

**Derwen
College
Telford**

Work and Independence Pathway and Supported Internship Programme





Welcome to Derwen College Telford

Being enrolled at our Telford campus will help you prepare for adulthood through our Work and Independence pathway and our Supported Internship programme.

You will learn skills and work-based routines that will enable you to access a variety of employment opportunities.

In your first year on the Work and Independence pathway, you will learn and develop a range of core skills for you to then transfer into real life work environments.

As well as our vocational curriculum, you will also be taught independent living skills. Within our home-based kitchen, you will learn how to stay safe in the home whilst cooking, cleaning and socialising. You will also attend sessions around accessing the local community and travel training to further your independence.

Personal wellbeing is high on our priorities at Derwen College. We deliver a range of sessions to support positive mental health and wellbeing. These are led by student

choice and interests. We also have a quiet, sensory area for you if you need it.

As part of the Work and Independence pathway, you will be taught to operate industry standard equipment within our hospitality kitchen and modern, commercial print workshop. These link to our main campus with a strong focus on positive customer interactions and safe working practices.

We have great networking opportunities established within the Telford area. This means you can progress on to external work placements in your area of interest.

Derwen College Telford is dedicated, diverse and dynamic and will give you great opportunities to develop your social, emotional and wellbeing skills in preparation for adulthood.

Once you've completed your Work and Independence pathway, you might be ready for our Supported Internship programme. The following pages will give you the information you need for both these options.

A place of possibility



“ I never expected in my wildest dreams to get as far as I have, and I'm immensely proud of all that I've done and all that I've achieved.

For anyone that's thinking of coming to Derwen, you will not regret it because it's an amazing college and it will really help you on the path to your dream. It's certainly doing that for me and it can do it for you too! ”

Work and Independence

Pathway

We deliver a varied curriculum of both taught and practical activities, tailored around the needs, interests and aspirations of each young person, in preparation for adulthood.

Students learn skills and work-based routines which will enable them to progress to a variety of work experience and employment opportunities.

We also give our students the opportunity to be part of the team in our modern, commercial print shop, which is run as a trading enterprise.

At Derwen College Telford, each young person can:

- Move on from school and experience life within a further education college setting.
- Gain vital skills ready for adulthood and independent living.
- Become more independent in all aspects of their lives.
- Take part in local and national skills competitions.
- Gain subject-specific qualifications, such as food hygiene and customer service.
- Apply to represent Telford in the college's Student Council Board.
- Participate in the various organised social events and activities.
- Access a range of work experience placements according to their aspirations and interests.
- Gain a bespoke vocational qualification.
- Develop friendships.

In addition, our Telford students will also learn:

- Customer service skills.
- Hospitality skills (food preparation and service).
- Housekeeping skills.
- Health and safety requirements.
- Food hygiene skills.
- Digital, enterprise and functional skills.
- Work ready skills.



Our highly qualified staff bring a wealth of skills and experience across the whole provision – from teaching and learning, to care and independence, support, clinical and therapies.

Work experience

We have developed close relationships with many local businesses. This gives our students plenty of opportunity to gain regular work experience placements that are relevant to their future aspirations.

We have a well-established relationship with Premier Inn, where our students can gain a range of hospitality and housekeeping experience.

Telford also operates its own commercial print shop. This provides students with real work experience as they get involved with print projects to produce leaflets and flyers, banners and different types of laminating.

Placements are bespoke for each learner but may include:

- > Hotels (inc Premier Inn)
- > Cafés
- > Retail settings
- > Museums
- > Libraries

We even managed to meet one student's desire to work with cars and found him a placement with a local garage. Another student wants to work with animals so we found them a zoo!

Learner Voice and Student Council Board

Derwen College Student Council (SC) is affiliated to the National Union of Students. Each October, students vote for who they want to represent them on the SC Board.

Students learn how to communicate their likes, dislikes, and thoughts, and how to represent the opinions of other students to make Derwen College a special place for all learners.

There are also opportunities to take part in community projects, such as lobbying on a national level.

Independence sessions

Teaching our students how to be independent is key in their preparation for adulthood. Taught sessions include:

- Travel training
- Skills in the home, such as meal planning, preparing and cooking food, and vacuuming
- Skills in the community, such as shopping, budgeting, personal safety and projects



Sport, leisure and wellbeing

Wellbeing activities include arts, sports, healthy living and looking after small animals.

Lots of special occasions are celebrated including prize-giving, prom, religious festivals, and events.



Personal, social and health education (PSHE)

Learners take part in PSHE modules, which include:

- Online safety
- Managing relationships and sex education
- Drugs and alcohol awareness
- Moving on

Functional Skills

Functional Skills comprises of English, maths and ICT. It is delivered through small discrete groups and embedded into every aspect of the pathway. Functional skills are linked to vocational activities and everyday life.

