help you when you need it.

You get lots of time to do your assignments, so don't worry about the pressure of coursework. If you need help organising your time, you can ask your teacher or the staff in Additional Learning Support.

The Autism Support Specialists are:

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