

Welcome

to our KC Community



Hello from your Head of Department!

Hi, my name is Rachael and I am the Head of Department for Animal Care and Land-Based Studies at Taylor Hill Animal Centre. At Taylor Hill, we foster an inclusive environment for all students who want to learn more about animals, wildlife, conservation, and land management. We have some amazing facilities to help you do just that. The whole team and I look forward to welcoming you in September as you begin your journey at Kirklees College.

Animal Care and Land-Based Studies



Where will you be studying?

Take a tour of Taylor Hill Animal Centre



Click here
to watch



Key Information and Opportunities

Facilities at our specialist Taylor Hill Animal Centre include a small farm with extensive outdoor facilities and wildlife environments. At the front of the building, a small arboretum has been created, and links have been made to an adjoining secondary woodland.



We put on lots of exciting trips and activities throughout the year for our students. In the last year alone, students have travelled abroad to amazing locations such as South Africa. There's also trips to Chester Zoo and Yorkshire Wildlife Park in addition to residentials to Edinburgh Zoo and Woburn Safari Park. All of our trips and visits are designed to expand your learning opportunities and develop your work experience to prepare you to work in the animal care and land-based industries.



The college recently opened a brand-new Reptile House and Aquatics Centre. This specialist facility not only houses a range of species, but also has learning spaces and the most up-to-date equipment for our students to use.

Students in this centre are studying for careers in animal care, agriculture, dog grooming, landscaping and much more.



Student life

Making the most of your student life is as important to your experience as the course you study. We are a collaborative, inclusive, supportive and fun college offering you the chance to make great memories as you prepare for a successful future.

- Student enrichment gives you opportunities to join clubs, community projects, trips, and other activities that build skills and confidence.
- There are opportunities to join the Sports Academy and combine sport you're your college studies.
- Student Services offers support with finance, careers advice, counselling, mentoring, wellbeing, and SEND.
- Additional help is also available through learning support, student voice, and the Students' Union.



CLICK HERE
to find out more



Work Experience

Work Experience is embedded in every student's timetable at Kirklees College as part of the Personal Development Pledge. If you are on a study programme, you will have work experience built into your Skills For sessions, where you will discuss career progression, apprenticeships, higher education opportunities and take part in workshops for CV building and interview techniques.

You will also have visits from industry-related speakers about jobs in your sector of study, and will take part in either a work placement or Preparation to Work Passport as part of your programme.

Meet the Tutor: Rebecca Dawson

We have been catching up with Rebecca Dawson, an Animal tutor at Kirklees College. Rebecca has years of experience in the animal care industry and is now using that experience to inspire the next generation.



CLICK HERE
to read Rebecca's story



Career Progression

Throughout your time at Taylor Hill Animal Centre, you will have the opportunity to engage in hands-on training, theoretical coursework, and real-world experiences that will prepare you for a successful career.

Potential career pathways include zookeeper, dog groomer, animal trainer, vet, veterinary nurse and environmental scientist. Our Careers Team will support you to pursue these career paths, including applying for university and higher education.

Start of term

Timetables will be released on **Friday 4 September**. You will receive a text after 12noon to tell you when your timetable is available to view.

Term starts on
Wednesday 9 September 2026

Key enrolment information

The majority of students will enrol online for a September start. Our applications team will contact all applicants to check we have the correct contact information and to confirm what time you will receive your enrolment link.

Enrolment links will be sent out in batches on GCSE Results day (Thursday, 20 August), and this will need to be completed by 12 noon on Friday 21 August.

If you are on holiday or not available on GCSE results day, you will receive information from the applications team about what to do. If your results are different from what was expected, then again, the college's applications team will tell you what to do next.

If you haven't already uploaded a photo for your ID badge, then you will be able to do this when you enrol.