



Barnard Castle School

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Academic Support in Sixth Form

Various factors may necessitate academic support for a young person during their studies. These can include physical disabilities, long or short-term medical conditions, or neurological differences such as dyslexia, autism or ADHD. At Barnard Castle School, we are dedicated to ensuring all students have access to the support needed to reach their full potential.

What support do we offer?

Some students may have received 1:1 support in Years 7-11. Although many students no longer require additional 1:1 subject support at A Level, it can still be arranged upon request or as required by an Education Health and Care Plan. The focus of support may shift to general study skills applicable to any course of study, with study support available for short or long-term durations. Subject tutorials are also available.

Numerous students may have also utilised Exam Access Arrangements at the GCSE level. While these arrangements can continue at A Level there is not an automatic transfer. Students needing to maintain their arrangements (such as extra time) must consult the Head of Academic Support immediately on entry to the school. Some courses have a deadline in October of year 12 and timing is crucial. Evidence of ongoing need must be gathered from Sixth Form teachers, and new applications must be submitted, potentially requiring further testing.

Moreover, the Academic Support department operates an open door policy and is available to any student seeking advice. For instance, we can offer guidance on technology to enhance study and work efficiency. We may also assist in communicating learning needs to teachers to enable the most effective teaching and learning processes. This could involve providing a Graduated Approach Student Passport detailing students' strengths, needs, and relevant strategies.

Lastly, we are here to address any concerns you may have regarding your progress at school. We understand and embrace neurodiversity (differences in learning and thinking) and are prepared to support anyone with an existing learning difference or those who suspect they might have one. We can initiate screening within the school and signpost to external assessment if needed. Please seek advice about accessing support at the university level. You may need further testing by a specialist assessor to access Disabled Student Allowance (DSA) or day-to-day and examination support at your chosen university.

We hope this information outlines the comprehensive range of support available to all students until the conclusion of their journey at Barnard Castle School. For additional information, please visit our school website.

Mrs Deborah Wafer, Head of Academic Support