



The small, friendly school & college

Prospectus
2022/23



Key facts



Established

2004



Ofsted rating

Good

13+

Learners' age range

13-24



Safeguarding

100%
of learners
feel safe

About Buzz

Buzz, the small friendly school and college, specialises in preparing young people for adult life.

We're in our 17th year now, and our Mission - **Be All You Can!** - underpins all our work. We're firmly rooted in our community and committed to equipping young people with the skills, qualifications, and experience they need to enjoy a full adult life, contributing successfully to the local economy.

Buzz Learning Independent Specialist School

Buzz's school is registered with the Department for Education, registration number 929/6004 and we welcomed our first learners in September 2018. Our school learners are aged 13 to 16 and have a range of special educational needs and/ or disabilities. (See page 4)

Buzz Learning College: Post-16 programmes for young people with special educational needs and/ or disabilities (SEND)

Buzz offers 4 Post-16 programmes for young people with SEND, and these are:

- **Transition to Adulthood:** Moving on from school (See page 6)
- **Vocational:** developing occupational skills to move into employment (See page 8)
- **Supported internships:** developing practical vocational and employability skills in the workplace (see page 10)
- **Bespoke** programmes (see page 12)

Courses for employers and individuals

The following qualifications are offered to employers and individuals

- Level 3 Award in Understanding the Principles and Practices of Assessment
- Level 3 Award in Assessing Vocationally Related Achievement
- Level 3 Award in Assessing Competence in the Work Environment
- Level 4 Award in Internal Quality Assurance of Assessment Processes and Practices.

See page 13 for further information.



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Teachers take account of learners' starting points very effectively when planning learning. They use information about learners' prior skills and knowledge well when setting academic and personal targets. Staff regularly review learners' progress towards their targets and make appropriate adjustments throughout the year to ensure that targets become progressively more challenging. This helps learners to make good progress towards achieving their aspirations

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- Ofsted



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Managers and staff are highly committed and strive to meet the needs of both learners and the local community.

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- Ofsted





Buzz Learning Independent Specialist School

Buzz's school is registered with the Department for Education, registration number 929/6004 and we welcomed our first learners in September 2018. Ofsted judged the school "Good" at the most recent inspection in 2020.

The school's aim

The school's aim is to meet the needs of each of our learners to prepare them for adult life. We do this through the provision of a broad and balanced learning experience which promotes their educational, spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development.

Learner cohort

School learners are aged between 13* and 16 years old, and the school is funded to educate up to 25 learners, including those who have:

- autism spectrum disorder (ASD)
- cognitive and learning needs
- specific learning difficulties (SpLD)
- moderate learning difficulties (MLD)
- communication and interaction needs and
- speech, language and communication needs (SLCN).

Please note, we are not equipped to work with children who have severe social, emotional or mental health issues. This includes children with more difficult behaviours.

* Contact the school for information on younger age groups.

"Buzz Learning provides a personalised and nurturing alternative for pupils who have found mainstream education difficult... Although small, the school provides a broad curriculum. Teachers deliver lively lessons that re-engage the pupils... Overall, pupils are making good progress and are achieving accreditations on the courses they follow... Pupils behave well and are respectful of the caring staff. Relationships are good. Pupils feel safe."

- Ofsted

25 learner places

Curriculum

The school does not follow the national curriculum, choosing instead to give our teachers the level of autonomy needed to do their jobs well and within guidelines from the Department for Education and Independent School Standards.

