

FLEX

Department

**Supporting students with Special
Educational Needs and Disabilities
(SEND), high and complex needs.**



What is FLEX?

Our Flexible Learning Experience (FLEX) pathways go beyond traditional classroom settings, allowing students to explore their passions and interests in a way that works best for them.

Each course has been thoughtfully created for students aged 16-25 with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

Across our three sites, located at Rotherham College, Dearne Valley College, and North Notts College, we provide a range of programmes that are designed to give students the best chance to reach their goals, whether this be employment, further education or go onto higher levels of study. To address the diverse needs of our students, we offer dedicated learning environments kitted out with specialised facilities, which include working kitchens, living spaces for practical role play, sensory rooms, and gardens.

Through our FLEX programmes, we strive to create a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment where every student can flourish, regardless of their background or challenges they may face.



FLEX Programmes Overview

Our colleges are introducing a forward thinking, ambitious and supportive three year skills and progression plan to prepare all FLEX learners for adulthood and greater independence.

An overview of the pathways and progression routes offered across our three colleges is shown in the table below.

Pathway	Progression		
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Pre-internship *EHCP Required	• Supported Internship	• Work	• Work
Supported Internship *EHCP Required	• Supported Internship	• Work	• Work
Horizons *EHCP Required	• Study Programmes	• Pre-internship • Supported Internship • Higher level of vocational study	• Supported Internship • Work

* An Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) is intended for children and young people aged up to 25 who need more support than is available through special educational needs support. EHCPs identify education, health, and social needs and establish the additional support required to meet those needs.

Pre-internships

This programme allows students to enhance their employability skills through a range of placement opportunities and explore areas that spark an interest in them.

By doing so, students can make more informed decisions about their future career aspirations and have an edge when it comes to applying for jobs or further education opportunities such as supported internships.

Students will attend college for a minimum of three days per week.

However, we are flexible and ensure schedules are tailored to each individual student needs and realistic aspirations.

There are no formal entry requirements needed to enrol in this course, but an EHCP is required. so that students can progress into a supported internship.



Supported Internships

This programme focuses on providing practical training, coaching, and work experience to students with disabilities or special educational needs so that they can successfully transition from college to employment.

Every student will be assigned a job coach who works closely with them to identify their strengths and areas for development, create tailored learning plans, and provide constructive feedback. This support can be reduced as the intern becomes familiar with their role.

Job coaches also work with employers, increasing their confidence in employing individuals with additional needs to help them create and support a diverse workforce. The job coach will carry out vocational profiling and job carving to ensure the students' strengths are utilised and match the employer's requirements.

Students will work with one of our partner employers and spend at least two days (approximately 10 hours) per week working in different areas to gain valuable experience. They will then spend approximately one day in college, including English and / or Maths support if needed and the remaining time in setting.

To apply, applicants must have an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP) in place.





Horizons

Horizons students will benefit from the introduction of a forward thinking, ambitious and supportive three year programme to prepare all FLEX learners for adulthood and greater independence.

The intent of this programme is for those students who are unclear about their career aspirations and who are not fully equipped with the knowledge, skills, and behaviours required to progress into a specific vocational area of choice. As a result, students who may have struggled at school or had additional learning support can take their first steps back into mainstream education with confidence and a newfound sense of direction.

Students will have the opportunity to experience 'taster' sessions within a range of vocational areas and get a feel for what sector they are interested in, while at the same time developing their employability, personal, and social development skills. Students are required to attend college for three days a week which includes having English and Maths learning if they have not already achieved a Level 2.

There are no formal entry requirements needed to enrol in this course but all students will need an EHCP.

SEND PROMISE

2025 - 2028

We promise to

involve all students with SEND in decisions regarding their choices, progression and next step.



We promise to

develop a 3-year curriculum plan for students with SEND that is forward thinking, ambitious and supports them to prepare for adulthood and greater independence.



We promise to

provide evidence-based, high-quality, personalised teaching tailored to individual strengths and needs and inclusive learning environments.



We promise to

provide students with the support, assistive technology, resources, travel training and equitable opportunities to thrive.



We promise to

provide students with practical vocational training to support them to develop the skills and qualifications for appropriate work or study at a higher level.



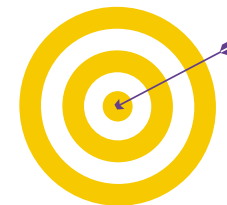
We promise to

provide students with real life and social action experiences within the college and local community.



We promise to

support the dual professionalism of our staff by providing targeted SEND training, development and support.



We promise to

be an equitable employer and provide work opportunities and experiences for young people with SEND.



Our Partnerships

We boast strong links with local employers and work closely with them to get involved in community and social action projects.

Students also have the chance to take part in a wide range of extracurricular and enrichment activities, which may include health and fitness, external guest speaker workshops, creative arts and crafts, and performing arts.

