

Black Country Skills Factory

My Choices 

A woman and a young man are sitting at a wooden table, laughing heartily. The woman is on the left, wearing a white t-shirt, and the young man is on the right, wearing a dark blue striped t-shirt. They are both looking at each other. In the foreground, there is a white bowl containing various colored pens and pencils. The background is slightly blurred, showing a room with shelves and a blue cushion.

YOUR GUIDE TO FURTHER EDUCATION

and next steps after school for pupils with
special educational needs and disabilities

PUPILS IN SEND GROUP 1

Students with communication/interaction or cognitive and learning difficulties (who are less likely to take GCSE's or Level 2 Qualifications that employers recognise) – Pupils will more than likely be educated at Special Schools.

PATHWAY	DESCRIPTION	USEFUL WEBSITES AND LINKS
Supported/Inclusive Apprenticeships	A real job with training & a salary	Inclusive apprenticeships British Association for Supported Employment (base-uk.org)
Supported Internships	A structured study programme based predominantly with an employer	supported interships guidance for learners 8th April 2014 (preparingforadulthood.org.uk)
Traineeships	A work focussed study programme that prepares you for an apprenticeship or work	What is a Traineeship? - School Leavers Options AllAboutSchoolLeavers
Supported Enterprise, Supported Employment or Supported Volunteering	Setting up your own business as either a freelance service, a sole trader or a registered company or you could work with a supported employment charity or DWP to support you into work	About Supported Employment British Association for Supported Employment (base-uk.org) Wolverhampton Services - Enable. Supported Employment Services (enableservices.co.uk) Landau Supported Employment & Education Charity Helping You To Get Into Work or Training
Foundation Course /FE College	Many of our colleges across the Black Country offer supported learning and foundation courses.	Dudley College of Technology Halesowen College Sandwell College - A Careers College - Apply Now Homepage Walsall College City of Wolverhampton College (wolvcoll.ac.uk)

In some cases social care provision is more appropriate for certain students and this would only be through an Adult Care Assessment – please check with your social worker for more information.

PUPILS IN SEND GROUP 2

This may include students with social, emotional and mental health difficulties, behaviour, sensory or physical needs (they may be more likely to take GCSE or Level 2 Qualification that employer recognise) – Pupils will more than likely be educated at Special Schools, PRUs, SEMH or Mainstream Schools.

PATHWAY	DESCRIPTION	USEFUL WEBSITES AND LINKS
Apprenticeships	A real job with training & a salary	Find an apprenticeship - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
Further Education - A Levels, Vocational Qualifications, at a College or Sixth Form	A levels are an academic qualification similar in style to GCSEs that prepares you for further study	<p>You can check out your school sixth form or look at other local sixth forms or study at college</p> <p>Dudley College of Technology</p> <p>Halesowen College</p> <p>Sandwell College - A Careers College - Apply Now</p> <p>Homepage Walsall College</p> <p>City of Wolverhampton College (wolvcoll.ac.uk)</p>
T Levels	A technical study programme similar to 3 A levels, with an industry placement which takes up 20% of the course. Designed to give you the skills that employers need	<p>T Levels The Next Level Qualification</p> <p>T Levels Walsall College</p> <p>T Levels Courses - Sandwell College - Apply Now</p> <p>Halesowen College</p>
Entrepreneurship or Paid Employment	Setting up your own business as either a freelance service, a sole trader or a registered company or gaining a job	<p>Set up a business - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</p> <p>Support for starting a business The Prince's Trust (princes-trust.org.uk)</p> <p>Job Search Indeed</p> <p>Find a job - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</p>

SUPPORTED INTERNSHIPS

Supported internships are a **structured study programme** placed with an employer. They enable young people aged 16-24 with a statement of SEN, or an Education, Health and Care plan to achieve sustainable paid employment by equipping them with the skills they need for work, through learning in the workplace.

Click on any of the logos below of the organisations that offer supported internships, contact them directly for more information.



APPRENTICESHIPS AND TRAINEESHIPS

On an apprenticeship, you are employed to do a real job while studying for a formal qualification - usually for one day a week either at a college or training centre.

