

## The Autism Project

The Autism Project (TAP) is a full-time, two-year, employability programme for young people on the autistic spectrum, aged 18-25.

Our aim is to make the journey towards and into employment more seamless and flexible in order to better meet the individual needs of students. Additionally, we hope that this will further improve our already very positive outcomes.

**All students will follow our supported internship curriculum for their first term** and typically students will spend 3 terms (their first year) following this: they will learn within real work experience placements within the hospital four days a week, supported by work-place mentors and specialist job coaches and spend one day a week in class where they learn valuable employability and independent living skills and work towards City & Guilds qualifications in both Employability and Functional Skills.

The objective is for young people to become 'work-ready'

**Students' progress to the Year two curriculum once 'work-ready', typically in term 4**, where the focus is on greater independence in the workplace and to support students to develop the skills and confidence and to actively seek and hopefully gain paid employment, an apprenticeship or further training of choice.

**TAP staff use person centred planning and our aim is to help all students reach their individual goals** as defined in their Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP). Class based learning is being developed in termly modules so that students can move from year one to year two curriculum at their own speed. This also means we will be able to accept students at the beginning of any term.

All students will have the opportunity to meet with TAP staff prior to starting the programme and will have an induction suited to their individual needs. All learners are required to have an EHCP in place\* and will be DBS checked

### Year one the focus is on becoming work ready and includes

- 4 days a week work placement within the hospital, supported by trained work-place mentors and managers.
- Close support and supervision from work-place mentor and regular visits from the TAP Job Coach.
- One-day classroom based teaching where students learn City & Guilds Employability Skills qualifications (this includes communication in the work place, dress codes, CV writing and applying for jobs) and Functional Skills (if required).  
(students are grouped according to appropriate study level).
- Enrichment Activities such as visiting careers events, travel training, going on and organising social outings take place as well.

**Year two the focus is on finding and securing work of choice and includes:**

- Weekly one to one job search support from our employment team
- Minimum 2 days a week work in a new environment and with lower levels of support from work-place staff than in Year one.
- Regular visits from Job Coach in the work-place
- Employability workshops and continued progression to a relevant City & Guilds Employability qualification and functional skills (as required)
- Relevant vocational training such as First Aid, manual handling and food hygiene as needed
- Participation in our corporate mock interview programme to develop confidence for interviews
- Support at job interviews (optional)
- Enrichment Activities such as healthy eating, further travel training if required, planning and going on social outings
- Ongoing support in employment once work is secured, as required via Access to Work.
- Support with moving on (employment, apprenticeship, further training, volunteering, accessing relevant support)

**A Typical Student Week in Yr 1** (please note these will vary from student to student)

Day	Morning	Afternoon
<b>Monday</b>	Work placement	Work placement
<b>Tuesday</b>	Work Placement	Work placement
<b>Wednesday</b>	Work Placement	Work Placement
<b>Thursday</b>	Employability	Functional Skills as required (small group)
<b>Friday</b>	Work placement	Work placement

**A Typical Student Week in Yr 2** (please note these will vary from student to student)

Day	Morning	Afternoon
<b>Monday</b>	1:1 job search ( <i>1-1.5 hrs times vary</i> )	Job Search Homework
<b>Tuesday</b>	Work Placement	Work Placement
<b>Wednesday</b>	Work Placement	Work Placement
<b>Thursday</b>	1:1 with Counsellor ( <i>1 hr times vary optional</i> )	Class (1-4pm)
<b>Friday</b>	Enrichment Activity ( <i>bi-weekly</i> )	

**For further information please contact**

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