



2014/15

Taster Days

for those at School 2014-2015



**Spend a day experiencing the subject of your choice
FREE to those in Years 10 & 11 at school**

Autumn Term 2014

Monday 27th October to Thursday 30th October

Spring Term 2015

Monday 16th February to Thursday 19th February

Summer Term 2015

Monday 22nd June to Thursday 25th June



Supported by the Skills Show and the National Careers Service

Introduction

Plumpton College provides a wide range of exciting courses for those wishing to work in either the wide variety of rural industries, or the great outdoors.

Taster Days are designed to give pupils in Years 9, 10 and 11 an insight into the large variety of courses available at the College. Taster days provide you with an opportunity to spend a day experiencing a subject of your choice and will make it easier for you to make a decision about your future study and career.

Although taster courses are predominantly for those in years 10 & 11 who will have priority, students in year 9 are also eligible if space allows.

The individual subject taster courses are designed for students who, after leaving school, aim to undertake a level 2 (you will need at least 2 good GCSEs) or level 3 course (you will need at least 4 good GCSEs) after leaving school. Students who are unlikely to get two good GCSEs and might need some time to work at level 2 would find the more general **Rural Pathways** taster course more suitable.

Taster courses are held at the College main site but in addition specific subjects are held at:

- **Netherfield (near Battle) – Agriculture & Rural Pathways**

Horticulture - Tuesday 28th October 2014, Tuesday 17th February 2015,
Tuesday 23rd June 2015.

Foundation Level - Wednesday 29th October 2014, Wednesday 18th February 2015, Wednesday 24th June 2015

- **Flimwell (near Wadhurst) – Forestry**

Wednesday 29th October 2014 and Wednesday 18th February 2015

- **Stanmer Park (Brighton) – Horticulture**

Wednesday 29th October 2014 and Wednesday 18th February 2015

At the end of the taster day, there will be an opportunity for you to ask a member of staff any questions you may have and to discuss a possible career in the subject that interests you.

Do come along to meet our friendly and helpful staff and see what the College has to offer you.

We look forward to meeting you soon.

D.P. Lambert,
Principal

How to apply for a free Taster Day

You will need to do the following:

1. Remove the application form at the centre of this booklet and complete each section.
2. Ask either a school Careers Adviser or teacher and your parent/guardian to sign it.
Plumpton College will use the information provided on this form to determine the initial offer of a place on a Taster Course. If this form is not completed fully and accurately, or if further information relevant to the decision of offer becomes known to the College, the initial offer could be made invalid.
3. As Taster Courses are the first step to independence, students are normally expected to come alone.
4. Return the application form to:

For taster courses at Plumpton College, Flimwell or Stanmer Park, Brighton:

Karen Hayes, Admissions Administrator
Plumpton College, Ditchling Road, Plumpton, Nr. Lewes
East Sussex BN7 3AE
Tel: 01273 892082
Fax Number: 01273 890071

For taster courses at the Netherfield Centre:

Debbie Hopkins, Head of Centre
Plumpton College at Netherfield, Ivyland Farm, Netherfield, Nr. Battle,
East Sussex TN33 9QB
Tel Number: 01424 838873

Please note that you may only attend a taster day for each vocational area once although you can attend different vocational area 'days'.

Although we endeavour to accept all applications, to make administration easier please try to get your applications to us by:

- **Friday 24th October 2014 for October taster days.**
- **Friday 13th February 2015 for February taster days.**
- **Friday 19th June 2015 for June taster days.**

If you would like any further information before completing your application form, please telephone Karen Hayes on 01273 892082 or Debbie Hopkins, Head of Centre, Plumpton College at Netherfield on 01424 838873.

Plumpton College at Flimwell

Plumpton College at Flimwell is a training centre specialising in woodland skills, wood crafts and forestry and countryside. The centre is near the A21 at Flimwell, East Sussex on the border with Kent.

Plumpton College at Stanmer Park

The College's horticultural facilities at Stanmer include classrooms, workshops, glasshouses and poly tunnels. This provides an ideal environment in which to experience the world of horticulture.

Transport Arrangements

- **For Plumpton College:**

A free bus service is provided which runs between Lewes Railway Station and the College. It leaves the station at 8.30am and returns at 5.25pm, after leaving the College at 5.10pm. Please note in June, it will be a mini bus and will leave at 4.45pm.

