

2025
2026

Dudley
Metropolitan Borough Council

Adult learning courses
in the Dudley borough

learn



learn a new skill • get into work • gain a qualification • meet new people

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Congratulation Asifa

The “Inspirational Learner of the Year” award is presented by the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) as part of their Adult Learning Awards.

This award recognises individuals who have demonstrated exceptional dedication and progress in their learning journey, inspiring others to pursue education and training. This years winner is **Dudley learner Asifa Shaheen** whose journey has been amazing.



Welcome to Adult and Community Learning (ACL)



Welcome to the 2025 - 26 Adult Learning Prospectus! I hope you find it useful as you explore the many opportunities available in Dudley for adults and families who want to invest in learning and education for a brighter future.

In Dudley, we are embracing new and innovative ways to enhance life and work within our borough. As a diverse community, our residents have high aspirations and play an active role in supporting the regeneration of our area.

The Dudley Adult and Community Learning team are excited to offer new courses and even more opportunities for you to improve your life. Whether you’re looking to gain skills for work, achieve a qualification, or improve your health and wellbeing, we have something for you.

Visit one of our friendly local neighbourhood learning centres and sign up today for a better future.

Paul Mountford
Head of Economic Growth and Skills

Contacts details

Dudley Adult and Community Learning
The Council House, Priory Road, Dudley DY1 1HF
Tel: 01384 818143
Email: acl@dudley.gov.uk Website: www.dudley.gov.uk/adultlearning

Social Media pages:

@Dudley ACL

@dudley_acl

@DudleyAdultCommunityLearning

@dudley-adult-and-community-learning

@dudley.acl

@dudleyacl



Planning your learning

Choosing the right course is an important step toward achieving your goals.

We will work with you to create a personalised learning programme that meets your individual needs, goals, and aspirations.

This will enable you to:

- Understand your starting point
- Complete an initial assessment (if applicable to your chosen course)
- Explore your progression options, whether for further learning or employment

Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG)

To support your learning journey, we offer free Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) interviews with qualified advisors at any of our learning centres.

Dudley Adult and Community Learning holds the Matrix Award, recognising the high quality of our IAG services. This means:

- You'll have access to a safe and welcoming environment to discuss your learning needs
- All information provided is impartial and confidential
- Our qualified staff are here to help you make informed and confident choices

To book an IAG session at your preferred learning centre, please contact us on **01384 818143**.



Additional support

We are committed to helping all learners succeed. If you need extra support with your learning, we can offer a range of services, including:

- Support for learners with disabilities
- Access to specialised equipment, such as assistive ICT software and adjustable desks
- Course information and resources available in alternative formats

If you think you might benefit from additional support, please don't hesitate to talk to us - we're here to help.



How to find a course and enrol

Browse our brochure, visit our website, or speak to a member of our team to help you choose the right learning programme and secure your place.

To book a place, you can:

- Call us on 01384 818143
- Visit one of our learning centres
- Register your interest online at: www.dudley.gov.uk/adultlearning

Please note: For some courses, such as English, Maths, and ESOL, you may need to complete an initial assessment to determine the most suitable level before enrolling

Eligibility

To join a course you must:

- be aged 19 or over
- live in either Dudley, Sandwell, Wolverhampton, Birmingham, Solihull, Walsall or Coventry
- have lived in the UK/EEA for the last 3 years

If you have not lived in the UK/EEA for 3 years you will need to evidence your current residency status in the UK. This could include the following:

- Refugee
- Leave to enter or remain - this could be either discretionary, exceptional or indefinite
- Humanitarian protection
- Leave outside the rules
- British nationals evacuated from Afghanistan
- Spouse, civil partner or child of any of the above
- Section 67 or the Immigration Act 2016 leave
- EEA national (pre-settled or settled under the EU Settlement Scheme)
- Family member of a UK/EEA national (with pre-settled or settled under the EU Settlement Scheme)
- Ukraine family/sponsorship scheme
- Calais leave to remain
- Asylum seeker (and resided in the UK for 6 months)

You will also be asked to provide the date you entered the United Kingdom, together with a relevant biometric residence permit, a Home Office share code and an ARC card and any recent correspondence.



Safeguarding

Dudley Adult and Community Learning is committed to safeguarding the welfare of all learners, volunteers, staff, and visitors. We are dedicated to providing a safe and supportive learning environment where individual rights are respected and everyone is protected from harm, abuse, and neglect.

