

## Your Guide to a Successful Year at BCoT

Welcome to the 2025/26 academic year at Basingstoke College of Technology! We are thrilled to partner with you and your student to ensure they have a successful and rewarding experience. This guide provides essential information to help you navigate the year ahead.

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### Getting Started: Key Information & Connections

To begin the year on the right foot, we invite all parents and guardians to our special **"Meet the Team"** event. Details, including the date and time, can be found in the welcome letter you received. It's a fantastic chance to meet the faculty and staff who will support your student. The meeting will be held on the lower concourse of our North Site.

**Staying Connected:** The most efficient way to get the latest updates is by email and through our college website. If you haven't received an email from us, please contact the department administrator to update your information. We will keep our website updated with all the latest news and announcements.

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### Student Life & Our Expectations

To help your student thrive in a professional environment, we've outlined some key policies:

- **Student Badges:** For their safety and to access classes, it is essential that students wear their BCoT badges at all times. They can get one free temporary badge per term with a deposit. After that, a new badge must be purchased or they will be asked to go home to get their forgotten badge. We appreciate your support in reinforcing the importance of this.
  - **Dress Code:** While some vocational areas have specific uniforms, all students are expected to wear clothing appropriate for a professional setting. This means no offensive logos, and hats should not be worn in classrooms. Hoodies must also be down inside all college buildings.
  - **Mobile Phones:** Mobile phones are prohibited during lessons unless a teacher gives specific instructions for their use. If a student uses their phone without permission, they will be sent home for the day. Moving forward, they will need to leave their phone with their tutor at the start of every lesson for the rest of the term. If you need to contact your student urgently, please call the department administrator or the main reception at **01256 354141**.
  - **Attendance & Punctuality:** We have a zero-tolerance policy for poor attendance and punctuality. To reach their full potential, students must be on time for lessons and prepared to learn. Please avoid scheduling holidays or non-urgent appointments during term time. If your student is ill, please report their absence using the link on our website or by calling the department administrator.
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## Academic Progress & Support

- **Industrial Placement:** All full-time students must complete industry placement hours as part of their study program. Please inform the **Retention and Progression (RAP) Tutor** of any medical conditions that might affect their placement.
- **Monitoring Progress:** Students will be given academic targets, and their progress will be closely monitored. You can track their attendance and view reports through the **Parent Portal**. If you have not yet registered, please visit <https://gateway.bcot.ac.uk/>.
- **Enrichment & Development:** We strongly encourage all students to get involved in enrichment activities and online learning. This is a vital part of their personal and professional development and contributes to a well-rounded college experience.

For any questions or concerns, your first point of contact should be your student's **RAP Tutor**. Their contact details are included in the contact sheet.

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## Important Dates

### GCSE English & Maths Information Evenings

- **English/Maths GCSE:** October 22, 2025, at 5:30 PM
- **English/Maths Functional Skills:** October 23, 2025, at 5:30 PM

### GCSE English & Maths Assessment Dates

- **Progress Test 1:** Week of October 20, 2025
- **Progress Test 2:** Week of December 8, 2025
- **Mock Paper 1 (Non-Calculator & Non-Fiction Texts):** Week of January 19, 2026
- **Mock Paper 2 (Calculator & Contemporary Texts):** Week of February 9, 2026

### Provisional External Exam Dates

- **November Resits:**
  - **English Paper 1:** November 4, 2025
  - **Maths Paper 1 (Non-Calculator):** November 5, 2025
  - **English Paper 2:** November 6, 2025
  - **Maths Paper 2 (Calculator):** November 7, 2025
- **Summer Exams:**
  - **Maths Paper 1 (Non-Calculator):** May 14, 2026
  - **English Paper 1:** May 21, 2026
  - **Maths Paper 2 (Calculator):** June 3, 2026
  - **English Paper 2:** June 5, 2026

## Cross-College Trips

We are planning two cross-college trips:

- **New York:** During the February 2026 half-term, with an estimated cost of £1,800.
- **Thailand:** Over the Easter 2026 holidays, with an estimated cost of £2,290.

These trips are subject to a minimum number of interested students to be viable. For more information, please contact **[Tamara.smith@bcot.ac.uk](mailto:Tamara.smith@bcot.ac.uk)**.