Rotherham College:

- Victoria Park Pre-School, Rawmarsh
- Laureate Court Care Home
- Thornberry Animal Sanctuary
- Wentworth Woodhouse
- RMBC
- Autism Allotments
- Dinnington Methodist Chapel
- Clifton Community Learning Project
- Araamac

North Notts College:

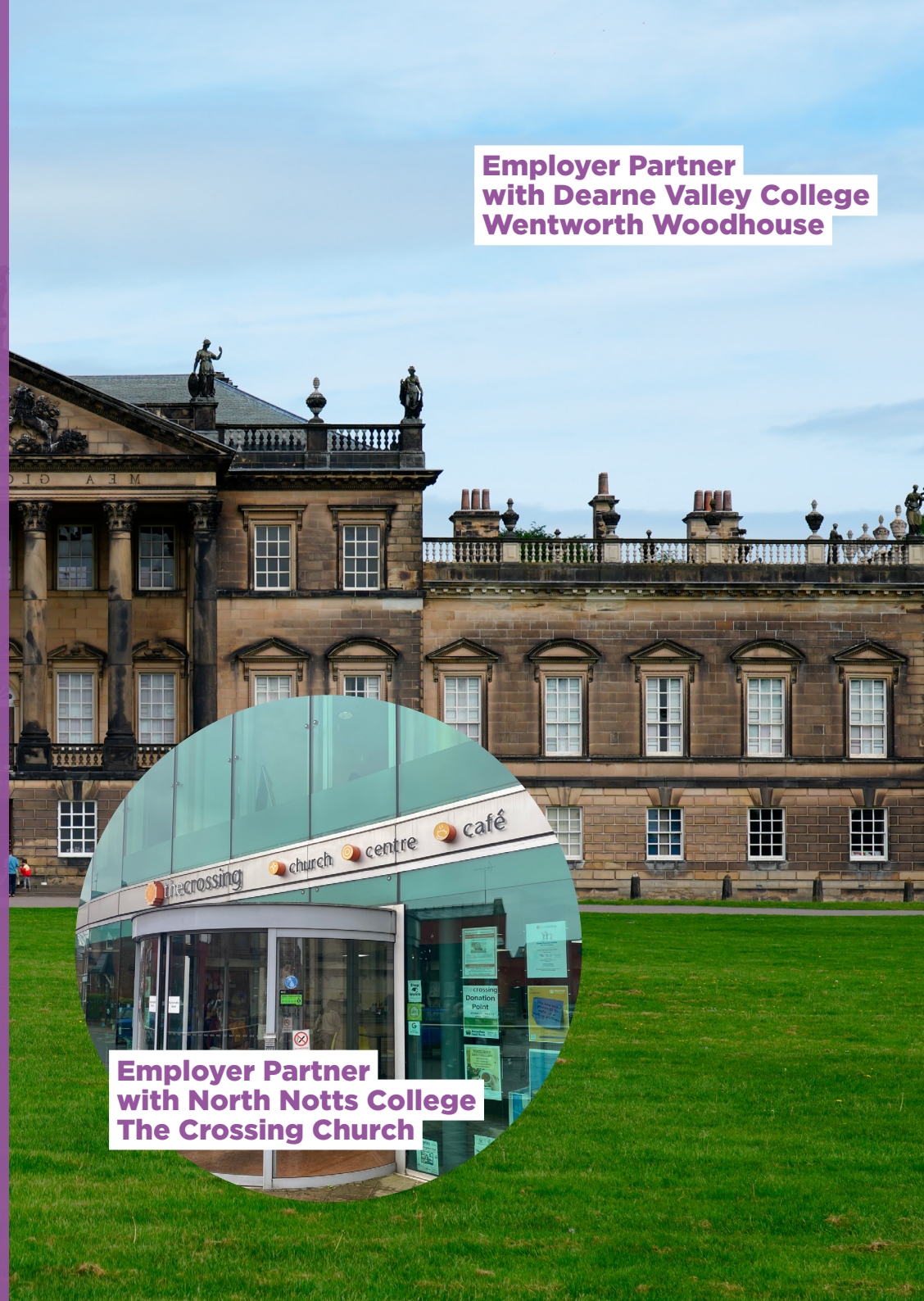
- The Crossing Cafe
- Inspire Libraries
- The Wildlife Trust
- North Notts Arena
- Focus on Young People in Bassetlaw
- Retina UK
- Priory Church
- Bassetlaw Hospital
- Wagz Dog Groomers
- Just Good Friends Club
- Beech House Care Home
- Pearlys Boutique
- BoKay Florists
- Fusion Cafe

Dearne Valley College:

- Wentworth Woodhouse
- RSPB
- Dearne Valley Nursery
- Greene King Pub, Wath (Tub2Pub)

**Employer Partner
with Dearne Valley College
Wentworth Woodhouse**

**Employer Partner
with North Notts College
The Crossing Church**



Travel

Students with Educational Health Care Plans (EHCPs) may be eligible for local government-funded transportation. To request these arrangements, please liaise directly with the local authority.

We also run dedicated bus routes exclusively for our students, making it easier for them to get to college from a wide range of areas. Each service will run first thing in the morning to get students into college before their first lesson and will return at the end of the day.

Although there is a small charge per day, multiple travel passes can be purchased for a discounted price. Furthermore, students may be eligible for funding to pay for their journey to and from college.



Contact Details

To find out more about our FLEX programmes or the support available for students with SEND or high needs, please contact:

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