

PROSPECTUS



**A SPECIALIST FURTHER
EDUCATION COLLEGE**

lifeworkscollege.org



lifeworks

Learning disability champions

WELCOME TO LIFEWORKS COLLEGE

Lifeworks College is a welcoming and lively setting open to young people aged 16 up to 25 years with a learning disability. We are pleased to welcome you and are delighted that you are considering Lifeworks College as the next step in your learners educational journey.

The College is part of Lifeworks Charity, which provides a range of services to support people with learning disabilities to have a great life. We seek to create opportunities for people and their families so that they can reach their full potential and are engaged with and valued by their communities.

As a College providing an important bridge between school and adult life, we offer an innovative programme of personal, social and vocational education. Our courses build on the foundations of learning that students will have acquired whilst at school.

Learners have a diverse range of needs, abilities and goals. With this in mind we offer a flexible curriculum tailored to each individual's needs that can also lead to nationally accredited qualifications.

Our experienced and dedicated team of tutors and learning support staff will work closely with you and any relevant agencies to ensure that every student follows the best curriculum for them.

We are based in the attractive South Hams area of Devon in Dartington accessing opportunities in and around the local area including Totnes, Exeter, Plymouth and Newton Abbot. The variety of teaching environments we have access to inspires learning and independence.

We operate a three-term academic year with students attending full-time, five days a week. A lot of our learning takes place in the community and through partnerships with local groups and businesses who support our internship and work placement programmes.

We know that choosing the right College is an important decision. We encourage you to get in touch and speak to us about making Lifeworks College your next step.



Artsmark
Gold Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England



CONTENTS

WELCOME TO LIFEWORKS COLLEGE	2
COLLEGE PHILOSOPHY	4-5
OUR CURRICULUM	6-7
SUPPORT, SAFETY AND INCLUSION	8-9
WORK PLACEMENTS & SUPPORTED INTERNSHIPS	10-11
COLLEGE ADMISSIONS	12-13
LIFEWORKS COLLEGE AT A GLANCE	14
HOW TO FIND US	15

COLLEGE PHILOSOPHY



COMMUNITY

We believe that all of our students have the ability to become active and valuable members of their adult communities. We support students in gaining the independence, skills and understanding necessary to enable this to happen.



WORK

We believe workplaces are richer when employing people with disabilities and are passionate in helping businesses to achieve this. There are many opportunities for all students to gain long term work placements when learning with us. A key aim of the College programme is to place students on to a path leading to employment on leaving College.



FAMILY

We believe that a major factor in our students' advancement is the support of their families, friends and care workers. With this in mind Lifeworks College maintains frequent contact with parents and carers of students and offers a range of parent/carer evenings and forums.





"Lifeworks College has provided our son with a safe and student-focused environment that has enabled him to gain confidence and develop his life skills. Highly recommend this College. Great ethos and commitment shown to students."

Parent of Lifeworks College Learner.

OUR CURRICULUM

Lifeworks College curriculum combines classroom-based learning with external activities and work placements. We want to help students find and develop interests that can be followed independently in the future. Learning is targeted towards preparing for adulthood and participating in the modern adult world. All of our study programmes are taught practically, with reference to everyday life, developing independent living skills. preparingforadulthood.org.uk



HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Students take part in outdoor activities and sport to work towards leading a healthy lifestyle and increasing self-esteem:

- ~ Sport & personal fitness
- ~ Food choices
- ~ DofE Award
- ~ Confidence building
- ~ Pastoral support
- ~ Water sports
- ~ Healthy eating / cooking



INDEPENDENT LIVING

Students learn key skills to help increase independence and grow in self-confidence:

- ~ Personal safety
- ~ Travel, shopping and money
- ~ Cooking



CREATIVE

Students undertake a range of activities:

- ~ Art
- ~ Pottery
- ~ Gardening
- ~ Woodwork
- ~ Dance
- ~ Mindfulness



COMMUNITY, FRIENDS AND RELATIONSHIPS

Students learn about themselves, developing vital skills to become active members of their communities:

- ~ Social skills
- ~ Community participation
- ~ Personal development
- ~ Volunteering
- ~ Projects



EMPLOYMENT

Students learn about the world of work, the vocational and social skills required as well as undertaking long term work placements:

- ~ Vocational skills
- ~ Social skills
- ~ Work skills



FUNCTIONAL SKILLS

Functional English, maths, communication and IT skills are embedded throughout the curriculum as well as offered as qualifications. Students will get lots of opportunities to practice these important skills in everyday, practical settings.