The curriculum is reviewed frequently, and covers these areas:



Linguistics: communication skills and command of language through listening, speaking, reading and writing. Learners work towards qualifications in, for example, Functional English Skills



Mathematics: making calculations, understanding and appreciating relationships and patterns in number and space and developing capacity to think logically and express clearly. Learners work towards qualifications in, for example, Functional Mathematics Skills



Scientific: knowledge and understanding of nature, materials and forces and skills associated with science as a process of enquiry



Technological: the use of ICT, developing, planning and communicating ideas, working with tools, equipment, materials and components to produce good quality products, and evaluating processes and products. Learners work towards qualifications in, for example, Functional ICT Skills



Human and social: history and geography, people and their environment and how human action - now and in the past - has influenced events and conditions



Physical: development of physical control and co-ordination, tactical skills and imaginative responses. Learners acquire knowledge and understanding of the basic principles of fitness and health, take part in P.E. activities and evaluate and improve their performance



Aesthetic and creative: the processes of making, composing and inventing. Learners take part in creative activities, including art, music, dance and drama



The Spiritual, moral, social, and cultural development of learners: is extremely important within the school and this is delivered through Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and includes sexual and relationship education. The school actively promotes the Fundamental British Values and ensures a political balance in teaching and other activities. We aim to ensure that learners know the difference between right and wrong, respect the civil and criminal law of England, and understand the consequences of their own and others' actions.

Planning for the future

All school learners receive careers education, information, advice and guidance throughout their time at school to ensure that they are well-informed and well-prepared for their next steps, whether that be moving onto a programme within Buzz's College or elsewhere.

Joining the school

All referrals to the school must come through Local Authorities' SEN Teams, but parents/ guardians are welcome to visit.

Contact Ms Therese Timlin or Ms Gemma McCutcheon if you would like to arrange a visit or for further information.

T: 01670 852244 | E: info@buzzlearning.co.uk



Buzz Learning College

Transition to Adulthood: Moving on from school

About the programme

The Transition programme is ideal for anyone making the move from school, or another setting, into adulthood. It offers a highly supportive environment in which each learner may develop those personal and social skills which will enable them to thrive.

Transitioning to adulthood

Learners' programmes are made up of a range of Units relevant to their development needs. Units include: Personal Safety, Personal Behaviour for Success, Building Confidence and Self Esteem, Mindfulness, Emotional Intelligence, Decision-Making, Group and Teamwork Communication Skills, Skills for Employability and more. Learners' progress and achievement is accredited through the **NOCN Preparing for Further Learning or Employment qualification**.

Learners also develop practical life skills to develop their independence. Skill areas include keeping a tidy home and garden, decorating, sewing repairs, budgeting, shopping and independent travel training.

Maths & English

Learners continue to develop practical maths and English skills, unless they have previously achieved a GCSE 4 or above in these subjects. Those studying maths and English at Buzz have their learning accredited through **Functional English Skills, Functional Mathematics Skills** or other qualifications where appropriate.



"I feel like I'm listened to and the classes are small. You can actually tell staff how you feel."

"The teachers will always try and help and keep you safe. Your opinions get noticed."

"I get to make friends."

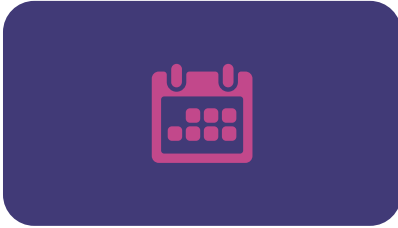
"Nobody judges people for who they are."

"It's not loud or crowded and I find that easier."



Planning for the future

All learners have the opportunity to take part in supported work experience placements and this, along with the provision of careers education, information, advice and guidance, ensures that they are well-informed and well-prepared for their next steps.



Start dates and programme length

The Transition programme starts each September and runs for one academic year, though later intakes can be considered too.



Eligibility

Learners' ages range from 16 to 24, with the majority being under 19 years old. All learners on Transitions have support needs, some more severe than others, and most have Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

Please note, young people wishing to join Transitions and who will reach their 19th birthday on or before 31st August of that academic year must have an EHCP.



Bursary and free meals

Eligible learners will receive free meals and support towards costs associated with their learning.



Joining the Transition programme

Contact Jan or Therese at Buzz for more information or to arrange a visit.

