



Queen Alexandra College

Routes through QAC

**Lottie Reid
External Relations and Events Officer**

History of QAC

Miss Elizabeth Bache Harrold and her friend, Miss Mary Badger (pictured), decided that a school for the blind should be established in Birmingham.

In **1847** they rented a small modest house in Rushton Street, Edgbaston for six shillings (30p) a week and on April 24th 1848 a public Institution was formed –

‘The Birmingham Institution for the Blind’



QAC Today



300 Day and Residential students aged 16-24, benefitting from small class sizes and high levels of support.

Personalised support and guidance for students with a range of needs and abilities including:

- Visual impairment
- Autistic spectrum conditions
- Moderate to severe learning difficulties
- Behaviour that challenges
- Physical disabilities
- Down's Syndrome
- Cerebral Palsy

ESFA Funded Programmes:

Preparation for Life (PFL) Programmes:

- Non-accredited
 - Personalised Learning
 - Practical & Functional Skills
 - Personal & Social Development
 - Increase Confidence and Self-Esteem
 - Extended Curriculum
- Delivered at Pre Entry to Entry 2*

Learning, Employment and Progression (LEAP) Programmes:

- Retail and Customer Service
 - Motor Vehicle Studies
 - Hospitality and Customer Service
 - Trades
 - Horticulture
- Qualifications are at Entry 3 to Level 1*

Vocational Programmes:

- Art & Design
 - Performing Arts
 - Creative Media
 - Health & Social Care
 - IT
 - Sport
 - Powerchair Football
 - Wheelchair Basketball
- Qualifications range from Entry 3 to Level 3*

Employment skills including Work Experience is embedded across all areas of study

Access to College

- An individualised programme for people who have been out of education for at least 12 months for various reasons and have difficulty in restarting education.
- The programme is devised around the individual as they gradually increase their attendance at College following a series of planned activities which help them to decide on the best course of study.
- The overall aim is for the student to work towards attending a main College programme to gain qualifications and develop independence in line with their future goals.



Pinewood Campus

Our Supported Internship and STRIDES Programmes are both based at Pinewood.

The programmes offer students the support to build on their confidence and skill set to enter a variety of job sectors such as hospitality, administration, retail, customer service, maintenance, creative arts and animal care to name a few.

Funding for both programmes is provided through the Local Authority and ESFA (Education and Skills Funding Agency).



Step Out (New for 2020/21)

- The programme is for students who have finished their initially funded course with QAC and who still have learning aims from the EHCP which can continue to be developed and progressed towards further participation in their adulthood.
- Step Out helps prepare students who have been in an educational setting for the majority of their life to begin to learn new patterns and routines for the day to support transition to adult social care (ASC), to include use of personal assistants, day centre provision, voluntary work provisions, as appropriate to the student.
- The programme is funded 3 days at QAC by the local authority and 2 days in ASC as arranged by home and social services.



QAC has a team of specialists onsite who are able to support students, including:

- Speech and Language Therapists
- Healthcare Professionals (*including Physiotherapy*)
- Occupational Therapy and Sensory Support
- Counsellors
- Mentors
- Educational and Clinical Psychologists
- Dyslexia Tutor
- Braille Tutor
- Rehabilitation and Travel Trainers
- Visual Impairment Training Officer
- BSL Interpreters
- Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) Coordinator

Application Process

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ESFA funded students

- **Informal visit** (*subject to government restrictions*)
- **EHCP Review** (*parents/carers need to ensure that their Local Authority are aware of preference(s) chosen*)
- **Team based assessment** (*if needed*)

Supported Living options

- Developed in 2010 to sustain the independence that students were developing while at QAC
- Clients on this programme still require support, and the aim is to deliver a service that provides them with the means to live independently / semi independently into the future
- Many clients are either in education, voluntary work or paid employment not linked to QAC directly
- Funding is usually provided through a flexible Direct Payment Personal Budget in conjunction with housing benefit for accommodation



Community Services

- A new range of services for young people with disabilities in the community
- Currently offering a 1:1 PA/Support Worker service which enables clients to access community activities, social opportunities, peer support and self-advocacy
- Offering a flexible, personalised package of support that individuals can purchase using their direct payments/personal budget
- Can support individuals whether they live with their family or have a home of their own

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