

MILITARY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER 2023

SPARSHOLT
COLLEGE GROUP



Welcome to Sparsholt College Group

Incorporating Andover College, Sparsholt College and
University Centre Sparsholt



As part of a military family myself, I am proud of Sparsholt College Group's role in supporting Armed Forces Personnel. We also have many staff and students that come from or have strong links with the military community, and we do all we can to establish and build on these links. We are also proud signatories to the Armed Forces Covenant and Employer Recognition Scheme bronze award holders.

Our Andover Campus is situated close to the military communities around Salisbury Plain including Larkhill, Tidworth and Bulford. As such we have real experience in helping military families identify and take your next education steps...

For school leavers we offer a comprehensive range of A Levels, Vocational courses including T Levels and Apprenticeships to support them wherever they aim to go.

For Adults whether enhancing skills, adding professional qualifications or completely retraining following resettlement we have a broad range of part-time and full-time courses that will suit.

Most importantly we make accessing your next steps in education simple, whether it's via outstanding free virtual courses, easy transport links or help with the options for financing.

We would love to see you at one of our many Open Days. They are easy to book - just scan the QR codes below.

Julie Milburn, Principal and CEO



Andover Campus



Sparsholt Campus



University Centre
Sparsholt

We have developed
this guide to help you
and your family find
the best options for
your learning journeys
and to show you all
the other ways we
can support our local
military community.

READ
MORE ►

Young people from military families

Deciding what to do after school is always a challenging time, especially if you are moving to a new area or transitioning to a new college in the middle of your course.

We offer a broad range of courses for 16-year-old school leavers and our Wellbeing team focus on ensuring the transition to our colleges is as smooth as possible.

Whatever your plans we have fantastic options:

A LEVELS

Our Andover Campus offers a wide variety of A Level courses that provide you with everything you need to achieve outstanding results and is the perfect pathway to university.

As one of the top A Level providers in the region, with an incredible 99.7% pass rate, our students are given targeted and personalised support with many moving on to top university destinations.

Find out more about A Levels at our Andover Campus: andover.ac.uk/subjects/a-levels



"I didn't know that many people when I first came to Andover but because I'm studying lots of different subjects I got to meet lots of different people from all across the College which was really interesting. The atmosphere here is very welcoming and friendly."

Grace, Andover Campus

Apprenticeships

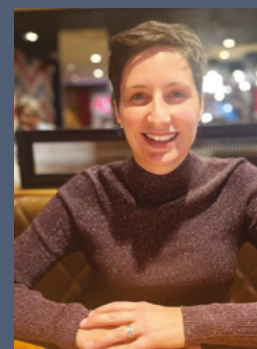
An Apprenticeship is a training programme designed to develop job-related skills, knowledge and competencies in a particular professional area. At Sparsholt College Group we offer a fantastic choice of apprenticeships in a wide variety of professions and are continually conducting labour market intelligence to develop our offer in new and exciting standards such as the new Content Creator at our Andover Campus and the first of many Higher Apprenticeships with University Centre Sparsholt starting with the Countryside Ranger standard.

Our dedicated Apprenticeship Team will advise and help to identify the right apprenticeship programme and work with you to review job opportunities in the local area. It's a programme we believe in wholeheartedly as we employ several apprentices of our own!

Find out more about Apprenticeships at Andover Campus: andover.ac.uk/apprenticeships and at Sparsholt Campus: sparsholt.ac.uk/our-apprenticeships

"I was hesitant about committing to a course as being a military family, I never know how long we will be based in an area. However, I have found the flexibility of the apprenticeship perfect, I can fit my studies around my family and other commitments, and the staff are so helpful, always on hand to help when needed."

**Alison, Early Years Educator
– Level 3 Apprenticeship**



T-LEVELS

Andover and Sparsholt Campus are excited to include T Levels as part of our comprehensive suite of qualifications. T Levels are a new, two-year qualification for 16- to 19-year-olds. They have been developed in collaboration with employers and providers to meet the needs of industry and to prepare students for work.

T Levels are nationally recognised by universities and employers. They hold UCAS points and are equivalent to three A Levels. They offer a pathway to university or employment.

Find out more about T Levels at our Andover Campus: andover.ac.uk/subjects/t-levels

Find out more about T Levels at our Sparsholt Campus: sparsholt.ac.uk/t-levels

Vocational Qualifications (Levels 1- 3)

Across both of our campuses we also offer a range of vocational qualifications such as Uniformed Public Services, that will give you the most up-to-date and relevant technical skills to succeed in your chosen career path – be that a job, university or an apprenticeship.

