

# LDD Students Work and Enterprise News

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## Special points of interest:

- Vanilla Market
- SENSE sells
- Internship Programme
- Outdoor activities
- EBAY

## Working together for good practice

Seven institutions across the eastern region joined together in a cluster to encourage good practice and collaboration on enterprise and work opportunities for young LDD students.

The cluster has met on several occasions share ideas around what each provider is doing to encourage accessibility for students with LDD to work.

Each provider in the cluster has piloted new ideas and ways of engaging LDD students in entrepreneurial ventures or work placement opportunities.

Here is some of the work they have done.

### City College Norwich

From Bloom Tubes, and Garden projects to the Mint employment agency, its all happening at City College Norwich for LDD and SEN students. Ofsted think so too and graded this provision as outstanding.

### SENSE

SENSE provides learners with a range of supported workplace and learning opportunities.

The facilities offer a specifically

designed multi-sensory environment that meets the particular needs of learners and enhances the learning experience.

The specialist and experienced education team are committed to offering exceptional standards of education and care.

All learners are supported to use whichever communication methods are appropriate for them, and detailed individual plans are put together to support each learner's future development. "Sense College aims to inspire an individual's capacity to learn and develop their potential." Pat Dyson, Principal, Sense College

### Bedford College

The college has a mini enterprise run by students which sells arts, crafts and baked goods made by the students, both internally and externally within the local community. During this academic year the students have launched a new Coffee shop the Vanilla Pod.

### East Norfolk Sixth Form College (ENSFC)

ENSFC worked alongside the James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to pilot an internship programme for students with SEN and LDD.

### James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (JPUH)

JPUH piloted a work experience programme for students with LDD to enable accessibility to meaningful work experience and to support future interests in Healthcare careers.

### Huntingdonshire Regional College

Mobile shop, work experience, courses in healthy living, money, cooking skills

### Colchester Institute

2012-13 has proved a very productive year and there has been much to celebrate. We have welcomed four new job coaches to the team which has enabled an increased number of learners to participate in supported work experience, and there has also been significant development of resources at Braintree and Clacton.

The College at Braintree now boasts an independent living facility which will enable learners to develop skills in a 'real life' environment.

## Internship Student meets the Princess Royal

An internship student from East Norfolk Sixth form college was invited to meet HRH Princess Anne at the opening ceremony of the new Poulson and Gentry buildings at the college. Kyle Moulding, Hospital Internship Pilot Programme (HIPP) student was given the opportunity to meet the princess

following his success during the programme. Kyle has undertaken three six week placements in different areas of the James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, and is hoping to go on to do an Apprenticeship.



## Supported Work is the Spice of Life at Sense

Steven is blind and profoundly deaf and uses digital hearing aids. His preferred method of communication is for a combination of speech and finger spelling.

After making a number of enquiries for possible work placements, a local health food shop offered a placement, initially for half an hour. The shop has lots of spices and herbs, which smell fantastic. Steven was selected as someone who would possibly benefit from the sensory aspect of this placement.

The time Steven spends at the shop quickly increased to a full afternoon. He readily fell into the routine of the jobs given to him from weighing and bagging up dry goods to

re-stocking shelves with assistance from his 1:1 work coach. Steven also appears to enjoy the social aspect of his work which he demonstrates by lots of smiles throughout the afternoon.

He particularly enjoys the tea break where he is given a choice of tray bake or cake to go with his cup of tea.

This work placement has given Steven a safe and appropriate opportunity to experience the world of work. The experience is positive for both the learner, who enjoyed the social aspect of the placement and for the College, which has a new partner. The health food shop also now has a new pair of hands they can rely on!



*"Since volunteering in the shop once a week Steven has grown in independence and confidence, enjoying getting out and about in the local community. He is very sociable and has developed an excellent rapport with the staff team, who really appreciate Steven's contribution."* Dennis Mitchell—Acting Education Service Manager.



## Shop till you drop at Huntingdonshire Regional College



At Huntingdonshire regional college our enterprise project has been amazingly fun and we have created lots of things we may not have done. The project has given us opportunities to be creative and share experiences with each other. We are very proud of the items we are going to sell in our new shop.

## Bedford College-our Vanilla Market



Vanilla Market  
Student Crafts

The students at Bedford College run a number of mini enterprises under the Vanilla Market brand. The students make and sell a range of arts, crafts and baked goods both internally and externally throughout the year. The

enterprise has over the last three years donated over £500 per year to local charities of the students choice.

In 2012-13 the area opened the Vanilla Pod coffee shop where students prepare and serve drinks and home-made bakes to college staff and students.

New for 2013-14 is the Vanilla Dress Agency!