PERSONALISED LEARNING PLANS

Our students have a diverse range of needs, abilities and goals. With this in mind we offer a flexible curriculum, individually tailored to each learner and their Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP). Our courses lead to accredited qualifications. By combining personalised learning and transition programmes we support students to gain the necessary skills to enable them to make the most of every opportunity.



TUTORIAL

We offer a strong weekly tutorial programme with a mix of 1:1 sessions, with a focus on engaging students with activities to support their personal development and citizenship e.g.

- ~ British Value
- ~ Prevent
- ~ Be healthy
- ~ Mental Health
- ~ E-Safety
- ~ Sexual Health



PARTNERSHIPS

We work in partnership with local support service employees, and local authority residential care staff to ensure that learners develop long lasting relationships with local employers and their community, and get the relevant support to succeed. We also partner with other specialist organisations and tutors to provide engaging learning opportunities such as working with local theatres and completing DofE Award.



CONFIDENT ADULTS

On graduating College, we aim for students to be confident and equipped to enter their adult lives with more independence and opportunity. We support leavers to transfer their varied study programme into the relevant areas of their day-to-day lives to ensure their continuing independence, participation and sense of self-worth.

"What a fantastic year our daughter has had. Superb! Lots of variety, interest and challenge. So impressed."

Parent of Lifeworks College Learner.

To view our latest Ofsted report please visit our website:
lifeworkscollege.org/ofsted

"Over the last 3 years our son has developed into a wonderful, mature, independent young man with Lifeworks' support. The staff are amazing in their professionalism and support. He will certainly miss all the friends he has made."

Parent of Lifeworks College Learner.

SUPPORT, SAFETY AND INCLUSION

WHOLE LEARNER SUPPORT

Our teachers and learning support assistants are highly experienced and skilled in teaching students with a range of learning disabilities. Alongside this, students are provided with access to specialist services including speech & language, sound therapy, and psychological therapies.

Our engaging programmes include the use of arts and physical activities to support students creativity, health and wellbeing. Students with specific learning needs will be supported by College staff and by our network of specialist services. We facilitate access to CSW Group, employment services, adult services and numerous community organisations to help learners achieve their best futures.

Students are able to participate in charity-wide activities and have access to events run across the Charity such as surfing days, arts projects and youth clubs.

KEEPING LEARNERS SAFE

We are committed to providing outstanding educational opportunities for all our students, with their safety and welfare as the highest priority. We work on the basis that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility at Lifeworks.

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead at College is Deputy Head of College and we have a comprehensive and regularly reviewed suite of policies and procedures designed to safeguard the wellbeing of children and adults at risk.

We take our responsibilities to keep learners safe seriously. We work hard to ensure our students feel safe at College, at home, in the community and online.

Our Safeguarding policy can be found on our website lifeworks-uk.org/safeguarding-policy



EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

We value and celebrate the diversity that everyone brings to the College. We support students and staff to be individuals and be themselves, encouraging everyone to use their experience to build the College community.

We are committed to ensuring equal access to opportunities and freedom from discrimination on all grounds, including: race, disability, gender, gender reassignment, age, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or belief, or socioeconomic status or background.

We teach students and support families to apply their rights and entitlement positively as citizens, and demonstrate respect and value for others. All students and staff are respected as individuals and we strive to ensure that all achieve their full potential.