We recently made numeracy relevant and fun with the use of 'gamification' in maths through personalised Minecraft worlds.

Read more about this:

<https://derwen.me/maths-in-Minecraft>



Pre-entry requirements

- Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) (England) or Individual Development Plan (IDP) (Wales)
- Students aged 16–25
- Derwen College able to meet need

Typical outcomes

- Vocational qualification up to Level 1
- Functional Skills qualification
- Subject-specific qualifications
- Experience in:
 - > internal and external workplaces
 - > local and national competitions
 - > community and national events and projects

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)

CEIAG is an integral part of the programme. Students on a vocational pathway take part in small group employability sessions. External guests, including Industry Champions, local business owners and ex-students, are invited to talk to students about their experiences outside of college. Impartial CEIAG is also provided by a careers advisor.

Possible next steps after college

- Paid work
- Voluntary work
- Local college or training programme
- Supported living





Jamie's journey at Derwen College Telford

Jamie, who is autistic, joined Derwen College Telford after attending a mainstream secondary school.

Jamie developed an aptitude for working in customer-facing environments and demonstrated good money handling skills. Initially, he attended work experience placements at the college's commercial print shop, charity shop, garden centre and at Much Wenlock Market.

At college, Jamie learnt about visual merchandising, stock checks, pricing, stock rotation and serving customers on the till.

As well as achieving his BTEC Level 1 qualification in Vocational Studies, Jamie also enjoyed employability and

Independence sessions. He was even voted to be the campus's student rep, representing his peers at Student Council Board meetings.

"I was supported to get the skills and work experience to compile a really good CV. Being at Derwen College helped me to make friends and spend time in different work environments," he says.

College also taught him to become more independent, which he says his mum is particularly pleased about.

"I've learnt to wash up, Hoover, clean up and take care of myself," he says. "I'd like to live in my own house, with a partner or friends, and a pet, probably a cat!" he says.

Supported Internship Programme

The core aim of a Supported Internship study programme is to undertake substantial work placements facilitated by the support of an expert job coach and to prepare young people with learning difficulties for work. The Internship is up to one academic year. Interns are supported by a dedicated job coach, whose support may taper off as the intern becomes more familiar within their role.

The intern must have a willingness to work and live in Shropshire.

Work placement

The work placement makes up 70% of the programme. This will be external and linked to the Intern's work aspirations.

College days

The intern will spend 30% of their time at college, working towards a qualification in their chosen vocation, core functional and employability skills and will collate their portfolio of work.



Pre-entry requirements

- Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) (England)
- Students aged 16–25
- Derwen College able to meet need

Typical outcomes

The aim of the Supported Internship is to support our interns into paid or voluntary employment after college.