- **For Plumpton College at Netherfield:**

A minibus is available to take attendees from Battle Railway Station to Netherfield and return them to the station after the taster day.

Please indicate on the application form in the centre of the leaflet if you would like to use the bus service or whether you plan to make your own travel arrangements. If travelling by public transport, we would advise you to check bus/train times in advance, as timetables sometimes change at short notice. Travel information is available from the Travel line – telephone 0871 200 2233 or www.traveline.info.

- **For Plumpton College at Flimwell and Plumpton College at Stanmer Park:** please contact Karen Hayes (01273 892082) for further information.

If you think you may have a problem in getting to the College, please contact Karen Hayes (01273 892082) and she will try to help you find a solution.

If a parent/guardian/friend is collecting you at the end of the day, please ask him/her to collect you from the main reception area at Plumpton College or the offices at the College Centres at Netherfield, Flimwell or Stanmer Park from 4.45pm.

Clothing

Most taster days are practically based and you will spend some time outside. It is important, therefore, that you bring the following suitable clothing:

- Overalls or old clothes (no shorts) which you don't mind getting dirty.
- Sturdy boots, preferably Wellington boots or boots with steel toecaps. These are essential for Agriculture/Forestry & Arboriculture/Horticulture/Agricultural Machinery.
- For Fishery Management please bring 1 rod & reel and own tackle (if you have them).
- A pair of clean shoes or trainers to wear when re-entering the College buildings.
- A suitable outdoor coat in case of cold/wet weather.
- Outdoor adventure students will need waterproof jacket and trousers, a pair of utility boots and small 30L rucksack. No jeans to be worn on the course.

Equine taster day: includes a ride on a mechanical teaching horse so there is no need to bring riding boots, etc.

Catering Arrangements

A free lunch is provided for those attending either Plumpton or Ivyland taster days. Please indicate on application form if you wish to have lunch. You may, however, prefer to bring your own packed lunch and eat this in the Student Common Room or in the College grounds. There is a snack bar in the Common Room that sells sandwiches, rolls, hot and cold drinks, cakes and biscuits. **Do not forget to request your lunch on the application form!**

Please note that there are limited catering facilities at the College centres at Flimwell and Stanmer Park so you must take a packed lunch and drink. Please contact Karen Hayes (01273 892082) for further information.

Plumpton College Taster Days

9.00 am to 4.30 pm

Please arrive by 8.45 am for a prompt 9.00 am start

HORTICULTURE

Monday 27th October 2014, Monday 16th

February 2015 or Monday 22nd June 2015

Are you interested in maintaining, designing or building gardens? Would you like to work in glasshouses? Do you want to experience the use of horticultural machinery or design and build paving and fencing? The horticulture taster course will allow you to find out more about these subjects and the job prospects in the very varied world of horticulture. This is an exciting industry where there are jobs in the UK and elsewhere in the world and many of our students start their own business. Subject to demand this course is also held at Stanmer Park (Brighton). See page 1



COUNTRYSIDE & CONSERVATION

Tuesday 28th October 2014, Tuesday 17th

February 2015 or Tuesday 23rd June 2015

Did you know that we have a large estate just waiting for you to explore? Woods, streams, farmland and downland, which are habitats for most of the wildlife in Sussex. Come and see for yourself what a career as a ranger might involve and learn some of the traditional countryside skills.

GAME MANAGEMENT

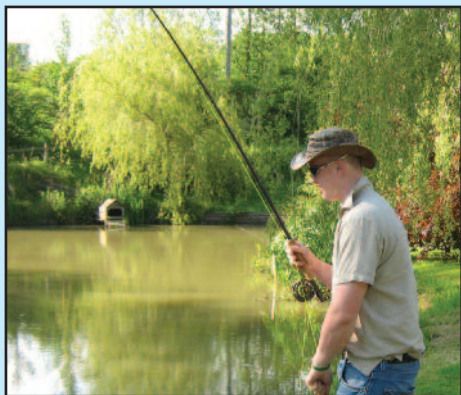
Monday 27th October 2014, Monday 16th

February 2015, Monday 22nd June 2015

See the clothing list on page 2.

In the woods on our estate you will get a chance to see how birds are reared and cared for. You will be shown the practical skills you will need to learn to take advantage of the opportunities there are for you in a career in game keeping and estate work.