"We've been particularly pleased with how her vocabulary has expanded and her experimentation with new words, until she finds a correct fit! This year's syllabus seems to have really clicked - she has enjoyed her work experience immensely. We are really grateful to Lifeworks and the College staff who make such a difference to her life. It has developed her abilities to a place where we can believe there is a light at the end of the tunnel."

Parent of Lifeworks College Learner.

WORK PLACEMENTS & SUPPORTED INTERNSHIPS

Having a learning disability should not stand in the way of our students gaining employment. Our aim as a College is to prepare our students for life when they graduate from learning with us. A key part of preparing for adulthood is being ready to enter the workplace.

ACHIEVING STUDENTS ASPIRATIONS

Each of our students has their own life and work aspirations. At Lifeworks College, we support learners to explore and develop these vocational goals, progressing towards achieving great working lives now and in the future. We work to understand students aspirations and our dedicated Workplace Coordinator and job coach work closely with students, tutors and employees to get the best match of placement for each student.



WORK PREPARATION AND EXPERIENCE

We support each student with interview and workplace preparation. As well as guidance on what to expect and how to behave at work – we strive to help them to get off to the best start. The level of 1:1 support at the place of work will depend on what each student requires. Learners are assisted in keeping a record of new skills they acquire and the tasks they complete whilst on work placements.

Lifeworks College works alongside the host employer to support students to succeed in their chosen placement. We aim for students to achieve a permanent, paid position on leaving College or an internship.

Students gain so much confidence from these long-term work placements. Achieving success, recognition and enjoyment are immediate results but placements also carve the path to our students' best futures. Work placements can also support host employers to have a more diverse workforce. Learning goes both ways and our placements can enrich workplaces and existing employee experiences.

SUPPORTED INTERNSHIPS

Students will have the opportunity to progress onto a supported employment pathway. Our internship programmes are individualised and provide work placements which is integrated into the students' working week. We provide travel training, particularly supporting students to commute from home to their employer. The majority of the placement will happen in the workplace but is supported by time in College completing work-based qualifications and a rich Tutorial programme. Our aim is that students will be more 'work-ready' and potentially continue with the host employer when they leave College.



"I knew I wanted to be a hairdresser when I was in my late teens and College helped me a lot to get there. When I was there I did a work placement at a hairdressers in Plymouth. I liked how College helped me with my hairdressing career.

It made me happy that I could get that far. After I left Lifeworks College, I went on to be an apprentice hair stylist.

My teachers were a great help, very supportive and helped me with my work placement. It gave me good experience to put on my CV.

I would say College helps by giving you the right support to get a job. One that makes you happy in the future and gives you good independent living. It will help you have dreams.

Anyone who believes that the world is against people with learning disabilities I would challenge that. People are capable of so much more than what people think they can do. As long as they have belief in them from other people and you feed that belief, then they will fly.

My hope for the future is just to be happy and be good at my job. And whatever happens in the future I will go with it."

Former Student.

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS PROCESS

We welcome enquiries from parents, carers or teachers of prospective students, or from young people themselves who are interested in talking to us about Lifeworks College. We welcome visits and offer College tours, online and phone meetings to discuss how we can help support your learner's future needs. These meetings will normally take place with the Teacher in Charge outside of College hours and need to be arranged in advance.

1

EXPRESSING AN INTEREST IN VISITING

To make an appointment call us on **01803 865 075** or email collegeadmin@lifeworks-uk.org expressing an interest in visiting Lifeworks College.

2

APPLY FOR A PLACEMENT WITH THE SUPPORT OF PROFESSIONALS

You should discuss coming to Lifeworks College at all school review meetings with your **Careers Advisor** who is responsible for completing appropriate local authority paperwork for placements.

3

PLACEMENT ASSESSMENT WILL TAKE PLACE

When requested by the local authority the College will complete an assessment of the student through a combination of College and home-based assessment and a school visit.

4

PERSON-CENTRED TRANSITION PLANS

The process of transition from school to College is managed carefully and sensitively to enable students to understand what is happening. Students will be invited to a series of visits in the summer term once their placement is confirmed. We will work closely with parents, carers and school staff to ensure a smooth and successful transition to Lifeworks College.

