

WorkStart



For young people aged over 16 looking to gain skills for employment



What is WorkStart?

Build skills

Gain experience

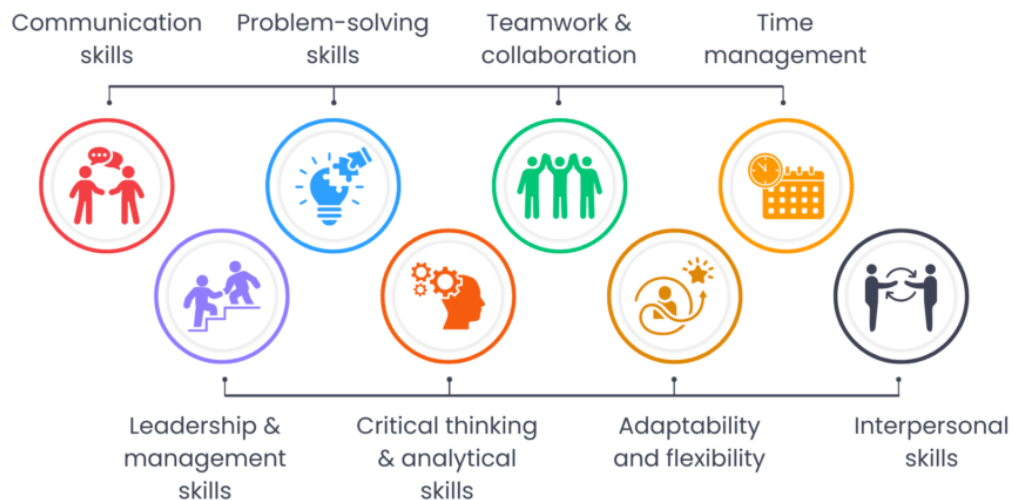
Achieve your goals

WorkStart helps you develop the confidence, qualifications and workplace skills needed to move into employment.



Gaining transferable skills

Transferable skills are abilities you can carry across jobs and industries, helping you adapt, collaborate, and succeed in new roles.



How will I be supported?

Our WorkStart programmes are delivered by a dedicated teaching team, along with Job Coaches who support you with work preparation and employability skills. Other specialist support will be provided as appropriate.

At WorkStart, our goal is to help you develop the skills you need for employment throughout. Our aim is to develop your transferable skills like teamwork, communication, and problem-solving.

You can build these skills through a range of experiences, such as group work, work placements, volunteering, communication groups and travel training. It's important to try new ideas and step out of your comfort zone with our support, as this helps you grow in confidence and develop your strengths.

What will I achieve?

You will have the opportunity to work towards:

- Maths and English Functional Skills, Entry Level 1 to Level 2
- Personal development or employability qualifications
- Other work-specific qualifications

You don't need any previous qualifications to apply for a course with us.

How do I find out more?

If you are interested in any of our WorkStart programmes we would like to meet you for an assessment before you join us at College. We want to make sure this is the right programme for you and talk about how we can focus your learning around your chosen area of interest.

Come to an open event or contact the Assessments and Placements Team:

Tel: **0345 402 0453**

Email: **enquiries@orchardhill.ac.uk**



Adam

“On the Pathways programme, we have targets for what we can achieve and things we could get better at. Working at The Rose Theatre has been the greatest thing I have done this year.”

Who is the programme for?

Learners over the age of 16 years old who would like to explore work opportunities and gain skills for employment in your local area.

The programme runs for up to four days per week 9.30am to 3.30pm. The programme is made up of time in College and time in work placements.

What at the entry requirements?

Applicants with an active EHCP will need to advise their local authority, who will discuss the application with the learner placement manager at the College.

Those without an EHCP, will need to be aged from 19+ years of age and will need to be in receipt of benefits to qualify for funding.

About the programme

You will learn skills to start you on your pathway to work and develop your independent living skills, supporting you to gain more confidence in your work skills. Pathway to Employment is a great programme to introduce you to work and support you to sustain employment.



We have had work placements in many areas including:

- Animal care and farming
- Building maintenance
- Catering and hospitality
- Childcare and schools
- Hairdressing and barbering
- Retail/hospitality

You will also have opportunities to:

- Work with new people
- Take part in work placements
- Develop your practical and social skills in work and local community environments
- Explore ways to make new friends in a safe environment
- Develop your digital skills for life and work
- Get support from a dedicated Job Coach



Stephen

“I like the fact that I am always learning things on the Pathway course and I can't wait to see how this improves my future.”

What skills will I develop?

Throughout the programme we will support you embedding functional maths and English. We will help you to develop your core skills in:

- Working with new people
- Communication
- Problem solving
- Thinking skills
- Digital skills
- Independence and mobility
- Work skills
- Managing change
- Resilience

Outcome

- Employment
- Supported Internship
- Apprenticeship
- FE Vocational course



Daisie

“The best thing about the course is the work experience because it gives you different experiences and helps me feel more confident.”



Kenzie

“I enjoy coming to the school and helping set up for PE lessons each week. I would like to coach football in the future.”



About the programme

This practical programme has been designed to prepare you for the next exciting steps in your life. You will learn skills to start you on your pathway to work.

This programme runs five days a week from 9am to 3.30pm. The majority of time will be spent in the workplace.

We will also prepare you for work, supporting you with:

- CV writing
- Applying for a job
- Interview skills
- Building confidence and self esteem
- Communicating in a work situation
- Working as a group
- Budgeting
- Gaining qualifications

Who is the programme for?

