



Plumbing Welcome Pack

Welcome to Highbury College

There is always a need for plumbers and it is a job that can be different every day making it challenging and exciting. You have chosen to join an industry that is growing all the time and your course here at Highbury will give you all the skills and knowledge you need to succeed.

So what does a Plumber look like?



If you have a good work ethic and want to learn then this is the career for you. The courses range from level 1 to level 3 and your school grades are crucial in deciding your starting point. You will be taught by qualified plumbers with years of experience in the industry.

What it takes:

- the ability to use, repair and maintain machines and tools
- knowledge of building and construction
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- knowledge of maths
- the ability to work well with others
- the ability to use your initiative
- the ability to work well with your hands
- customer service skills
- to be able to carry out basic tasks on a computer or hand-held device

Careers:

As a plumber, you'll:

- find out from the customer what the problem is
- give time and cost estimates for jobs
- install water, drainage and heating systems
- cut, shape and join pipes and fittings
- find and fix faults
- service gas and oil-fired central heating systems and radiators
- install or repair domestic appliances like showers and washing machines
- respond to emergency callouts, like boiler breakdowns or blocked drains
- fit weather-proof materials, joints and flashings to roofs, chimneys and walls

How much can you expect to earn?

An inexperienced/unskilled plumber could earn up to £12,000 a year.

A qualified but inexperienced plumber could earn between £16,000 and £21,000 a year.

A qualified and experienced plumber could earn from £34,000 a year upwards.

Wages vary depending on the types of work or contract you have agreed with your employer or the customer, location can also influence pay scales.

Many go self-employed during their career so the rate of pay could be higher, but you will not receive holiday or sickness benefits, in addition to this you may be responsible for keeping your financial accounts in order. Payments into pension schemes should also be considered.

Quiz time!

Let's find out what you already may know about water and all things plumbing related. Here are some questions for you to answer without seeking assistance in finding the answers, we will review the answers later, ready? Here goes.

Q1) At what temperature does water freeze at?

Q2) At what temperature does water boil at?

Q3) Do you know what type of water area (Hampshire) you live in (hard or soft?)

Q4) Do you know the three physical states that water can exist in?

Q5) Can you list 5 different types of jobs that a Plumber would carry out?

Maths and English

Maths and English is so important in helping you to progress and achieve.

English: In the workplace you will need to understand legislation, manufacturer's instructions, completion certificates and safety rules. You will also need to read and understand emails, letters, etc to ensure you understand information given to you. At College you will need to learn new words and terminology in order to succeed as a qualified Plumber.

Maths: You will need to correctly measure and calculate materials. In theory you will need to calculate many things including using formulas to work out weight, area, heat capacity and efficiency. Being confident with Maths means you can look after your earnings and balance your monthly income and outgoings.

If Maths and English are important, so is science and if you think about science, it affects everything we do. Your body is one mass of Science enabling you to talk, see, eat, walk and breath. In plumbing at Level 2 you have a whole topic to learn with an exam.

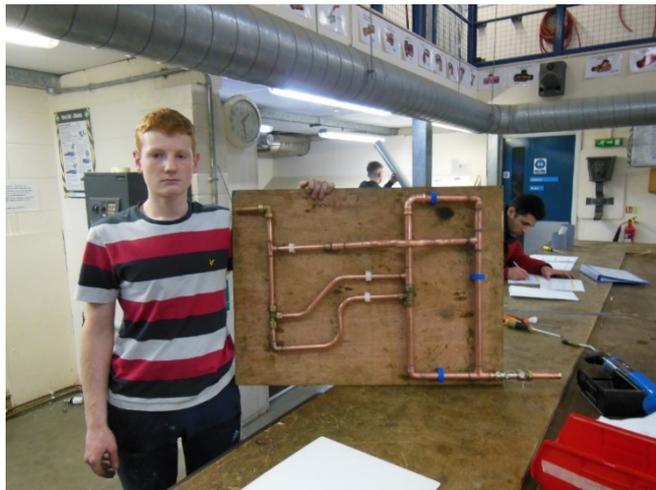
Here are some photos of the types of practical work you will required to do as assessments:



Replacing a defective basin pillar tap, this involves isolating the water supply and upon completion of work reinstating the water supply, testing for soundness (no leaks) and correct operation.



After isolating the heating system and draining it down the students will replace the valve that was leaking. Upon completion they will reinstate the water supply, fill, and vent the system before ensuring that the system is fully operational.



Students are challenged with constructing this assessment frame, all measurements must be within +/- 2mm of the dimensions given in their work folder. They are using a variety of different fittings, bends, offsets and two different pipe sizes.