



# The small, friendly college



Prospectus | 2019/20

# Supported internships: employability for young people with special educational needs and/ or disabilities (SEND)

If you're keen to be in employment, and you have special educational needs and/ or disabilities, a supported internship could be for you! Lots of young people can benefit from a supported internship, including those with autism, moderate to more severe learning disabilities, sensory impairments and physical disabilities.

Supported internships prepare you for work by

- supporting you to develop the skills valued by employers
- enabling you to demonstrate your value in the workplace, and
- developing your confidence in your own abilities.

## Curriculum

### Induction and initial assessment

'Internship' is another name for 'work placement'.

Before you go on your internship, you'll attend Buzz for 6 weeks or so to complete Buzz's Internship Preparation course. During this time you will

- get settled in and learn about the supported internship programme
- take part in assessments so that you – and our staff – develop a good understanding of your needs and abilities
- have the opportunity to try some vocational tasters, and receive careers guidance, to help you decide which career you'd like to focus on.

### Your internship

Once you're ready, you'll start your internship with an employer for up to 3 days a week.

This is the biggest part of the Supported Internship programme and you'll spend most of your time at the employer's site gaining valuable work experience.

While you're there, you'll be supported by a Job Coach from Buzz. Our Job Coach will

- make sure that you can get to and from your internship
- help you settle in
- agree your targets with you and your employer, and
- make sure that you know what to do, how and when to do it

Buzz works closely with JobCentre Plus to ensure that you have the right support when you're on your internship and when you leave in to a job or an apprenticeship. Support can include providing specialist equipment and funding your travel to work if you can't use public transport, both through Access to Work.



### Employability skills

Employability skills are very important and developing these will help you get ready for a job, an apprenticeship or voluntary work. You will come in to Buzz throughout the programme to take part in Employability sessions, during which you'll learn how to

- create different types of CVs targeted at those employers relevant to you
- make successful applications for jobs, voluntary work or apprenticeships
- get ready for interviews
- present yourself well at interviews
- carry out effective job search, including online searching.

If you need it, you'll also work to

- improve your team work, communication and concentration skills
- improve your self-confidence and self-esteem.



### Short vocational and other courses

You will achieve short courses to help you move closer to securing a job, an apprenticeship or volunteer work.

For example

- if you want to work in Catering, you could do Catering and Food Safety qualifications at Buzz
- if you want to work in Care, you could do First Aid and safe lifting qualifications at Buzz.

Please note, the main vocational areas for our internships are Hospitality and Catering and Customer Service. We can offer other areas too, so let us know if you're interested in something different and we'll do our best to organise it.



### Maths and English

You will continue to develop your maths and English skills and, where appropriate, you can study for GCSE or Functional Skills qualifications in these subjects.



### Support to secure your progression

Our Careers staff will work with you to identify suitable vacancies and support you to make successful applications.

“Staff manage work experience for learners with high needs effectively... Staff carefully select work placements that allow them to agree vocationally relevant targets with learners and employers. Staff review these targets regularly and evaluate the progress of learners in formal reviews. As a result, learners develop the skills that they need for future progression.” - **Ofsted 2017**

# Frequently asked questions

**Q. How long will my supported internship last?**

**A.** Most supported internships last for 1 academic year.

**Q. What time will I start and finish each day?**

**A.** You will start at 9am and finish at 3.30pm on the days you're at Buzz, and you can come in earlier (10 to 9) if you want to get settled and have a drink before your lessons.

These times may change when you're doing your internship with the employer, but we'll agree these with you.

**Q. How many days will I work each week?**

**A.** Most people do 3 days each week.

**Q. What happens at the end of my supported internship?**

**A.** The best outcome for you is that you are offered paid work, or an apprenticeship by your employer. We will support you to make this happen, and we will also work hard to ensure that you are supported in your new job or apprenticeship.

Other good outcomes include making you more employable by enabling you to

- gain valuable work experience to add to your CV
- improve your self-confidence and raise your aspirations in the workplace
- improve your practical maths and English skills and
- become an independent traveller.

**Q. What support will I get?**

**A.** You'll be fully supported by our specialist staff, including our Job Coaches, our Careers staff and our Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo).

They will support you to get to and from your internship and Buzz, and develop your skills throughout your time on the programme. They'll also keep in touch with you after you complete your programme at Buzz and make sure that the right support is in place for you.

