

A great place to live and learn

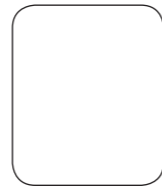
After 30 weeks of study, successful learners leave with an Access to HE Diploma (Combined Studies) from the Open College Network. This is accepted by a wide range of University departments.

One of the advantages of the Combined Studies course is that you can decide which University courses to apply for once you are here. Former students of Fircroft have gone on to study for degrees and professional qualifications including Social Work, History, Social Policy, Politics, Literature, Journalism, Creative Writing, Youth Work and Education.

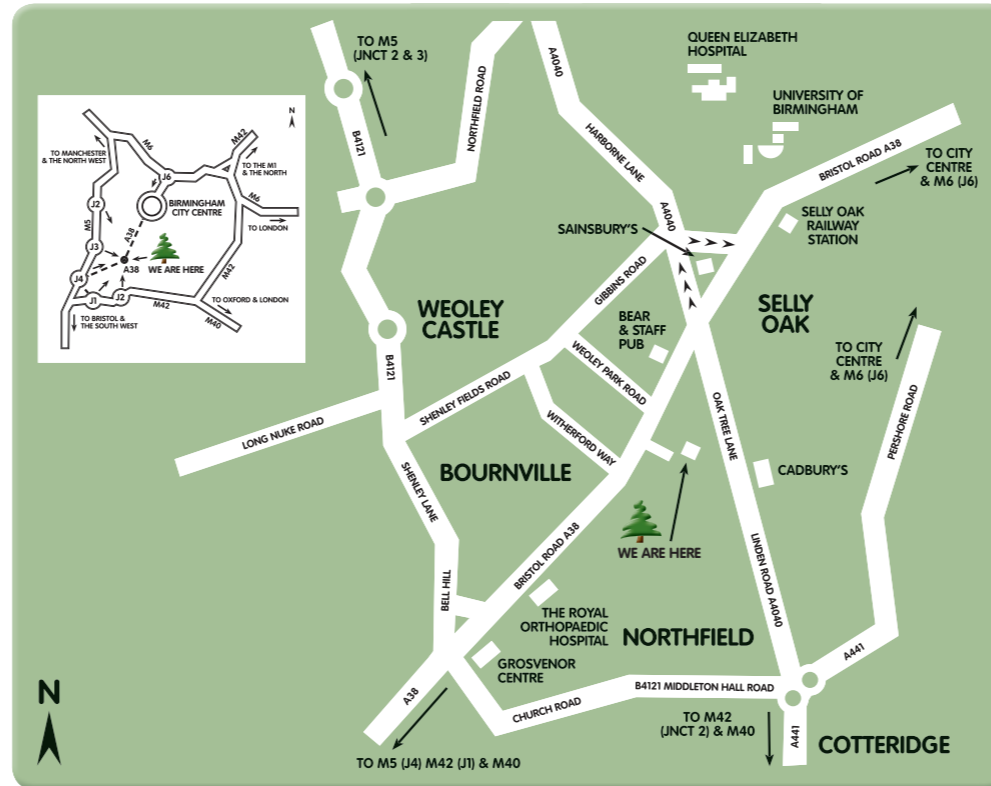
Success rates on the Access course at Fircroft are high – in 2008 this was over 20% above the national average. Fircroft's most recent Ofsted inspection report was grade one 'outstanding' and in 2008 the College was awarded highly coveted Learning and Skills Beacon Status, in recognition of its excellence as a learning provider.

" Achievement and standards are outstanding. Learners develop high levels of personal skills in a relatively short period of time. Although many of the learners face multiple barriers to learning, they swiftly take charge of their lives, make substantial changes and achieve well in their personal and professional lives."

Ofsted inspection report
November 2007



Location Map



Interested in finding out more?

You can contact us for further information, an informal chat or for an application form now. Interviews take place throughout the year.

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Fircroft College of Adult Education Access to Higher Education Diploma



Residential and non-residential places available...