Technical qualifications have been developed in consultation with employers and industry bodies to ensure the qualifications are fit for purpose and meet the needs of businesses – from Carpentry to Sport.

Whatever level you join us at we will work with you to advance your career aspirations.

Find out more about our other vocational courses at our Andover Campus: **andover.ac.uk**

Find out more about our other vocational courses at our Sparsholt Campus: **sparsholt.ac.uk**



“The course is the perfect mix of practical and classroom. With Sparsholt you also have the great opportunity of an industry placement. I’m going to Calverton Fish Farm and this will help me network in the industry and gain contacts for the future.”

Fraser, Land and Wildlife (Fish) (Sparsholt Campus)

GCSES

Many adults choose to retackle GCSE or functional Maths or English to assist in day-to-day life, support their children, or realise career aspirations. Don’t worry - we are here to help you get where you want to be.

Find out more about English and Maths at our Andover Campus:

andover.ac.uk/subjects/English
andover.ac.uk/subjects/Maths

Find out more about English and Maths at our Sparsholt Campus:

sparsholt.ac.uk/subject/english-and-maths



SUBJECT CASE STUDY: UNIFORMED PUBLIC SERVICES

As a popular part of our broad range of subjects, our thriving Uniformed Public Services teaching team offers full-time Level 2 and 3 courses to school leavers at Andover and Sparsholt Campuses.

Our learners have access to a wide range of support from the public services. So far this year, they have worked with the Police, Fire Service, Paramedics, Army, RAF and many more. They have accessed a wide range of study tours and educational trips that have provided them with an insight into careers in the public services, helping their pathway into future careers.

As part of these courses we also offer students the opportunity to join the Combined Cadet Force programme through our partnership with Winchester College (Army Division), so that you can gain yet more invaluable experience about military life before you go on to your chosen service.

FOUNDATION LEARNING

These are specialist programmes designed for students aged 16-24 with special education needs (SEN) who respond best within a smaller group and extra support or time to complete set work within a mainstream environment.

Find out more about Foundation Learning at our Andover Campus: **andover.ac.uk/foundation-learning/**

Find out more about Foundation Learning at our Sparsholt Campus: **sparsholt.ac.uk/subject/foundation-studies-programme/**

Exploring possibilities for the whole family

Settling into a new area creates opportunities for restarting or changing a career, for improving basic skills to enable better part-time roles for the family or enhancing professional qualifications.

We offer access and support to enable whatever you need.

For Adults, we offer many part-time courses on both our Sparsholt and Andover Campuses. These courses can help you gain new skills or develop your current skills.



Why not start by investigating our incredible and free virtual courses?

The Innovation South Virtual Campus was designed for people living and working locally to provide skills training identified by local businesses as most relevant to them. They are all **absolutely free** short online courses that you can undertake at a time that suits you. Courses range from Digital Marketing, Project Management, Computer Programming, Sustainable Resource Management and Carbon Literacy.

Just create an account at em3.isvc.co.uk now and you'll be on your way to a library of learning you can pick up and put down at your convenience.

Full and part-time courses for adults - find something new to suit you

Part-time courses on both our Andover and Sparsholt Campuses offer the opportunity to meet like-minded people in your new area, have fun and learn new skills. The range is broad - from Accounting to Electrical, Ecology to Hairdressing, Horticulture to Health and Safety and many more. These courses can help you gain new skills or even set you on the road to a new career.

Scan to find out about our full and part-time courses.



◀ Sparsholt
Campus



◀ Andover
Campus

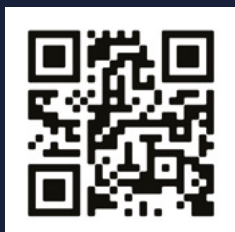


"If you have been thinking about trying something new for yourself or improving your knowledge by doing some courses, I say - go on, it's so worth it! The tutors and staff are so amazing and supportive."

Madara, CMI Level 3 Diploma in Principles of Management and Leadership



INNOVATION
SOUTH
VIRTUAL
CAMPUS



Need help to move on to Higher Education?

Our Access to Higher Education courses are specifically designed to give you the skills and knowledge to go on and study a degree. The diploma provides an intensive programme covering study skills and knowledge required for chosen career paths. You will leave college with a qualification recognised by universities.



