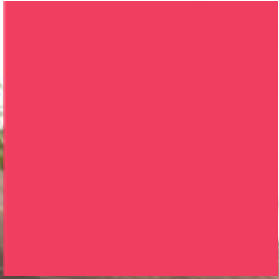


**Derwen
College
Walford**

Work and Independence Pathway and Supported Internship Programme





Welcome to Derwen College Walford



Being enrolled at our Walford 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 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.

As part of the pathway, you will be taught to operate industry standard equipment, including a range of horticultural based equipment. This links with our main campus provision at Gobowen, with a strong focus on safe working practices.

We have great networking opportunities established around the Oswestry, Shrewsbury and surrounding areas. This means you can progress on to external work placements in your area of interest.

Derwen College Walford 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



We would highly recommend Derwen College to any parents or students ... we have seen a vast improvement in Oliver's development. He is turning into a young adult that we are very proud of ... the improvement in his social skills, his confidence in his own abilities, his maturity, and his outlook for the future, are all down to him and the excellent work from all the teachers and the rest of the team at Derwen College.

We always thought this would be the best college for Oliver but what he has achieved is far better than we were expecting, and we now know that the future is very much better for Oliver.



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.

At Derwen College Walford, 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.
- Apply to represent Walford 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 Walford students will also learn:

- Customer service skills.
- Work ready skills.
- Health and safety requirements.
- Food hygiene skills.
- Digital skills.
- Enterprise skills.
- Functional 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 the local community, where our students can gain a range of horticultural experience.

Walford operates its own enterprise, Leaf It To Us. This provides students with real work experience as they get involved with garden projects.

Placements are bespoke for each learner but may include customer service environments and a range of community projects.

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.

Personal, social and health education (PSHE)

Learners take part in PSHE modules, which include:

- Online safety
- Relationships and sex education
- Moving on
- My place in the world

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, and healthy living.

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





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





Keeley's journey at Derwen College Walford



Keeley started as a day student on the Horticulture pathway at Derwen College's Walford campus.

Keeley has autism, moderate learning difficulties and OCD which posed huge anxieties for her to interact with peers and complete daily tasks towards her qualifications and wellbeing sessions.

The Derwen College team worked hard with Keeley to build trust, and to develop strategies to enhance her confidence and ability to stand up for what she wants.

She worked for the College's Leaf It To Us gardening enterprise and successfully achieved her City & Guilds Level 1 Certificate in Practical Horticulture.

As her confidence grew, her determination to support others led to a position as a Student Council rep for Derwen College Walford. She even represented the college at Natspec

Parliament, attended by students from colleges across the UK.

Keeley then progressed to a Supported Internship, to prepare her for work and further independence.

One of her external placements was Agri-Cation where she got to work on creating a sensory garden, upcycling and helping with the calves.

"I like going to work placements as part of my Internship. If you're ready to try to work and get the skills, then it can help you get a career."

Keeley has many achievements but is particularly pleased to have successfully passed her driving test.

"It gives me the independence I need to come to college, work placements, or go to the gym on my own. I love my car and my freedom!" she 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 into 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 reside 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.





Mason's journey at Derwen College Walford

Student Mason felt comfortable at Derwen College Walford, from his very first visit.

"It's a lovely setting which relaxed me. It's a smaller setting than a mainstream college." remembers Mason.

"I was very nervous on my first day, which brings on my anxiety but I was also excited and a bit scared. However, I felt very relaxed with the teachers. There is only a small number of students, so it was good.

"I am now in my second year and know I am more mature, better at controlling my anxieties and anger, able to (most of the time) discuss any anxieties and problems before they escalate. I'm more relaxed

around different types of people and more thoughtful to others and how they are feeling. I don't get as wound up about situations out of my control or changes in routine."

"I can speak to any of the teachers or staff about any worries or problems I have or if something has upset me. I actually enjoy going to College every day."

Mason has also become more independent.

"I'm learning to cook a meal and to help with cleaning up and washing dishes. Although I've not showed off these skills to Mum or Dad yet!



“I’ve started some travel training going to Shrewsbury and back with support, but not sure I like it yet but there’s a learning support assistant there with me.”

When he’s not at college, Mason trains and plays football for AFC Telford Adult Disability team. He also love gaming and chatting to friends online.

Mason says he would definitely recommend Derwen College’s Walford campus to other students.

“It’s a safe place, staff are really nice and help with any worries” he says.

Mason’s mum, Tracey says:

“Derwen College Walford is a small setting, more personal. Everyone’s friendly and

there’s no judgements regarding behaviour etc, just support. He is learning more life skills which he wouldn’t have had the chance to do in a mainstream college. It makes his life easier.”

“Mason’s confidence has improved and, because of this, his anxieties have reduced. He is more independent. He dresses and walks to his football training by himself, now, which is a 10-minute walk. He will speak out more if something is annoying or frustrating him, before he would turn to anger first which would then escalate. He thinks more of others and their feelings, especially his 12-year old brother who he adores. He laughs every day which makes us happy.”



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.

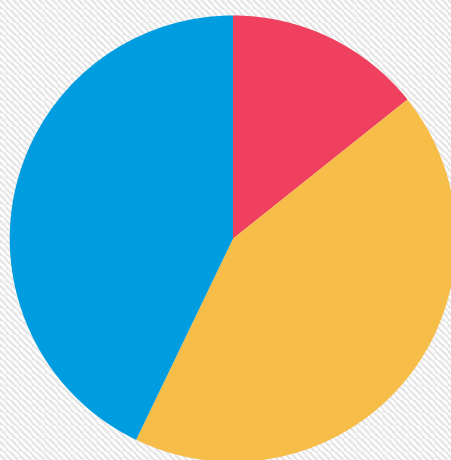
Our main campus is in Gobowen, and our three satellite campuses can be found across Shropshire.

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

Destinations

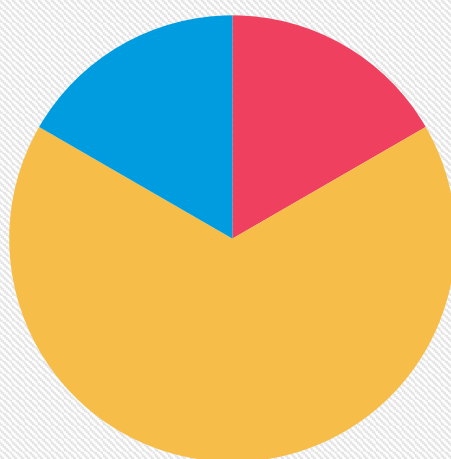
During your time at Derwen College, you will be supported to explore your future options. We are very proud that our student outcomes far exceed the national average for young people with SEND going into work. Our 2022–23 satellite campus student graduates have, so far, gone on to achieve the following.

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.

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College
Walford**

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