We promote safeguarding by:

- Valuing and listening to learners
- Following clear safeguarding policies and procedures
- Creating a safe and inclusive learning environment
- Recruiting staff safely and responsibly
- Offering inclusive and accessible learning opportunities

If you are a learner and have any concerns, you can speak confidentially to a Safeguarding Officer by calling 01384 818070 or emailing ACLSafeguarding@dudley.gov.uk.

For more information on how to stay safe in your community, visit the Dudley Safeguarding website: www.dudleysafeguarding.org.uk

Venues

We have Neighbourhood Learning Centres across the borough

BHNLC - Brierley Hill Neighbourhood Learning Centre (NLC)

Hill Street, Brierley Hill DY5 2UE

CPNLC- Castle and Priory Neighbourhood Learning Centre (NLC)

Limes Road, Dudley DY1 4AQ

DWNLC - Dudley Wood Neighbourhood Learning Centre (NLC)

Off Pavilion Gardens, Dudley Wood Road, Dudley Wood DY2 0DB

These centres are fully accessible and welcome you to 'just call in'. There is car parking at all centres.

Courses are also held at:

SC - The Savoy Centre

Northfield Rd, Netherton, Dudley DY2 9ES

These centres are fully accessible and welcome you to 'just call in'. There is car parking at all centres.



Personal Information

Protecting your privacy is our priority. We collect only the necessary information from learners to meet mandated requirements or business needs, such as enrolment, assessment, and service improvement.

Your information may be shared with external entities, including the Education and Skills Funding Agency, the West Midlands Combined Authority, and examination boards for exam-related purposes. It may also be shared with other council departments when required to address service requests, complaints, or actions to enhance Dudley Council's services.

We follow strict data retention policies, keeping personal data only as long as needed and securely disposing of it when no longer required, in compliance with applicable laws. We implement robust security measures such as encryption, access controls, and regular audits to protect your information.

You have rights regarding your personal data, including the right to access, correct, and delete it.

For more details, you can request the full privacy notice from any member of our Adult and Community Learning team. Dudley Council's privacy notice is also available on our website: www.dudley.gov.uk/privacy-disclaimer-statement.

Learner quote:

Hester

English course

"If you never thought about joining a course, I highly recommend it. It's never too late to learn something new and the benefits are amazing, not just academically but socially too, I've met such diverse, interesting people and made new friends. Plus, having dedicated time each week for self-improvement has been wonderful for my confidence and mental wellbeing."

Disclaimer

Dudley Adult and Community Learning (ACL) is committed to offering the courses and services outlined in our brochure, on our website, and across our social media platforms.

While we make every effort to deliver these programmes as described, we cannot guarantee the availability of every course or service. In some cases, we may need to adjust course content or delivery methods, merge or combine courses, or, if necessary, cancel them. If any programme is discontinued, we will do our best to offer a suitable alternative.

OPEN DAYS

We invite you to visit our three Neighbourhood Learning Centres (NLC) during our open days.

You will have the chance to tour the centres, meet the team, try out a learning activity, and sign up for a course.

Come and speak with one of our qualified advisors about the learning opportunities, qualifications, and job support we can offer.

Castle and Priory NLC Limes Road, Dudley DY1 4AQ

• 4th - 8th August, 10am - 3pm

Brierley Hill NLC Hill Street, Brierley Hill DY5 2UE

• 11th - 15th August, 10am - 3pm

Dudley Wood NLC Dudley Wood Road (off Pavilion Gardens), Dudley Wood DY2 0DB

• 18th - 22nd August, 10am - 3pm

No need to book - just turn up between the times stated above!



English

Are you seeking employment, looking to change careers, or aiming to progress into further education or a university course? Do you want to feel more confident when speaking, reading, or writing English?

Improving your English can help you gain a qualification and open doors to a brighter future. We offer Functional Skills English courses, from entry level to Level 2.

Our courses are taught by friendly, qualified tutors, both in our centres and online.

Before joining a class, you will need to complete an assessment so we can determine the right starting level for you.

Courses begin on various dates throughout the year. You can choose a weekly class over several months or a more condensed course. We also offer a 'Fast Track' online course with tutor guidance.

Take the next step towards improving your English and building a better future!