T: 01670 852244 | E: info@buzzlearning.co.uk



The recruitment process

For more information see page 14



Buzz Learning College

Vocational: Developing occupational skills to move into employment

About the programme

The Vocational programme is an ideal progression for learners moving on from Buzz's Transition programme, or from other settings, who have an interest in **Hospitality & Catering** or **Adult Care**. **Other vocational areas** may be accommodated; please contact us for more information.

Vocational Skills and Training

Learners gain practical experience of hospitality and catering and have their learning accredited through the **Award or Certificate in Introduction to the Hospitality Industry**.

Units include:

- Basic Food Preparation and Cooking
- Using Kitchen Equipment
- Introduction to the Hospitality Industry
- Preparing and Serving Drinks
- Front Office Operations
- Customer Service in the Hospitality Industry
- Food Service

Learners also gain a certificate in **Food Safety** and are able to practise their vocational skills in **Buzz's on-site canteen** and, later, within other **employers' premises**.



Maths & English

Learners continue to develop practical maths and English skills, unless they have previously achieved a GCSE 4 or above in these subjects. Those studying maths and English at Buzz have their learning accredited through **Functional English Skills**, **Functional Mathematics Skills** or other qualifications where appropriate.

"The Vocational programme develops young peoples' vocational and employability skills. It's suitable for those with autism, mild to more severe learning difficulties, sensory impairments and physical disabilities, who have a real interest in learning vocational skills – generally linked to Hospitality and Catering. The programme provides a stepping stone to greater employability and independence as a successful adult."



Planning for the future

All learners have the opportunity to take part in supported work experience placements and this, along with the provision of careers education, information, advice and guidance, ensures that they are well-informed and well-prepared for their next steps.



Start dates and programme length

The Vocational programme starts each September and runs for one academic year, though later intakes can be considered too.



Eligibility

Buzz's main vocational areas are **Hospitality & Catering** and **Adult Care**. There are a wealth of career opportunities within these sectors:

- **Catering career opportunities** include preparing and cooking food in a bakery, café, care home, school, delicatessen or restaurant, dealing with stock and cleaning.
- **Hospitality career opportunities** include dealing with customers, e.g., as a waiter in a café or serving in a fast food van, working on reception in a hotel or office.
- **Adult care opportunities** include caring for adults and cleaning in care homes or for individuals.

To join the programme, learners need to have a keen interest in the vocational area and be committed to developing their skills.

Learners' ages range from 16 to 24, with the majority being under 19 years old. All learners on Vocational programme have support needs, some more severe than others, and most have Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

Please note, young people wishing to join the Vocational programme and who will reach their 19th birthday on or before 31st August of that academic year must have an EHCP.



Bursary and free meals

Eligible learners will receive free meals and support towards costs associated with their learning.



Joining the Vocational programme

Contact Jan or Therese at Buzz for more information or to arrange a visit.

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The recruitment process

For more information see page 14



Buzz Learning College

Supported internships: developing practical vocational and employability skills in the workplace

About the programme

This programme is for young people with SEND who are keen to be in employment. The programme prepares participants for work by:

- supporting them to develop the skills valued by employers
- enabling them to demonstrate their value in the workplace and
- enabling them to achieve relevant qualifications to enhance their career opportunities

Preparing for the internship

‘Internship’ is another name for ‘work experience placement’, and participants on the Supported Internship programme are called ‘interns’.

Interns join the Supported Internship programme once Buzz has helped them to secure an internship. This involves Buzz’s staff meeting with the young person to investigate career aims, assessing how realistic and achievable they are and providing careers advice where needed. Staff will search for suitable internships with employers, match the intern to them and support the intern at interview with the employer.

The internship

Once they start their internship, interns spend the majority of their week at the employers’ premises supported by a Job Coach from Buzz. The Job Coach:

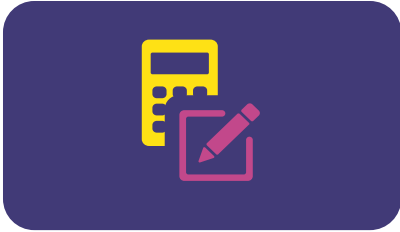
- ensures that the intern knows how to get to and from the employer’s premises. This includes travelling with the intern if required
- ensures that the intern settles into their new internship well and is fully briefed on what they need to know
- agrees employment-related targets for the intern between the intern and the employer. These are reviewed by the Job Coach throughout the programme
- supports the intern to complete all required tasks on their internship, supporting them to build up their confidence and independence.