FISHERY MANAGEMENT

Tuesday 28th October 2014, Tuesday 17th February 2015, Tuesday 23rd June 2015

See the clothing list on page 2.

Do you enjoy fishing? If so why not turn your hobby into a career. Come and try the fishery course taster day and see the sorts of jobs that are available in fishing and fishery management. You will get an introduction into fly fishing and coarse fishing which may involve learning how to tie a fly and maybe have a go at fly casting. Learn about habitat creation and see the brown trout streams on the College estate. Depending on the time of year you may get an opportunity to go fishing on one of the College lakes.

AGRICULTURAL & HORTICULTURAL MACHINERY

Tuesday 28th October 2014, Tuesday 17th February 2015, Tuesday 23rd June 2015

See the clothing list on page 2.

Do you like the idea of working with tractors, agricultural or plant machinery? Why not get some first hand experience? Test your skills on our machinery. Find out if you have got what it takes for a career in agricultural or plant machinery and what to do next.



ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

Tuesday 28th October 2014, Tuesday 17th February 2015, Tuesday 23rd June 2015

Do you like animals and care about them? Do you think you would enjoy working with them? Do you know the difference between a 'leopard gecko' and a 'viper gecko'?

Do you prefer rabbits, guinea pigs, cats and dogs? Come along to see the many animals we have. Join in the many activities planned for the day! Whether you want to go to university, work in a zoo, work in a pet shop or become a veterinary nurse, let us tell you all you need to know! Please note that this day fills up quickly and you may be given an alternative date.

BLACKSMITHING AND SILVERSMITHING

Tuesday 28th October 2014, Tuesday 17th February 2015, Tuesday 23rd June 2015

Want to try your metal working skills in our own extensive forge? Feel the heat and have a go at creating and shaping something useful. Come and see how creative you can be at blacksmithing or silversmithing. Find out which courses and careers are available.



EQUINE

Wednesday 29th October 2014, Wednesday 18th February 2015, Wednesday 24th June 2015

Do you like horses and being part of a team? Have you ever wondered what it could be like working with and looking after them? Come and join us on a taster day and have fun helping us do a range of practical activities... from health checks to loose schooling! Let us tell you all about the different things you can do from grooming, teaching, riding, taking BHS exams, running your own yard, to working in racing, or going to university!

Note: A ride on a mechanical horse will form part of the day, applicants will need to bring sturdy footwear. Other safety equipment can be provided.



MOTOR VEHICLE SERVICE AND REPAIR

Wednesday 29th October 2014, Wednesday 18th February 2015, Wednesday 24th June 2015

A taster course for those at Level 1 or Level 2 to take part in a range of motor vehicle activities to gain experience of work in garages, dealerships and maintenance depots. Find out about the job opportunities and career routes that are available.

AGRICULTURE

Wednesday 29th October 2014, Wednesday 18th February 2015, Wednesday 24th June 2015. Note the clothing list on page 2.

Come and see if you can handle the calves, sheep and pigs on our own working farm. Learn about the countryside as a place of work. You can even get to drive a tractor and feed the animals. If you like the idea of working outdoors, then this could be just the career you've been looking for. This course is also held at Ivyland Farm Netherfield. See page 7



ADVENTURE SPORTS

Wednesday 29th October 2014, Wednesday 18th February 2015, Wednesday 24th June 2015. Note the clothing list on page 2.

Do you have an interest in outdoor adventurous activities? If so, come and try an Outdoor Education course. Courses cover the theory and practical side of the challenging industry, with opportunities to take part in mountain biking, orienteering, climbing, mountaineering, expeditions, kayaking and open canoeing.

During the taster day you will complete some team building tasks, try climbing and mountain biking. At the end of the day there will be an opportunity for you to talk with a member of the Outdoor Education team and discuss which course might best meet your needs.



FORESTRY & ARBORICULTURE

Thursday 30th October, 2014, Thursday 19th February 2015, Thursday 25th June 2015.

Note the clothing list on page 2.

There's more to trees than you think! Come and climb a tree using professional equipment. Have a go at some woodland maintenance. Use our mobile sawmill to make planks from raw timber. If you think you might enjoy working 'in the woods', come along and find out about the great careers with trees and woodlands.

Subject to demand this course may also take place at Flimwell near Wadhurst. See page 1

RURAL PATHWAYS

Thursday 30th October 2014, Thursday 19th February 2015, Thursday 25th June 2015.