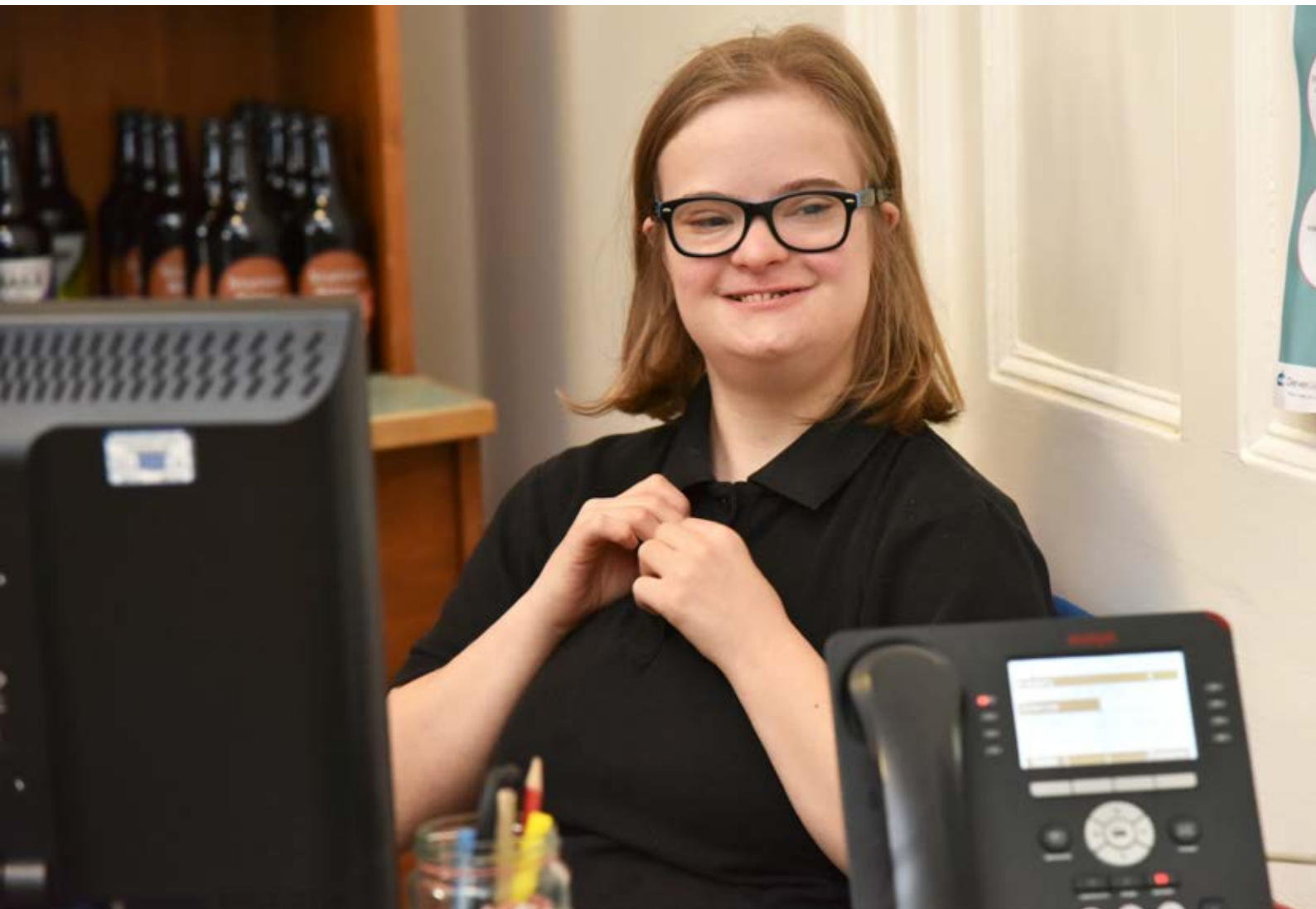
Positive progression

The measure of success of a Supported Internship is transition into sustained and paid employment. Interns are also offered guidance on agencies that can offer further support in the future. Some interns go on to voluntary work and this too is seen as a positive outcome.



Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)

CEIAG is an integral part of the programme. External guests, including Industry Champions, local business owners and ex-students, are invited to talk to students about their experiences outside of college. Impartial CEIAG is also provided by a careers advisor.





Ethan's journey at Derwen College Telford

Ethan is a third-year day student at Derwen College Telford. When he first arrived at college, Ethan lacked confidence and had difficulty with building social relationships with others.

As he settled into college life, and became accustomed to new routines and people, Ethan's confidence gradually increased.

As Ethan enjoyed cooking he chose vocational work placements relating to hospitality and food. He began in The Orangery Restaurant at Derwen College's Gobowen campus. This helped Ethan to prepare for work in the community and his external work placements have included the café at Severn Hospice, the Much

Wenlock Market, Telford's Hummingbird Café, and Premier Inn.

For Ethan, these placements have had a vital impact in growing his maturity, professionalism, skills and confidence. Despite his initial shyness, Ethan is now able to converse with a whole range of customers, wash dishes and equipment, and serve customers. "I'm like Gordon Ramsay!" he says.

Sharon Dean, Catering Manager at the Hummingbird Café, says, "I think it's great that Ethan is getting to understand working life. I've loved seeing him progress and grow in confidence over the six months that he's been here; the customers love him!"



Alongside Ethan's vocational training, which contributes to his qualifications, Ethan attends other timetabled sessions. These include PSHE sessions, where he has learnt about relationships and social issues. There are also functional skills sessions, which include maths and English. Ethan's literacy skills, which have always been a challenge for him, have been steadily improving as a result.

Community access training has taught Ethan about having awareness of others and also for his surroundings. He has also had travel training as part of his timetable. This strengthens Ethan's capability to navigate the wider community, opening the doors for Ethan to capitalise on his vocational skills post-college.

Kristina Frost, Student Services Coordinator, says, "Ethan has matured in so many ways. Over the past three years, his character and professionalism have improved tremendously. He has developed the skills and understanding to build positive relationships with people in college and work."

"When he first arrived, he would say things like, "I don't think I can do that." Now, he's always saying, "I can do that! Let me have a go!"

"I never give up!" Ethan added.

Ethan is now eagerly awaiting to begin a Supported Internship where he will be supported as he takes his next step into the working world.



An extensive range of therapies, medical and wellbeing support is available, dependent on individual need.

Universal therapy provision

All students benefit from a highly skilled staff base, enabling a universal approach to developing independence in preparation for adulthood and transition post college.

Therapists' recommendations and advice can be given to ensure strategies are embedded through the day and needs are met throughout college.



Social, emotional and mental health support

To support our learners' social, emotional and mental health needs, the college has ELSAs (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) available to support students' emotional needs and is available to all our students.

Clinical Psychology is available for a range of problems including: trauma related issues, emotional problems, anxiety, depression, interpersonal relationship problems and bereavement support.