Young people aged between 17 and 24 years old who would like to access further training and employment.

What are the entry requirement?

Applicants with an active EHCP will need to advise their local authority they are interested in the course.

Applicants without an EHCP, will need to be aged from 19+ years of age and be in receipt of benefits to qualify for funding*

Outcome

Opportunities for employment throughout and accreditation. Where applicable, learners will achieve functional skills qualifications in English and maths.

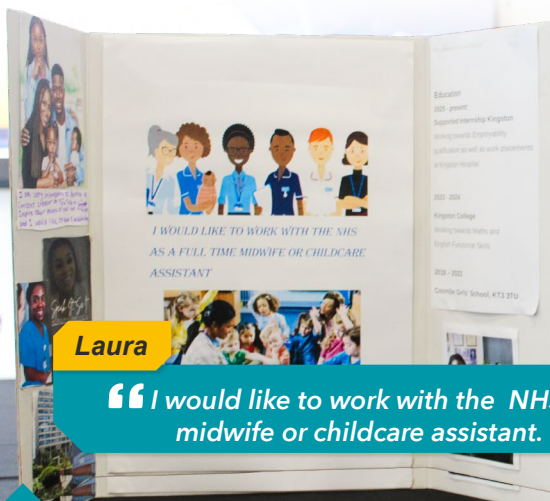
To find out more

You can find out more about this programme in our Supported Internship booklet.



*Applies to selected Supported Internships

We offer DFN Project Search Supported Internships with these partners:



Laura

“I would like to work with the NHS as a midwife or childcare assistant.”



What our WorkStart learners say about the programme



Daisie

“At Lush I work as a sales assistant. I am expected to work as part of a team, to follow instructions and to be professional with customers.”



Gabriel

“My favourite part of work experience is moving food out of the fridge and putting it in the van. It is good because it is helping local charities.”



Luke

“I enjoy it because my confidence is always high up in the clouds. Every time I leave I have a smile on my face.”



Freya

“I have learnt how to be independent by doing work with little support. At London South Bank University I talked about communication and how to use an AAC device.”



Yashar

“My favourite part at WorkStart is to have work experience at Hillingdon ShopMobility where I work as an Assistant Receptionist. It changed my life.”



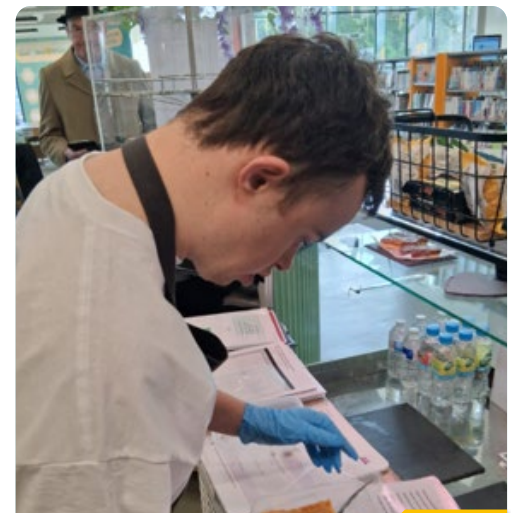
Ruben

“Working at a pub means there are lots of conversations with people. It involves taking people's orders and bringing their food to the table.”



Ellen

“As part of my course I developed my own enterprise business, creating and selling handmade jewellery. I was supported by my job coach throughout.”



Adam

“I enjoy working at the cafe in the Sutton Life Centre and giving people the food and drink they like.”

Life after WorkStart



Throughout her Supported Internship programme at The Hillingdon Hospitals, Macey worked hard to develop her skills in real healthcare settings. She successfully completed her Care Certificate and qualified as a Healthcare Assistant.

This has enabled her to work as a Bank Healthcare Assistant for the NHS.

Macey

“My career goal is to become a paramedic and this internship has helped me take the first steps towards that.”

Skylar completed the WorkStart course in Sutton and joined the Supported Internship programme at Orchard Hill College Academy Trust.

She has worked with the Facilities, Assessments & Placements and Marketing teams and is applying to work at the Trust.

Skylar

“I spoke about my experiences at DPD day in front of more than 300 people to show staff the positive impact they have on learners like me.”



After completing the WorkStart course, Faysal progressed onto the DFN Project SEARCH Supported Internship at Hillingdon Council.

Faysal has completed rotations in administration and with the Council's IT team, and he hopes to build his career in IT.

Faysal

“I learnt new skills, built confidence and improved my communication and social skills.”

How to Apply

We recommend you attend a WorkStart Information Event prior to completing an application form. We hold various events either online or in person throughout the year.

Please check our website for upcoming dates.



1. Join us at one of our open events



Visit an open event
workstart.me.uk/open-events/



2. Complete an Expression of Interest

If you are applying for a full-time course and you have an EHCP you will need to discuss your application with your Local Authority.



Complete an Expression of Interest form
orchardhill.ac.uk/admissions/how-to-apply/



3. An assessment may be held so we can identify the best programme for you

To find out more or to apply, contact:

🌐 www.workstart.me.uk/admissions

📞 0345 402 0453 option 2

✉ assessments&placements@orchardhill.ac.uk



Scan the
QR code
to apply



Could you be one of our next WorkStart Learners?



You

The course will help you gain:

- ✓ Work experience
- ✓ Employability skills
- ✓ Relevant qualifications
- ✓ Other work-specific qualifications
- ✓ A marketable CV
- ✓ Skills to gain employment
- ✓ Support applying for work

To find out more or to apply, contact:

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