

# Work-related learning

Internal placements at The Oaks Specialist College offer our learners an incredible opportunity to gain valuable experience of work-related tasks, develop essential employability skills, and immerse themselves in the world of business through fun, creativity, and practicality.

Our learners get to roll up their sleeves and dive into a variety of engaging activities. From growing fresh produce to cooking up culinary delights, and even crafting unique creations, our learners experience it all - not only gaining experience, but also contributing fully to our thriving enterprise projects. And here's the best part: all the proceeds generated through these work placement enterprise projects are reinvested to further enhance the program for future growth.

Our learners document their progress and skill development in a comprehensive work-related learning booklet via OneNote. The booklet serves as a testament to their growth and provides them with an opportunity to reflect on their placement experience.

Overall, the programme is a chance for learners to gain valuable insights into an industry and explore the various job roles within it.



**Gardening & Horticulture**



**Hospitality & Catering**



**Art & Enterprise**



**Spill the Beans Café**



**Tesco Supermarket**



**Carpentry & Upcycling**



**Déjà Brew Coffee Kart**

# Gardening & Horticulture

Embark on a journey of practicality, discovery, and deliciousness with Gardening and Horticulture at The Oaks Specialist College.

Our learners dive headfirst into the world of cultivating healthy foods and gaining a deep understanding of where our nourishment comes from. Through this internal work placement, they experience the joy of planting, growing, and nurturing a diverse array of fresh fruits, vegetables, and herbs that find their way onto the plates of our staff and learners.



But there's more to this program than just digging in the dirt. Our learners explore the consumer side of the industry, gaining insights into marketing and sales. They take charge of planning and designing how to showcase their produce, making critical decisions about pricing, packaging, and engaging advertisements

Alongside its work in the college the group gets to experience a range of projects out in the community, further developing skills, nurturing teamwork abilities, and instilling a sense of pride and accomplishment.

Together, we plant the seeds of success and watch our learners blossom into a future full of possibilities.



# Hospitality & Catering

Experience a mouth-watering adventure with Hospitality and Catering at The Oaks Specialist College.

This extraordinary work placement takes our learners on a journey where they plan, prepare, and cook an array of top-quality products that grace the tables of our bustling café and the shelves of our internal supermarket.



Learners are also immersed in all elements of the industry, mastering the art of waiting tables and delivering exceptional customer service - gaining a first-hand understanding of the dynamic and fast-paced realm of hospitality, all within the safe and supportive environment of our college.

Through our work with this enterprise group we foster independence and the importance of maintaining a balanced diet, all while honing skills in a wide spectrum of cooking techniques and exploring a world of flavours.

We empower our learners to become true connoisseurs of their craft, savouring the flavours of success!





# Art & Enterprise

Unleash the power of imagination and tap into the vibrant world of the creative industry with our Art and Enterprise placements at The Oaks Specialist College.

“Love That!”

This fabulous program not only nurtures creativity but also cultivates essential employment skills. As our learners explore their artistic talents, they also develop vital skills such as teamwork, communication, time management, perseverance, self-motivation, and the ability to follow instructions.



At The Oaks, we believe in the power of collaboration. That's why we have partnered with BNY Mellon bank in London, whose employees have helped our learners enhance the commercial aspects of product development and marketing. In addition, they plan, research, design, and bring their creations to life, taking their entrepreneurial journey even further.



But it doesn't stop there. Through this placement, they also utilise their expertise in subjects like Maths, English, Digital Media, and Technology. These skills come to life as they create captivating products and market them through our internal Tesco supermarket and community pop-up shop, *Love That!*





# Spill the Beans Café

At The Oaks Specialist College our very own café, *Spill the Beans*, serves up freshly made food and drink each week - all of it produced by our learners. Naturally, we encourage the eating of healthy foods, but we also encourage healthy communication and meaningful interactions.



The café is loaded with top quality equipment and utensils: providing our learners the perfect opportunity to develop key employability skills.

As part of their weekly routine, learners create a menu to circulate across the college, via digital channels and posters. They then go shopping for the ingredients required for the week, before cooking and delivering the meals to their customers.