Inclusive Apprenticeships allow the Apprentice to use an Entry Level 3 qualification in English or Maths as a lower entry route. A Traineeship is an education and training programme which incorporates work experience, they are designed for people aged 16 to 24 who don't yet have the appropriate skills or experience. Traineeships provide the essential work preparation training, English, Maths and work experience needed to secure an Apprenticeship or employment. Below are some local providers that offer Apprenticeships and Traineeships – local colleges will also offer these.

Click on any of the logos below for more information:



COLLEGE AND SIXTH FORM



Depending on if you will sit GCSEs or not you could go to sixth form, each sixth form has its own entry requirements but most ask for grades 4 or 5 and above in mainstream schools. Many special schools also have their own sixth forms.

You can also go to college and again, depending on what level you are at, you have the option to study at different levels and courses. This could include supported learning/foundation courses, entry levels courses and other courses ranging from level 1 to 3. Check out the individual colleges and sixth forms websites to find out more details. Below are some Colleges that offer foundation courses and supported learning courses for those pupils educated in special schools - they also offer courses starting from entry level and level 1 upwards.

Click on any of the logos below for more information:



South Staffordshire College



SPECIALIST COLLEGES

There are also 'Specialist Colleges' - this option is generally only available if you are not able to access your local college courses. You can agree the funding with your local authority SEN team and you would need to show that you have considered your local colleges courses. Information about specialist colleges can be found on The NATSPEC website – generally these colleges are further away from the West Midlands.



Click on the logo below for more information:



LOCAL OFFER

The SEND local offer (Disability & Special Education Needs) offers information all in one place. The local offer helps children, young people and their parents to understand what services and support they can expect from a range of local agencies - including their statutory entitlements.

Click on any of the logos below for more information:



Walsall Community Living Directory

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL



SUPPORT SERVICES

Connexions Dudley

Connexions Dudley works with young people aged 13 – 19 (up to aged 25 for those with learning difficulties and or disabilities) with careers advice guidance, information and support to help prepare them for Post 16 options and beyond.

T: 01384 811400

E: Connexions@dudley.gov.uk

Connexions Sandwell

Discuss your options with an independent impartial careers' adviser.

Email: sandwell_connexions@sandwell.gov.uk

Think Sandwell

Think Sandwell Can provide support to find a job, including help with CV, completing application forms, interview practice and details of local vacancies are available at

W: <https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/apprenticeships>

Black Country Impact Project

If you are currently not in education, employment or training, Walsall delivers the Black Country Impact programme to provide intensive one-to-one support. For more information contact:

T: 01922 654364

W: <http://walsall.gov.uk/blackcountryimpact>

Connexions Wolverhampton

Connexions is a free and impartial careers information, advice and guidance service for young people who live in Wolverhampton.- For more information contact us on:

T: 01902 554499

E: connexions@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Even Break

UK's most accessible job board.

W: <https://www.evenbreak.co.uk/en>

SUPPORT SERVICES

Preparing for Adulthood

The Preparing for Adulthood programme (PfA) is delivered by the National Development Team for inclusion (NDTi). The programme is funded by the Department for Education as part of the Delivering Better Outcomes Together consortium.

W: <https://www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk/>

Employment and Skills Team, Walsall

The Employment and Skills team in Walsall work closely with partner organisations to assist and support young people with post 16 options and the governments raising participation age. We offer support services for all young people aged 16+ (up to 25 years old for young people with learning difficulties and/ or disabilities). For more information contact:

T: 01922 654353

E: walsallworks@walsall.gov.uk

W: <https://go.walsall.gov.uk/walsallcom/Walsall-Works/Works-Home>

BASE

BASE is a national charity that promotes the principles and delivery of high quality Supported Employment services. Our brief is to represent, inform and encourage best practice.

W: <https://www.base-uk.org/information-jobseekers>

Mencap

We're here to improve the lives of people with a learning disability and their families now, and fight alongside them for a better future. We team up with our network of over 300 local groups to reach people across England, Northern Ireland and Wales.

W: <https://www.mencap.org.uk/>

Black Country LEP

We look to raise employability, education and skills in our transformational sectors to meet the requirements of the area.

W: People - BCLEP (blackcountrylep.co.uk)