"If you want to get back into education, Andover is the ideal place to start. The science teachers had lots of time for me and ensured I understood the concepts behind the subjects. I am currently a third-year Radiography student and the Access course really gave me the foundation for my Physics and Biology module at University."

Kwabena, Science

Scan here to find out more about Access to HE: Nursing and Healthcare, Science and Social Work and Social Science.



Scan here to find out more about Access to HE: Land based Studies.



Perhaps it's time for some Professional development?

Alternatively, if you're serving personnel looking to take part in professional development whilst serving or preparing to leave the services, in addition to our Innovation South Virtual campus (see link left) we also offer many courses which will suit your needs.

We are an approved learning provider under the **Armed Forces Enhanced Learning Credits (ELC)** scheme, offering courses such as Access to Higher Education for adult learners who want to study at degree level but do not currently have the qualifications to apply, part-time AAT Accounting Diplomas, our Foundation Degree in Ecology and Wildlife Management, and the popular range of CMI management qualifications.

You can find out more about the courses available through the ELC scheme and how to apply for the funding on our websites, andover.ac.uk and sparsholt.ac.uk



And if you are a Forces Veteran...

We are proud to support those who have served in the Armed Forces, from the Building Heroes partnership to the Further Forces Programme.

BUILDING HEROES

Our Andover Campus is delighted to have partnered with Building Heroes, a charity that supports military personnel, veterans or their family members to upskill and access a career in the construction industry.

In collaboration with Building Heroes and Vistry Construction, our Andover Campus delivers training on the Hounsme Fields development in Basingstoke with access to three shell homes that will enable learners to put into practice the skills they have learnt in bricklaying, carpentry, plastering and much more.

To find out more about the course and how to apply visit **buildingheroes.org.uk**.



FURTHER FORCES PROGRAMME

If you're leaving the military services – or you've left within the past 5 years – and want to train as a Further Education (FE) teacher in England, our fully-funded Further Forces programme is the perfect opportunity for you.

Commissioned by the Ministry of Defence, Department for Education, Gatsby Charitable Foundation and Education and Training Foundation (ETF), Further Forces gives you the chance to work towards a Certificate in Education or PGCE – while learning on the job and working with a mentor who'll support your move into teaching.

The Further Forces programme is designed to cater for the specific needs of ex-military personnel, so no prior teaching qualifications or experience is necessary – but all applicants should have an interest in becoming a teacher of students aged 16 and over.

And most importantly, because the Further Forces programme is **fully-funded**, there are no costs for you to pay.

#DidYouKnow?

Sparsholt College Group also guarantees an interview for jobs for those following this pathway!



Scan here to find out more from the University of Portsmouth



EXCITING NEW FACILITIES

The Department for Education has invested £2.2 million in Sparsholt College Group to aid the delivery of T Levels and each campus will see significant new facilities.

In addition, we have been awarded £4m investment from the Office for Students for our University Centre campus.

Andover Campus

New facilities are being developed in Digital Skills, Health and Social Care and Construction. Digital investment has provided multimedia facilities including a broadcasting suite and a new cyber security laboratory. The new nursing facility provides state-of-the-art mock wards, consultation facilities and mock ups of domestic care settings with all the latest equipment.

The investment will also allow for the expansion of the Technology and Future Skills Centre on campus, making room for more bricklaying and carpentry skills as well as providing photovoltaic and air source heat pump training rigs.

The College's Automotive department will be welcoming a new Automotive T Level that includes the maintenance, installation and repair for Light and Electric Vehicles.

STUDENT WELLBEING

For all our courses in addition to a great learning experience, we provide exceptional pastoral and wellbeing support from our expert Wellbeing Team who support our full-time students during their time at college.

The team includes specialist wellbeing practitioners as well as a counsellor and a nurse who are all dedicated to listening and empowering students to resolve any challenges they might face.

Our new Support hubs at each campus include a wellbeing lounge, counselling room, medical treatment room, meeting rooms and are staffed throughout the college day. They are safe spaces which foster positive wellbeing and personal growth and independent self-help strategies.

Sparsholt Campus

Sparsholt campus will shortly see the installation of a new robotic milking parlour, a new Agri Tech Centre for the advancement of green skills and the development of agricultural technologies to support the new Agriculture, Environmental and Animal Care T Levels.

University Centre Sparsholt

The University Centre at Sparsholt will see new dedicated buildings to provide students with a modern learning environment built upon sustainable values; incorporating green technologies and improving environmental protection.