Functional Skills English - Entry Level

| Venue | Day | Time |
|-------|----------|--------------|
| BHNLC | Monday | 9.30 - 11.30 |
| DWNLC | Thursday | 9.30 - 11.30 |
| CPNLC | Friday | 10 - 12 |

Functional Skills English - Level 1 and Level 2

| Venue | Day | Time |
|-------|-----------|--------------|
| DWNLC | Tuesday | 12.45 - 2.45 |
| DWNLC | Tuesday | 6 - 8 |
| BHNLC | Tuesday | 12.30 - 2.30 |
| CPNLC | Wednesday | 10 - 12 |
| DWNLC | Thursday | 12.30 - 2.30 |
| CPNLC | Thursday | 9.30 - 3 |

Learner quote:

Dreena

English course

"This course has been the best experience of my life. I am so proud of myself because I've improved my English and writing skills. I've met new friends. The teachers are so nice, respectful, kind and helpful."

For more information and to secure a place on these courses, please contact us. Or, attend one of our open days and talk to the team about joining the course.



Well done to Chloe

Chloe, who lives in Dudley, has always aspired to work in a school.

She joined Adult and Community Learning at Dudley Wood Learning Centre, where she completed Level 2 English and Maths, along with a course in Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools. Chloe successfully gained these qualifications and now works as a Teaching Assistant in a school.

Maths

Improving your maths skills will help you in both everyday life and work situations. A strong understanding of maths boosts your confidence, enhances problem-solving and analytical skills, and enables you to study other subjects. It can also help you support your child with their homework.

If you're aiming to apply for higher-level courses or looking for a job or career change, gaining a nationally recognised qualification in maths can help you reach your goals.

We offer Functional Skills Maths courses from entry level to Level 2. These classes are taught face-to-face in the classroom.

Classes are held weekly over several months. If you need to gain a qualification in a shorter timeframe, you can join our Fast-Track Maths courses online. You will need good IT skills and a reliable internet connection to get the most out of online learning.

Before joining a maths course, all learners must complete an initial assessment to determine the correct starting point and ensure you are on the right level course.

Functional Skills Maths - Entry Level

| Venue | Day | Time |
|-------|-----------|--------------|
| DWNLC | Monday | 12.30 - 2.30 |
| CPNLC | Tuesday | 1 - 3 |
| DWNLC | Wednesday | 9.30 - 11.30 |

Functional Skills Maths - Level 1

| Venue | Day | Time |
|-------|-----------|--------------|
| BHNLC | Tuesday | 9.30 - 11.30 |
| CPNLC | Tuesday | 10 - 12 |
| DWNLC | Wednesday | 12.30 - 2.30 |
| DWNLC | Thursday | 12.30 - 2.30 |
| DWNLC | Thursday | 6 - 8 |

Functional Skills Maths - Level 2

| Venue | Day | Time |
|-------|-----------|--------------|
| BHNLC | Monday | 12.45 - 2.30 |
| DWNLC | Wednesday | 12.30 - 2.30 |
| DWNLC | Thursday | 6 - 8 |
| CPNLC | Friday | 10 - 12 |

Fees

Maths courses are free if you do not already have a GCSE grade C (4) or above in this subject. Exam and assessment fees are also free.

Take the first step towards improving your maths skills today!

For more information and to secure a place on these courses, please contact us. Or, attend one of our open days and talk to the team about joining the course.

Learner quote:

Susan

Maths course

"There are students in my class that come from different places so I have learned about their countries and their culture as well. Its been amazing."

Unlock Your Digital Potential

In today's world, mastering computers, tablets, and smartphones is essential. With internet access at your fingertips, you can save money, book appointments, find crucial information, pay bills, and stay connected with loved ones through email and chat. Digital skills empower you to stay safe online and use the internet for everything from job search to planning holidays.

If technology feels overwhelming or you need a confidence boost, we're here to help you enhance your digital and computer skills for both life and work.

Why Choose Our Courses?

We offer a variety of free courses up to Level 1, designed for all skill levels. Whether you're a complete beginner or looking to get comfortable with Microsoft Office, we have the perfect course for you.

Absolute beginners can start with our taster courses, where you'll learn to:

- Build confidence using a computer
- Utilise digital skills on computers, tablets, or smartphones
- Stay safe and protect yourself and your family online

Let us guide you in improving your digital skills for life and the workplace!

Digital Skills Taster Courses

Available at various venues throughout the borough with multiple start dates throughout the year.

Join us and take the first step towards a digitally empowered future!

Digital Skills Taster courses

(Pre-entry Level from 5 hours)

Offered at these venues with various start dates throughout the year.

| Venue | Day | Time |
|-------|-----------------------------|---------|
| CPNLC | Monday, Tuesday | Various |
| DWNLC | Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday | Various |
| BHNLC | Monday, Wednesday, Thursday | Various |

Search Engines and Online Research

(Entry Level 3 up to 20 hours)

If you want a qualification in digital skills you can join our search engine courses. On these courses you will learn about the range and purpose of search engines and how to search for information safely and confidently.

| Venue | Day | Time |
|-------|-----------|---------|
| CPNLC | Monday | Various |
| DWNLC | Tuesday | Various |
| BHNLC | Wednesday | Various |

Into Employment - training and skills for work

Want a job with Dudley’s biggest employers, like Dudley Council and the NHS? We’re helping to recruit local residents for job vacancies with some of Dudley’s largest employers.