A taster course for those at Entry Level. Rural Pathways invites you to experience a range of activities open to those on the course. Come and be introduced to the colourful world of plants, try your hands at caring for a range of animals, experience the delights of the countryside, work with cows, pigs and sheep down on the farm and use all these experiences to create unique pieces of art. This taster provides an introduction into what it is like to be a student in a land based college. Advice on career options concludes the day.



FLORISTRY

Thursday 30th October 2014, Thursday 19th February 2015, Thursday 25th June 2015

Do you have a flair for art and design? Do you love flowers, plants, colour and like creating things? Not afraid to get your hands dirty? So join us and find out what it is like to work in a florist's shop for a day.

You will be able to make a wide range of fun designs, from a rose buttonhole, a wrist corsage for your prom night to a beautiful flower display. Learn gift wrapping skills and some intricate bead and wire work. Lots of goodies to go home with!

Find out about the exciting job opportunities and career routes. Meet the tutors and find out about the great courses available. This could be the ideal career choice for you!



Taster Days at Plumpton College at Netherfield

9.30 am to 4.00 pm

A minibus is available to take pupils from Battle Railway Station to The Netherfield Centre and return at the end of the day.

AGRICULTURE

Tuesday 28th October 2014, Tuesday 17th February 2015, Tuesday 23rd June 2015

Please note the clothing list on page 2.

Come and see if you can handle the calves, sheep and pigs on our own working farm. Learn about the countryside as a place of work. You may get to drive a tractor and feed the animals. If you like the idea of working outdoors, then this could be just the career you've been looking for. Have a tour of the farm sights. Experience what it is like working with cows, sheep or pigs. You may get to drive a tractor or feed the animals.



RURAL PATHWAYS

Wednesday 29th October 2014, Wednesday 18th February 2015, Wednesday 24th June 2015. Please note the clothing list on page 2

A taster course for those at entry level or Level 1. You will take part in a range of plant, animal and countryside activities which will give you an idea of what we do on this course. You will also be able to see what it is like to be a student in a land based college. Get a chance to work with cows, sheep or pig. Afterwards you can discuss various career options.

A complimentary lunch is available if required, please indicate on application form when applying. You can also bring a packed lunch.

Note: If you are applying for a taster day at Plumpton College at Netherfield, the application form must be sent direct to:

Plumpton College at Netherfield: Debbie Hopkins, Head of Centre, Plumpton College at Netherfield, Ivyland Farm, Netherfield, Nr Battle, East Sussex TN33 9QB.

Tel: 01424 838873

Email: debbie.hopkins@plumpton.ac.uk

Careers, Courses, Open Days & General Information

Careers and Course Sessions

9.00am-12.30pm on:

- **Saturday 1st November 2014**
- **Saturday 28th February 2015**

3.00pm-7.30pm on:

- **Thursday 25th June 2015**

These are ideal opportunities for a visit to the College and to discuss our courses. Staff from each department will be available to give information and advice on courses and career progression. Please phone 01273 890454 for further details.

Links with Schools

The College works extensively with schools in many ways. The College Schools Unit can provide bespoke courses and provision for both primary and secondary age children.

This provision can be in the form of either a general or specific focus, and can be in the form of a 'one off' visit or linked to a range of work being carried out in school.

Contact the Children's Rural Education Centre staff on 01273 892096 or via Plumpton College on 01273 890454

College Main Open Day

Saturday 9th May 2015, 10.00am to 5.00pm. Free entry for under 16s.