This new addition will continue to extend the specialist facilities already on offer which highlight how green technology and sustainable working methods can be successfully integrated into training and the workplace.

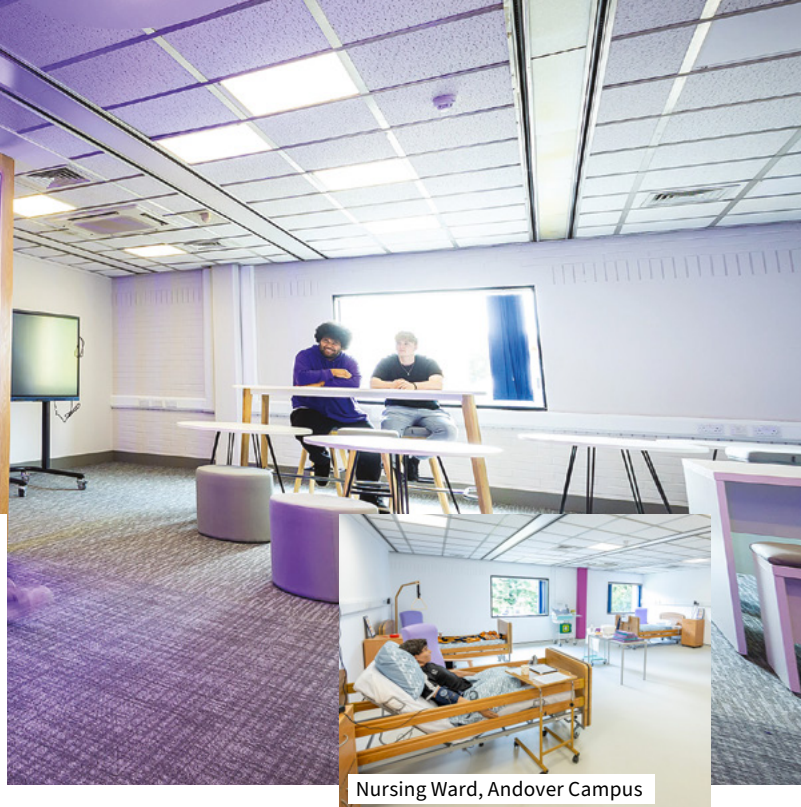


Wellbeing Hub, Andover Campus

We work with a range of Higher Education Institutions who proactively support young people progressing to Higher Education from military families.

This includes specific open events, guest speakers and masterclass sessions to help with the next steps into Higher Education and ensure there are no barriers.

We provide extensive support to learners to help them achieve their goals. We have a progress coach who supports those in military families. They understand the challenges that can be posed by relocation and will ensure the support the young person receives is tailored to their particular background.



Nursing Ward, Andover Campus

TRANSPORT

Sparsholt Campus

Students travel to Sparsholt from all over the region, so we aim to make the journey as easy and cost effective as possible. Whether you're getting the train from Southampton, Eastleigh, Totton or Basingstoke or the bus from across Hampshire and the county borders, we'll help you find the best way to get into College.

Andover Campus

Andover College is situated within half a mile of both the bus and train stations, ensuring it is easily accessible to students from both Andover and the surrounding area. Andover College offers a number of subsidised tickets on Campus buses, Stagecoach buses and South Western Railway. If you live over three miles from the College you may also be able to apply to the learner support funds for assistance.

The most frequent travel service from Tidworth is the Active 8. This is a dual run service provided by Salisbury Reds and Stagecoach. For timetable information please visit: stagecoachbus.com/timetables.

Scan here to find out more about transport:



◀ Sparsholt Campus



◀ Andover Campus



Finding help with your Finances

There are many possibilities to help with funding your studies from bursaries to Advanced Learner Loans and Adult Education Budget Grants. Our Funding team are available to help you find the right options to support your chosen course.

For a little more information, please scan the QR codes:



◀ Sparsholt Campus



◀ Andover Campus

Explore our courses and visit us at an open event

At our Open Events you can tour our amazing campus facilities and get a real taste of our courses.

Meet our friendly students and expert staff, find out about transport or accommodation, finance, learning support, and get to know us!

We also have access to a Careers Team who can offer support and guidance to help you make informed choices about your future. Why not visit them at one of our many Open Events for an informal chat – you can use the QR code to book...



Andover Campus



Sparsholt Campus



University Centre Sparsholt

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