To secure a guaranteed job interview, join our **FREE 4-week Employability Course** and learn valuable skills including:

- industry specific skills in health and social care
- customer service
- English, maths and digital skills
- work based skills including teamwork, resilience, assertiveness and problem solving
- employment support, job applications and interview techniques

Course Details:

- Duration: 4 weeks
- Days: Monday to Friday, 10.00 - 2.30
- Venue: Brierley Hill Neighbourhood Learning Centre, Hill Street, Brierley Hill, DY5 2UE

Upon completing the course you will be guaranteed an interview.

Eligibility:

To be eligible for the free course, you must:

- Live in the boroughs of Dudley, Wolverhampton, Birmingham, Sandwell, Walsall, Coventry, or Solihull
- Be unemployed

Booking:

Spaces are limited, so be sure to book your place in advance!

Secure your future today and take the first step towards a great career!

Job Clubs

We offer free sessions with our employment advisor at all our centres. You can get help with finding a job vacancy, completing a CV, improving your interview skills or identifying a career route for you.

The free sessions are appointment based at the following venues:

| Venue | Day | Time |
|-------|-----------|-----------|
| CPNLC | Monday | 12.30 - 4 |
| BHNLC | Wednesday | 1 - 4 |
| DWNLC | Thursday | 1 - 4 |

Learner quote:

Andrew

Job Club

“This year my aim is to find a job. The people in the learning centre are nice and helpful. They helped me to upgrade my CV and I learnt some interview skills too.”



For more information about how we can help you gain skills for work and to get a job, please call ACL on 01384 818143 or email acl@dudley.gov.uk



Learning4Life is a vibrant and thriving Adult Education Centre located at The Wordsley School. We offer a wide range of engaging courses designed to help adults in our community learn new skills, explore their creativity, and connect with others in a friendly, supportive environment.

Adult Education Courses

Whether you’re looking to pursue a new hobby, develop your talents, or simply try something new, Learning4Life has something for you!

Our courses include:

- Art and Mixed Media • Painting and Drawing • Crafts • Photography
- Sewing and Upholstery • Pottery • Floristry • Computers • Languages • Pilates

Courses are taught by experienced tutors in a relaxed and welcoming setting. All skill levels are welcome!

Swim School

In addition to our adult courses, we are proud to offer a long-established Swim School for children in the local area.



English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

Improving your English skills will make everyday activities easier, such as shopping, talking to neighbours, helping your child with homework, or finding work.

If English is not your first language and you want to improve your skills for studying, finding work, or managing daily life, our ESOL course is designed for you. These courses run for 2 hours per week over approximately 10 weeks, starting in September, January, and April. Upon completion, you can progress to further education (FE) and gain a qualification.

In our ESOL classes, you will develop your communication skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. You will also have the opportunity to improve your digital and employability skills, boosting your confidence in both life and work settings.

Before starting, you will need to complete an assessment so we can determine the appropriate level for

Pre-entry level courses

| Venue | Day | Time |
|-------|-----------|--------|
| DWNLC | Monday | 12.15 |
| SC | Monday | 12noon |
| CPNLC | Wednesday | 9.30 |
| DCL | Wednesday | 12.30 |
| BHNLC | Friday | 9.30am |

Entry level courses

| Venue | Day | Time |
|-------|-----------|-------|
| DWNLC | Monday | 9.30 |
| CPNLC | Wednesday | 12.15 |
| CPNLC | Wednesday | 12.30 |
| BHNLC | Thursday | 12.15 |

Courses are free for eligible learners.

For more information or to book an assessment, please call ACL on 01384 818143 or email: acl@dudley.gov.uk

Crafts

Creative Personal Development

The Creative Personal Development course is designed to help you build confidence and self-esteem in a fun, creative, and supportive environment. Ideal for those who haven’t been engaged in education for a while, are currently unemployed, or are seeking a new direction in life.

Through therapeutic activities like collage, mosaic, candle making, and other arts and crafts, you’ll have the opportunity to connect socially and reflect personally.