PATHWAY FLOWCHART

PATHWAY 1 (ENTRY 1)

Pathway to Independence

Personal Progress Award - (Entry 1)

Personal Progress Certificate - (Entry 1)

Maths
English
Tutorial
Work Experience
Arts Award - Explore

Additional sessions:
Independent Living Skills
Travel Training
Creative
Active Wellbeing

PATHWAY 2 (ENTRY 2)

Pathway to Skills for Life (with example units)

Life Skills Award (Entry 1)

Skills for Employment Award (Entry 2)

Maths
English
Tutorial
Work Experience
Arts Award - Bronze

Additional sessions:
Independent Living Skills
Travel Training
Creative
Active Wellbeing

PATHWAY 3 (ENTRY 3)

Pathway to Progression (with example units)

Work Preparation Award (Entry 3)

Maths
English
Tutorial
Work Experience
Arts Award - Silver

Additional sessions:
Independent Living Skills
Travel Training
Creative
Active Wellbeing

PATHWAY 4 (LEVEL 1)

Pathway to Employment (with example units)

Using Employability Skills Certificate (Level 1)

Maths
English
Tutorial

Additional sessions:
Independent Living Skills
Travel Training
Creative
Active Wellbeing

PATHWAY 5 (LEVEL 1)

Supported Internship (with example units)

Using Employability Skills Certificate (Level 1)

Maths
English
Tutorial
Job Coaching
Sustained Work Placement (2 days per week)

Example of additional qualifications:
Health & Safety in the Workplace
First Aid
Customer Service Skills
Catering & Hospitality
Horticulture

All students will learn about healthy eating and living, there will be sessions on shopping, budgeting, food preparation and domestic chores.

Students will prepare their own lunch a minimum of one day per week.

A range of therapy sessions are available, such as:

Sound Therapy
Lego
Drumming
Hydro Pool

Along with many Community Projects



LIFEWORKS COLLEGE AT A GLANCE

AGE RANGE

Students from the age of 16 to 25 years.



DATES AND TIMES

A September start for most students, though entry is possible later in the year if required. Full-time 5 day offer or 3 day offer available.

Full-time

Monday - Friday

9.15am - 3.30pm

36-week academic year

3 terms

Placement confirmed on a yearly basis following ECHP review meetings.

ENROLMENT CRITERIA

Students with a learning disability can apply. It is essential that a student has an EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plan). Students will need to demonstrate the potential to progress and participate in long term, supported work placements.

FOR ADVICE ON APPLYING TO A SPECIALIST COLLEGE



National Association of Specialist Colleges
natspec.org.uk



We are proud to work with:



HOW TO FIND US

Lifeworks College, Lescaze, Shiners Bridge, Dartington, Totnes, Devon, TQ9 6JD



The College is situated at Shiners Bridge, Dartington and is easily accessed either from Totnes or from the main A38 Expressway via the A384.

By train: The nearest railway station is Totnes. You will need to take a taxi from the railway station, which is 1.4 miles from the College at Shiners Bridge.

By bus: There are bus stops close to the College (3 min walk) which are serviced by:
Stagecoach Gold Plymouth - Torbay
88 Totnes - Newton Abbot

By car: For the main College site please input Lescaze Buildings, Shiners Bridge into your GPS for directions to the College.

In the College car park there are a number of free, 2-hour community parking spaces which you are free to use. If there is no availability there are pay and display spaces in the nearby Meadowbrook and Dartington Shops car parks which are a 5 minute walk away.



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FIND OUT MORE

If you wish to find out more about Lifeworks College please visit the Lifeworks website or contact us directly.

Web: lifeworkscollege.org

Tel: 01803 865 075

Email: collegeadmin@lifeworks-uk.org

 @LifeworksUK

 @LifeworksUK

 @lifeworkscharity

 @lifeworks-charity-limited

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