**Q. Will I be paid?**

**A.** If you're eligible, you'll be paid a bursary each week and you'll also have free lunch each day.

**Q. Will I get holidays?**

**A.** Yes! These may be the same as school holidays, or they may be the same as your colleagues at your internship.

**Please note,** it is very important that you don't take time off during term time so that you don't miss out on your education.

**Q. How can I find out more?**

**A.** If you're still at school, you can ask your teacher to arrange a Taster Day at Buzz, or you can contact us to arrange a visit. We are open during term time and often during the holidays as well.

**Q. Who can do supported internships?**

**A.** Supported internships are specifically aimed at young people who

- are aged 16 to 24\*
- have special educational needs and/ or disabilities, and
- are very motivated to work, and capable of doing so with or without ongoing support.

If this sounds like you, get in touch!

\*If you are, or will be, aged 19 or over on 31st August in the year you want to start

- you will need an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and
- your place will need to be agreed by the Local Authority.

**Q. When do supported internships start?**

**A.** Each September. Occasionally, new starters can join in January, and sometimes in April too.

# Ability: developing independence in young people with special educational needs and/ or disabilities (SEND)

Ability is a further education programme for young people with special educational needs and/ or disabilities which aims to prepare learners well for adulthood.

Lots of young people can benefit from joining Ability, including those with autism, mild to more severe learning difficulties, sensory impairments and physical disabilities.

## Curriculum

There are five parts to the Ability programme, and you will complete relevant bits from all of them.



### Induction and initial assessment

During your first few weeks you will:

- settle in to Buzz, get to know staff and other learners
- take part in assessments so that you – and our staff – develop a good understanding of your needs and abilities.



### Independent living skills

This part of Ability is all about preparing for adult life and it includes a mix of:

- getting ready to live more independently, including learning about everyday cooking and budgeting skills
- learning how to keep yourself safe
- independent travel
- improving your confidence and self-esteem, your team work and problem-solving skills
- learning about behaving appropriately in different situations
- learning about adult relationships and making healthy choices

- celebrating British and other cultures
- becoming an active member of your community. This includes taking part in visits to local places of interest and an optional residential training course (see the back page).

You can also gain a qualification in NOCN Independent Living Skills qualification or NOCN Skills for Employment, Training and Personal Development.



### Maths and English skills

You will continue to develop your maths and English skills and, where appropriate, you can study for GCSE or Functional Skills qualifications in these subjects.

You can also develop your social communication skills.



### Supported work placements

You will have the opportunity to take part in vocational tasters, followed by individual or group work placements with local employers. You will be supported well by our staff while you are on your work placement.



### Support to secure your progression

Our Careers staff will work with you to identify your next step after Ability. You will:

- receive advice and guidance about your future
- be supported to consider your options and make decisions.

“Lots of young people can benefit from joining Ability, including those with autism, mild to more severe learning difficulties, sensory impairments and physical disabilities.”

“Careers education, advice and guidance are good. Most learners have very clear plans for their next steps and know what they need to do to reach their intended destinations.” -  
Ofsted 2017



# Frequently asked questions

**Q. How long will my Ability programme last?**

**A.** Between 1 and 2 years.

**Q. What time will I start and finish each day?**

**A.** You will start at 9am and finish at 3.30pm on the days you're at Buzz, and you can come in earlier (10 to 9) if you want to get settled and have a drink before your lessons.

**Q. How many days will I work each week?**

**A.** Most people do 3 days each week.

You can do less if you can't manage 3 days, and you will do 4 or 5 days each week if you start later than September.

**Q. What happens at the end of my Ability programme?**

**A.** You will be better prepared to live more independently.

This means different things to different people, but young people graduating from Ability typically progress in to

- volunteering opportunities, which we help organise
- becoming active members of social clubs
- becoming more independent in the family home, or in supported accommodation
- supported internships with Buzz or with another provider.

**Q. What support will I get?**

**A.** You'll be fully supported throughout the programme by our specialist staff, including our Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo).

Our staff will support you to get to and from Buzz, and to develop your skills throughout your time on the programme. We'll also keep in touch with you after you complete the Ability programme.

**Q. Will I be paid?**

**A.** If you're eligible, you'll be paid a bursary each week and you'll get a free lunch each day.

**Q. Will I get holidays?**

**A.** Yes! You will get the school holidays if you start in September. If you start later in the year, we may ask you to come in to Buzz for some of the school holidays. We can agree this with you when you start.

Please note, it is very important that you don't take time off during term time so that you don't miss out on your education.