Upon completion, you may have the chance to progress to our **Making it for Market enterprise class** (see overleaf0, where you can learn how to market and sell your crafted items.

| Venue | Day | Start date | No. of weeks | Time |
|-------|----------|-------------------------------------|--------------|-------|
| SC | Thursday | 25/09/25 15/01/26 16/04/26 | 10 | 1 - 3 |
| BHNLC | Friday | 26/09/25 10 16/01/26 17/04/26 | 1 - 3 | |

Making it for Market - enterprise

This practical course is an introduction to launching your own creative craft business. Perfect for learners who want to sell their products online, in retail outlets, or at seasonal fairs.

| Venue | Day | Start date | No. of weeks | Time |
|-------|----------|----------------------------------|--------------|---------|
| SC | Thursday | 18/09/25 15/01/26 16/04/26 | 10 | 10 - 12 |

Preparing to work in Floristry

A florist has specialised knowledge of plants and flowers and is skilled at producing floral designs to a high standard for all occasions.

If you are creative and artistic, good with your hands, have great communication skills and you don't mind an early morning start, then this may be the career for you.

Our courses are practical and hands on with an additional focus on gaining skills to work in the industry.

| Venue | Day | Start date | No. of weeks | Time |
|-------|----------|----------------------------------|--------------|---------|
| CPNLC | Thursday | 25/09/25 15/01/26 16/04/26 | 10 | 10 - 12 |



The course will include:

- Exploring personal interests and motivation
- Personal development and confidence building
- Using good diet and exercise for resilience, motivation, and mental health
- Identifying useful organisations within the community to support daily living
- Help to find work and employment opportunities

During the course learners will be supported to access other courses to improve ICT skills or maths and English skills.

The total course is 10 hours long - one 2 hour session per week for five weeks.

For more information, please call on 01384 818143 or email acl@dudley.gov.uk

**Neurodiversity is a term covering a range of conditions including dyslexia, developmental co-ordination disorder (or dyspraxia), dyscalculia, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (or ADHD), and autistic spectrum conditions.*

Family learning

The Family Learning team offer courses to parents or carers to develop their literacy or numeracy skills and confidence to support their child's learning.

If you don't want to commit to a qualification just yet but would like to find out more about tackling picky eaters, dealing with difficult behaviour, or improving your communication with your child, we are offering some bite-sized sessions at Dudley Wood Neighbourhood Learning Centre (NLC) throughout the autumn term.

If you are particularly interested in neurodiversity, our Caring for Children Award at Dudley Wood NLC will explore some of the issues facing parents, alongside gaining a qualification.

Caring for Children - This course is ideal for parents who want a qualification to recognise their own parenting skills or who want to work with children.

You can gain both an Award and a Certificate at Level 1. Each of these courses are facilitated for two hours per week over twelve weeks.

You will be assessed by your portfolio of work; there are no exams.

Safeguarding Level 1 and 2 - Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools. These courses are ideal for learners who have completed the Caring for Children course or who want to progress to work in schools.



There are many opportunities for parents and carers to learn together with their children.

**For more information
telephone 01384 818143 or
email acl@dudley.gov.uk**

Family Learning in Dudley borough

Find out how you and your family can learn together in a fun and enjoyable way.

It's fun - and it's free

- help your child get ready for nursery or school (primary or secondary)
- support your child's learning
- help your child with homework
- learn new skills for yourself
- meet and make new friends
- spend quality time with your child

Deaf Awareness courses

Did you know... an estimated 12 million people in the UK are affected by hearing loss - that's one in six people.

Being deaf-aware means understanding the challenges faced by those with hearing loss and developing effective communication skills to connect with them.

Our Deaf Awareness courses provide practical, easy-to-apply techniques for interacting confidently and respectfully with people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

What we offer:

- Key principles of deaf awareness
- Practical communication tips
- Boosted confidence for everyone

We offer tailored learning to suit your needs.

Contact us today to find out more or book your course!



British Sign Language (BSL)

Choosing a Deaf Awareness or a BSL class will enable you to develop communication techniques with deaf people.

You can learn how to ask basic questions using sign language and even learn how to fingerspell. These popular courses will prepare you to progress to a qualification course in BSL if you require this.

Please contact us if you want more information about how to enrol on a Deaf Awareness course on 01384 818143 or email acl@dudley.gov.uk





Adult and Community Learning, The Council House, Priory Road, Dudley DY1 1HF
Phone: 01384 818143 Email: acl@dudley.gov.uk www.dudley.gov.uk/adultlearning



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@dudley_acl



@dudley-adult-and-community-learning



@dudleyacl