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**“Careers education,
advice and guidance
are good. Most learners
have very clear plans
for their next steps and
know what they need to
do to reach their intended
destinations.”**

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- Ofsted



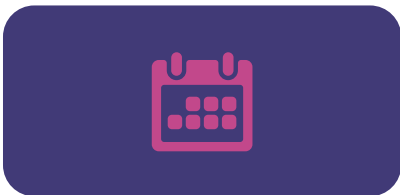
Numeracy and literacy skills

Interns continue to develop practical numeracy and literacy skills, unless they have previously achieved a GCSE 4 or above in these subjects. Those studying numeracy and literacy skills at Buzz have their learning accredited through **Functional English Skills, Functional Mathematics Skills** or other qualifications where appropriate.



Planning for the future

All interns receive careers education, information, advice and guidance throughout their programme to ensure that they are well-informed and well-prepared for their next steps. Next steps include paid employment, apprenticeships and voluntary work.



Start dates and programme length

The start date of the Supported Internships programme depends upon when an internship is secured, i.e., those interns who have secured an internship over the summer start in September, while others will start later in the year. Supported internships normally last up to 1 year.



Eligibility

To join the programme, participants need to have a keen interest in becoming employed, ideas about their potential career interests and, ideally, some work experience. Once on the programme, interns must do their best to make their internship a success and demonstrate their skills to the employer and their colleagues. This means completing tasks to the best of their ability and with enthusiasm within the ethos of the workplace.

Interns' ages range from 16 to 24, with the majority being under 19 years old. All interns on Supported Internship programme have support needs, some more severe than others, and most have Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

Please note, young people wishing to join the Supported Internship programme and who will reach their 19th birthday on or before 31st August of that academic year must have an EHCP.



Bursary and free meals

Eligible learners will receive free meals and support towards costs associated with their learning.



Joining the supported internship programme

Contact Jan or Therese at Buzz for more information or to arrange a visit.

T: 01670 852244 | E: info@buzzlearning.co.uk



The recruitment process

For more information see page 14



Buzz Learning College

Bespoke programmes

About the programme

Buzz is able to design tailor-made programmes for young people with SEND where it's apparent that our other college programmes are not a good fit. These programmes include elements relevant to the individual, including development of personal and social skills, numeracy and literacy and planning for the future.

Start dates and programme length

Programmes start each September and run for one academic year, though later intakes can be considered too.

Eligibility

Learners' ages range from 16 to 24, with the majority being under 19 years old. All learners on Bespoke have support needs, some more severe than others, and most have Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

Please note, young people wishing to join Bespoke and who will reach their 19th birthday on or before 31st August of that academic year must have an EHCP.

Bursary and free meals

Eligible learners will receive free meals and support towards costs associated with their learning.

Joining the bespoke programme

Contact Jan or Therese at Buzz for more information or to arrange a visit.

T: 01670 852244 | E: info@buzzlearning.co.uk



"Thank you for all the help and time you have spent setting the trial up for my son - I really appreciate it - and thanks to your staff for helping him in every way they could last week."



Tailor-made programmes for young people to ensure a good fit

Buzz Learning Courses for employers and individuals

Level 3 Award in Understanding the Principles and Practices of Assessment

Achievement of this qualification will confirm occupational competence for those Assessors delivering non-NVQs or non-competence-based vocational qualifications within the QCF.

- Aimed at: Those who wish to gain an understanding of the principles and practice of assessment without any need to practice as Assessors.
- Delivery: 3 classroom-based sessions, plus tutorials and online, email or telephone support.