**Q. How can I find out more?**

**A.** If you're still at school, you can ask your teacher to arrange a Taster Day at Buzz, or you can contact us to arrange a visit. We are open during term time and often during the holidays as well.

**Q. Can I join?**

**A.** Ability is for young people who

- are aged 16 to 24\*
- have a range of special educational needs and/ or disabilities\*
- would benefit from developing their independent living skills, and
- do not want to, or are unlikely, to move in to paid employment.

If this sounds like you, get in touch!

\*If you are, or will be, aged 19 or over on 31st August in the year you want to start

- you will need an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and
- your place will need to be agreed by the Local Authority.

**Q. When does Ability start?**

**A.** Each September. Occasionally, new starters can join in January, and sometimes in April too.

# About Buzz

Buzz, the small friendly college, specialises in preparing young people for adult life.

We're in our 15th year now, and our Mission "Be All You Can!" underpins everything that we do. We're firmly rooted in our local community and committed to equipping young people with the skills, experience and qualifications they need to do well in their adult lives.

Buzz has been judged Good by Ofsted, with Inspectors saying of us, "Managers and staff are highly committed and strive to meet the needs of both learners and the local community."

**Contact us if you'd like to study at Buzz, or if you'd like to volunteer with us.**

## Courses for employers and individuals

Buzz delivers the following courses and qualifications to employers and individuals

- Level 3 Award in Understanding the Principles and Practices of Assessment
- Level 3 Award in Assessing Vocationally Related Achievement
- Level 3 Award in Assessing Competence in the Work Environment and
- Level 4 Award in Internal Quality Assurance of Assessment Processes and Practice.

**Contact us for more information and prices.**

## Old Buzzers

Our Old Buzzers are a group of people who've completed their studies at Buzz and keep in regular touch. We have information about one of our Old Buzzers here. If you're an ex-learner and want to become an Old Buzzer, contact us!

### Adam

You can probably tell from the photo that Adam now enjoys a successful modelling career. As well as modelling at London Fashion Week, Adam is also taking part in a 2-year programme with the Talent Hub, leading to a nationwide tour in 2020. What a star!

## Buzz Learning Independent Special School

The school is registered with the Department for Education, registration number 929/6004, and we welcomed our first learners in September 2018.

Our aim is to meet the needs of each of our learners to prepare them for adult life and we do this through provision of a broad and balanced learning experience which promotes their educational, spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development. Our ethos is to enable our learners to be all they can.

Learners are aged from 13 to 16 years old, and the school is funded to provide for up to 25 pupils, including those who have:

- Autism spectrum disorder (ASD)
- Cognitive and learning needs
- Specific learning difficulties (SpLD)
- Moderate learning difficulties (MLD)
- Communication and interaction needs and
- Speech, language and communication needs (SLCN).

The school is not equipped to work with children who have social, emotional or mental health issues, including children with more difficult behaviours.

**"Our aim is to meet the needs of each of our learners to prepare them for adult life"**



## Curriculum

The school does not follow the national curriculum, choosing instead to give our teachers the level of autonomy needed to do their jobs well whilst meeting guidelines from the Department for Education and the Independent School Standards.

The curriculum is reviewed frequently, and current qualifications include Functional English Skills, Functional Mathematics Skills, Functional Skills Information and Communication Technology, the ASDAN Certificate in Personal and Social Development, ASDAN Geography and ASDAN History.

The school actively promotes fundamental British values and we ensure that there is political balance in our teaching and other activities. We aim to ensure that pupils know the difference between right and wrong, respect the civil and criminal law of England, and understand the consequences of their own and others' actions.

## Referrals

Referrals to the school must come through Local Authorities' SEN Teams, but contact our Headteacher, Mr Rob Fairbairn, for visits or information on 01670 852244 or [rob@buzzlearning.co.uk](mailto:rob@buzzlearning.co.uk)

# Residential Courses

Residential courses are available to Buzz's learners as part of their programmes with us.

Each year, our learners enjoy trips lasting from one night to one week in Kielder, Hexham, Hauxley or on board a tall ship in the North Sea.

Buzz is recruiting for our next residential sailing trip now!

Up to 12 young people will have the opportunity to be part of the crew on board a tall ship. Contact us now for details.



"I hadn't been away from home before going on the sailing trip, so I was a bit scared. It was great though and I feel a lot more confident now. I can't wait for my next trip."



## Contact Us

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Get in touch if you'd like to pop in to see us. All are welcome.