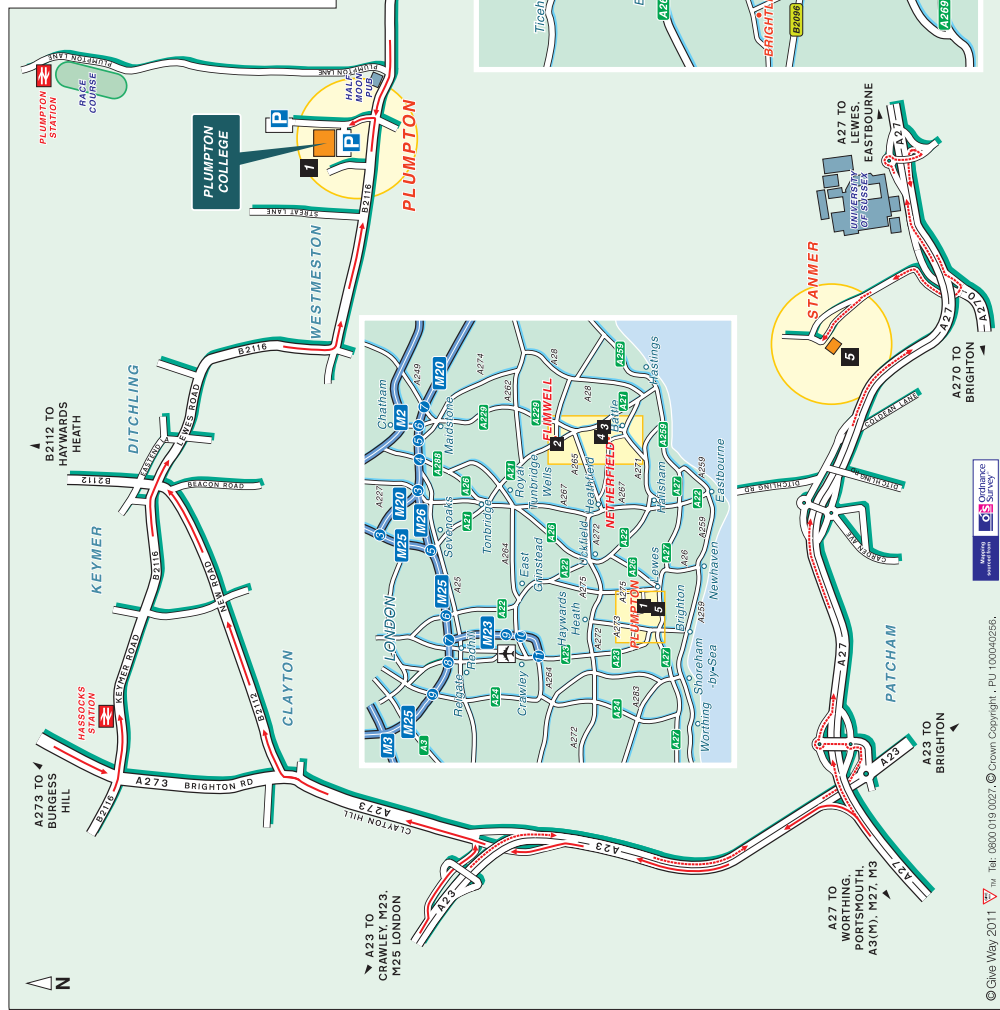
Plumpton College's annual Open Day provides an opportunity to visit the College and to enjoy the wide variety of activities and displays. Not only is this a wonderful way to spend a summer's day in the beautiful grounds, but it also offers the chance to speak to staff and students about the College and its courses.

Plumpton Horse Show

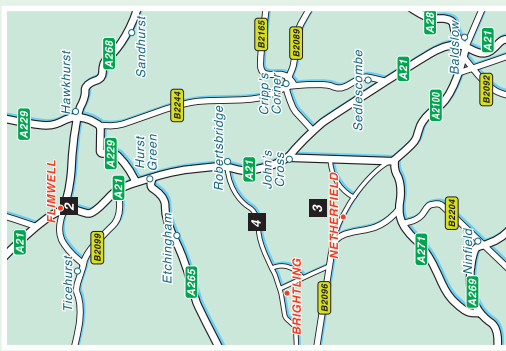
Saturday 16th May 2015

Organised by our equine students and includes show jumping, dressage and other events.





- 1 Plumpton College**
Ditchling Road, Plumpton, East Sussex BN7 3AE
Tel: 01273 890 454 www.plumpton.ac.uk
- 2 Centre for Sustainable Food, Farming and Forestry**
The Woodland Enterprise Centre, Rimwell, East Sussex TN3 7PR
Tel: 01580 879 547 or 01580 879 552 www.foodfarmingforestry.co.uk
- 3 Ivyland Farm**
Netherfield Centre, Netherfield, East Sussex, TN33 9QB
Tel: 01424 838 873
- 4 Greenoak Farm**
Brightling, Nr Robertsbridge, East Sussex TN33 5HB
- 5 Stanmer Park**
Stanmer Park, Lewes Road, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 3QA
Tel: 01273 679 363



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Plumpton College
01273 890454
enquiries@plumpton.ac.uk
www.plumpton.ac.uk