Students can also spend time with Teddy the college therapy dog.



Direct therapy provision

For some students, additional direct therapy provision may be recommended to meet their needs. Direct therapy provision is individualised and specific to each student that requires it. Direct therapy requirements need to be identified in the student's EHCP/IDP and funded by the Local Authority. Our therapists may recommend additions/alterations to EHCP/IDP outcomes and changes to therapy provision during annual reviews.

Direct therapy provision may take the form of guidance, strategies and advice to the student and their key staff, provision of equipment, visual resources, group work or 1:1 support for a short period of therapeutic intervention.

A student's direct provision will be reviewed regularly, to ensure it meets their needs in the college environment. Therapy will be delivered in the most appropriate way to enable students to achieve their individual goals and outcomes.



We work with our young people to support them to achieve what they want to, and challenge them to do more.

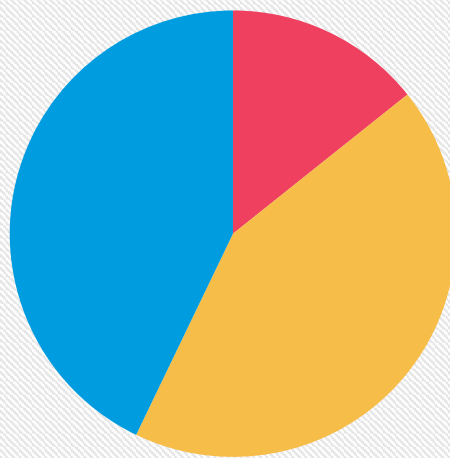
Our main campus is in Gobowen, and our three satellite campuses can be found across Shropshire.

- **Gobowen (Main Campus)**
(Residential & Day students)
- **Telford (Day students)**
- **Ludlow (Day students)**
- **Walford (Day students)**

Destinations

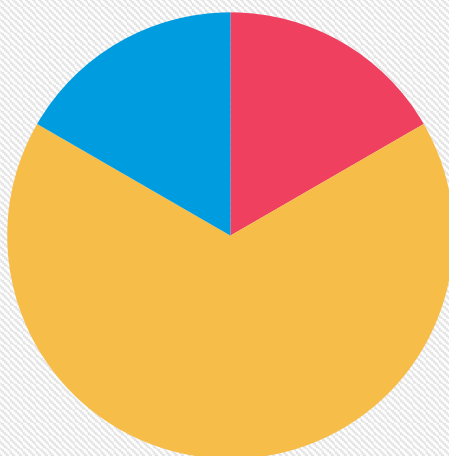
During your time at Derwen College, you will be supported to explore your future options. We are very proud that our student outcomes far exceed the national average for young people with SEND going into work. Our 2022–23 satellite campus student graduates have, so far, gone on to achieve the following.

Destination: Work and training



- Seeking employment
- Awaiting response
- Further education and training
- Paid work

Destination: living





- Supported living
- Awaiting response
- Living with family
- Awaiting supported living

Ready to apply?



We have an amazing team here at Derwen College, and they're all waiting to support you through this next stage of your education and learning.

For further information on any of our pathways or programmes, contact our friendly admissions team on:

 admissions@derwen.ac.uk
 01691 661234 Ext 401

Visit our website for information on open days and other events. Did you know we also have a virtual tour? Drop in and have a look around!

www.derwen.ac.uk



National
Autistic
Society

Autism Specialist
Award
2022



Derwen Marketplace

Located at Derwen College's main campus in Gobowen, the marketplace offers our students fabulous real-life work experience opportunities.

Our garden centre offers a wide variety of plants, shrubs and trees, along with advice and tips on care and planting.

Our gift shop sells a range of seeds, greeting cards and bespoke, local artisanal gift items, alongside Derwen-made jams, chutneys and local honey.

Garden Centre ~ and ~ Gift Shop



the Orangery



Located in the beautiful Georgian house, originally purchased for Agnes Hunt's rehabilitation centre, The Orangery Restaurant serves as a training restaurant for our Hospitality and Food students, offering quality meals for our customers.

Relax in the warm, friendly atmosphere for morning coffee, light lunches or afternoon snacks at the Walled Garden Café. During the warmer months, you can also enjoy our outside seating area, and children's play area, as well as enjoying a stroll through our award-winning Walled Garden.

Walled Garden Café



The Vintage Advantage



Derwen College's award-winning charity shop offers shoppers a range of pre-loved bargains. Our customers enjoy browsing and buying stylish clothing and accessories, homewares and books, whilst our students gain valuable skills working in retail.



Which pathway or programme will be right for you?

We are definitely not one-size-fits-all! At Derwen College, we tailor our pathways and programmes to fit individual student needs to best prepare them for adulthood and independent living.

**Derwen
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