- Bursary for eligible applicants
- FREE tuition, meals & accommodation
- High success rates
- Outstanding support, advice and guidance
- 24hr access to IT facilities & library



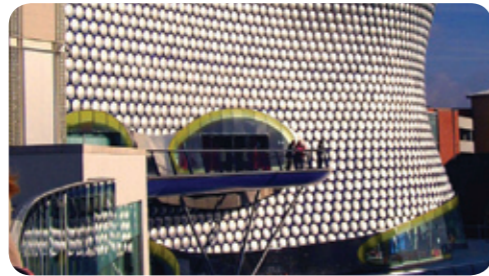
About Fircroft College

Founded in 1909 by George Cadbury Jr, Fircroft College is a adult residential college based in Selly Oak, Birmingham. It offers a unique experience where students live and learn in a friendly and attractive environment, working with highly-skilled and supportive staff.

It is located in a beautiful Edwardian building, formerly a Cadbury family home, situated in six acres of peaceful gardens. The College has modern learning resources, computer facilities, library and a secure environment with on-site night support, as well as a common room and recreation room for students. The library and other resources are open 24 hours a day. All bedrooms are on-campus – none are shared and all have en-suite facilities.

Living at the College allows you to really get away from it all, so you can focus on fulfilling your potential and achieving the best possible results. It gives you the opportunity to engage with a diverse network of people and means help from staff or from other students is never far away. For those with dependents, there are non-residential as well as residential places available.

There is a friendly and active social scene for those that want to get involved, with regular activities and trips going on. Birmingham itself offers something for all tastes – be it shopping, nightlife, culture, sport and lots more. Fircroft has excellent public transport links with regular buses and trains to central Birmingham (about fifteen minutes away) and elsewhere. If you're new to the area, we'll show you around.



“ Fircroft is such a special place, everyone is so friendly and supportive. I have met people from different backgrounds and cultures, and I'm sure, like me, they will all take away with them fond memories of their time at Fircroft.”

Deborah Fiddaman, former student



What will you study?

The 30 week full-time Access to Higher Education Diploma course runs from the end of September to May each year. Students of all ages from a wide variety of backgrounds join the Access course every year. What they all have in common is their commitment and willingness to learn.

The Access course at Fircroft College combines the study of History, Literature and Social Sciences.

Maths and English are an important part of every Access course, and we support our students to ensure they have the necessary IT skills in order to present their work. We include GCSE Maths for those who need it and are capable of achieving it in the same year.

We may also offer you additional options, including a work placement, a research project or leading a residential activity.



“ I have learned a lot about myself and what kind of person I am. I've finally decided what I want to do with my life and I'm on the path to achieving it. I have been accepted to university to study Journalism and Creative Writing.”

Naomi Minto, former student



Frequently Asked Questions

What is an Access Course?

Access to Higher Education (HE) courses prepare students for study at university. They're designed for people who would like to study at university but who left school without the usual qualifications, such as A levels.

Am I eligible?

You must be aged over 19, residing in England and have not received an educational grant previously. You must be a UK citizen, EU national or have indefinite leave to remain – and have lived in the UK for at least three years.

How do I know I can cope with the Access Diploma Course?

At your interview we will assess your readiness to cope with the course, including your current level of literacy and numeracy, and put in place any support you may need. If you have not studied for some time, why not consider taking one of more of our short courses – we run around 150 of these throughout the year covering a wide range of subject areas.

What if I am not ready?

If you are not ready for the Access to HE Diploma course, we will offer you advice and guidance about the next best step for you.

What will it cost?

Unlike some other courses, our Access course shouldn't cost you a penny. All students get a grant which doesn't have to be repaid. Subject to eligibility, you will also be awarded a bursary to cover fees for the course, accommodation and meals. The amount you receive will take into account your personal circumstances e.g. dependants. Students with children are also eligible to apply for a contribution towards childcare costs.

What support will I have?

You will have a personal tutor who will guide you throughout the course. We will help you to cope with any stresses that may occur in both your academic and personal life and keep you on realistic targets, to achieve your Access to HE Diploma.

“ When I came to Fircroft College, I felt like I'd taken the first step towards a better life. It was a brilliant experience, the best decision I've made in my whole life.”

Ant Allen, former student