From October 2023, Spill the Beans will open weekly to the public, serving the local community. As part of this project the college will also host a drop-off and pick-up site for the local *Feast*, foodbank.

This expansion will continue to further develop the learners' skills, whilst also giving our community first-hand experience of the wonderful work that goes on at The Oaks.



## Déjà Brew

We also have our own mobile coffee kart - Déjà Brew, which opens at the college several times a week, serving barista style drinks and sweet & savoury treats, as well as going on tour within our community.

As additions to our Hospitality & Catering placements these outlets give a chance for learners to gain valuable experience in dealing with the general public.

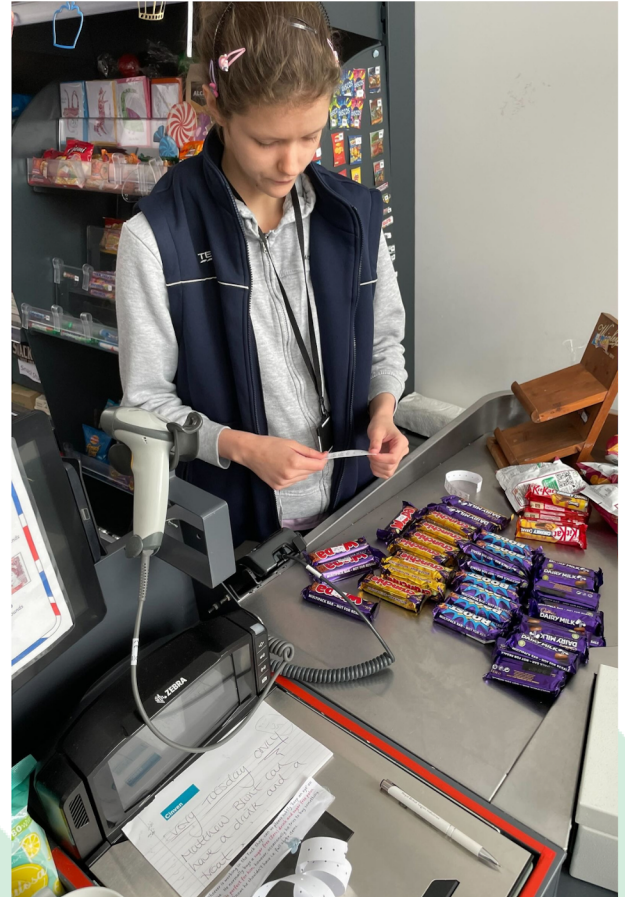


# Tesco Supermarket

The Oaks we are extremely proud to work in partnership with Tesco. As part of this relationship, Tesco very kindly built our own supermarket within the college, the first of its kind.

Kitted out in Tesco uniforms, our learners work as shop assistants; stocking the shelves and rotating older stock, cleaning and tidying the shop floor and practicing customer service skills - all key responsibilities that a Tesco employee would have.

With the store fitted exactly as a high street Tesco would be, our learners gain an incredible insight into what it is like to work in a supermarket. From there, they are able to access the Tesco Launch Disability Programme that supports adults with learning disabilities into employment.



Our Tesco supermarket continues to support our learners' independence skills; building confidence to shop independently and to recognise the importance of budgeting and healthy eating. In addition, we link our Maths, English, Digital Media and Technology lessons to work-related tasks in the store.



# Carpentry & Upcycling



Our carpentry placements allow our learners to develop woodworking skills in a safe, supportive environment, and to gain key employability skills that will help them to secure external work placements, employment or volunteering opportunities.

Our learners take part in different enterprise projects, throughout the year, creating a range of wonderful products to sell via our social media channels and to the Oaks community.

As well as creating pieces from raw materials, our learners upcycle and restore old pieces of furniture to work responsibly and gain an understanding of environmental issues.



The ethos of the placement is, 'if something is broken, why throw it away? Why not try to fix it, or be creative and give it a new purpose?'

All money raised is reinvested to expand the carpentry work placement even further; buying new tools, equipment and other old pieces of furniture to upcycle.