Alongside the enterprise the college provides work placement opportunities and supported 73 students in 2012-13 in placements ranging from Bedford Rowing Club to Waitrose.

## Rachel's 'Work Plus' journey

My name is Rachel and I'm currently on the Work Plus course. Since being at college I have got a paid job at Brentano's. I help with deliveries, marking off the stock and putting it out on the shop floor.

Since being at college and work my confidence has improved and I can talk to lots of different people. At the moment I'm currently being trained to use the fitting machine to measure feet. Next month I'll have my proper training where I'll be shown how to measure feet by using the hand held device. I'm feeling a bit nervous about it but I really

want to push myself to it because it's a good skill to have. I know if I'm worrying about it, I can talk to my Job Coach or members of staff.

When I started the course I hoped to improve my maths and English skills and have done so well with them that I am being entered for my E3 level maths and English exams.

During the course I felt I have grown up a lot and have been helped to talk to people I trust if something is bothering me. My tutor has helped me build up my self confidence. I've really enjoyed my time on the course and have learnt a lot.



## Are you feeling HIPP?



A new pilot scheme (Hospital Internship Pilot Programme—HIPP) was launched in October 2012 at James Paget University Hospital,

to provide meaningful work experience to students with learning difficulties and disabilities who aspire to work in the NHS in the future.

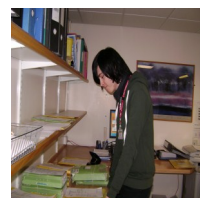
Shaun and Kyle, are two students from East Norfolk Sixth Form College who are participating in the HIPP.

The HIPP is a great opportunity for these two young people, who would not usually have the confidence to ask for work experi-

ence in a large organisation.

Shaun and Kyle have learning disabilities on the autistic spectrum, a developmental disorder that makes social communication and empathy difficult and so the idea of working alongside people who they do not know, whose routines they have to learn, was very daunting.

Whilst on the HIPP the students were placed in various departments across the hospital including Breast Imaging, Human Resources, X-ray, Ward 9 and the Apprenticeship Team. The aim was for the students to learn a variety of skills including administration, customer service and to develop an awareness of infection control.



Whilst on the programme the students undertake a BTECH in Work Skills, giving them a qualification as well as lots of practical work experience.

Following on from the programme, Kyle has gained successful employment as an Apprentice in a care home and Shaun is pursuing apprenticeship opportunities. This is a real result and we wish Shaun and Kyle the best of luck for the future.

**So it is a HIPP HIPP Hooray for Shaun and Kyle!**

## Bloom Tubes and Green Fingers are MINT



Bloom Tube City College Norwich

Horticulture students from City College Norwich are once again playing their part to brighten up Norwich

this year, by growing and planting over 60,000 plants for floral displays across the city. The students are members of Norwich in Bloom's team who

help design and maintain flowerbeds at some of the city's biggest landmarks, including the flowerbed at Norwich Cathedral's Wellington Statue. Aiden Kemp, 18, from Norwich said, "I think this has helped me get the skills I will need when I go out to work. I have enjoyed meeting the other people on my course and we have a laugh. I enjoyed the work we did at Castle Bridge the most because it looked very nice."



The Mint agency, has gone from strength to strength, with an achievement of a small target in the 1st year, to the end of the 2nd year

with a 100 members in sustained employment. The secret is in excellent customer services, ensuring all needs are considered and sustained. For more information, visit the website [www.mintnorwich.co.uk](http://www.mintnorwich.co.uk)



# Enterprise

As part of the LSIS project a group of colleges and a hospital came together to share good practice within employment and enterprise, through this journey it was identified that the majority of partners shared a common theme of enterprise focussed upon handmade arts and crafts produced by the student body. The partners identified a range of joint opportunities for exploration but agree upon developing their collaboration through drawing together their arts and crafts into an online selling opportunity using etsy and Ebay. The venture aims to be part of the legacy of the project and maintain the partnership, whilst providing students with real selling experiences within an international market place, alongside supporting the development of a range of wider skills across all levels.

The legacy continues to be developed and is expected to launch at the beginning of the new academic year, so watch this space!!!...

'Our mission is to work together to provide accessible work opportunities and entrepreneurial development for students with Learning Difficulties, Disabilities and Special Educational Needs'

<http://eastofenglandliddemploymententerprise.wordpress.com/>

## EBay and Etsy– come find us online

Our LDD students at CCN make hand-made cards with a varies different messages for special friends and families selling at £1.50. Email us if you would like a specific message.



We also have felt buddies for sale at £1.50 also. They have either magnet or Velcro backs, all nicely packaged to make a great gift for anyone. We offer deals as well, so if you buy two items you get the third free. How good is that?! All proceeds go to the student funds such as residential programmes.