Level 3 Award in Assessing Vocationally Related Achievement (QCF)

Achievement of this qualification will confirm occupational competence for those Assessors delivering NVQs or other QCF qualifications.

- Aimed at: Those who wish to become qualified Assessors in classroom situations.
- Delivery: 3 classroom-based sessions, plus tutorials and online, email or telephone support.

Course price: please contact Buzz or visit www.buzzlearning.co.uk

Level 3 Award in Assessing Competence in the Work Environment (QCF)

Achievement of this qualification will confirm occupational competence for those Assessors delivering NVQs or other QCF qualifications.

- Aimed at: Those who wish to become qualified Assessors in the work environment.
- Delivery: 3 classroom-based sessions, plus tutorials and online, email or telephone support.

Level 4 Award in Internal Quality Assurance of Assessment Processes and Practice (QCF)

This qualification is intended for those who maintain the quality of assessment from within an organisation or assessment centre.

- Aimed at: Those who wish to become qualified IQAs.
- Delivery: 4 classroom-based sessions, plus workplace observation, tutorial and email/ telephone support.



“I really enjoyed the practical nature of the course, and who knew there were so many assessment techniques!”

“The course was really useful in helping me to improve standardisation across my organisation”



Buzz Learning College recruitment process

This involves:

- An initial visit to look round; this gives the young person and their parents/ guardians the chance to find out more about the programme, and it enables our staff to learn more about the young person too.
- If the decision is to proceed, we ask the young person or their parent/ guardian to complete a simple application form.
- Buzz's staff will communicate with the Local Authority about the young person's application and complete a funding request if required, referring to the young person's EHCP if they have one, and any relevant information provided from their current/ last school or other setting.
- The funding application will be considered by a Panel at the Local Authority and, if agreed, the applicant will be given a start date.
- Assessments with the young person will begin before or during the summer break. This process gives young people the opportunity to meet their peers and Buzz's staff, and it enables Buzz to develop a more informed picture of each young person's support needs.
- A trial period of 4 weeks begins in September during which assessments continue. This is an opportunity for the young person and their parents/ guardians to decide if Buzz is the best place for them, and it gives staff at Buzz time to assess whether the young person is on the best programme for them. It's rare that the trial period ends with young people actually leaving Buzz, but this is the right decision for some on occasion.



"I love coming to Buzz because everyone is so friendly and easy to get along with and staff are so supportive. I've made so many friends here and I never thought that would be possible until coming to Buzz."



Matching young people to the best programme for them



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

School learners and learners on the Transition, Vocational and Bespoke programmes have the opportunity to achieve the DofE Bronze Award where appropriate. The Award is nationally-recognised and it's an excellent way for young people to improve and demonstrate confidence, resilience, team-working and other vital life skills.

The Award involves demonstrating improvement over a period of time in the areas below.

- Physical, e.g., football, dance, catching a ball, walking/ wheeling distances
- Skills, e.g., cooking, first aid, singing, drawing, handwriting
- Volunteering, e.g., fundraising, working in a charity shop, helping people in need, helping children
- Expedition, e.g., completing some travel and spending a night away from home. Please note, this aspect of the Award is not compulsory.

Residential Courses

School learners and learners on the Transition, Vocational and Bespoke programmes have the opportunity to take part in residential trips where appropriate, often with the Cirdan Trust onboard one of their tall ships in the North Sea. These trips involve activities which encourage young people to stretch and challenge themselves. Completing these activities outside of their comfort zone and in a very supportive environment, boosts self-belief and self-esteem dramatically.



“I loved being on the ship. I was scared about being on the sea but we saw some dolphins and it was great. I even climbed up the mast.”





Contact us

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College: Jan Lowery & Therese Timlin

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🔍 www.buzzlearning.co.uk

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our social media

📘 facebook.com/buzz.learning

🐦 @LtdBuzz

Visit us

Get in touch if you'd like to pop in to see us. All are welcome.



"We are very happy with C's progress at Buzz and absolutely delighted that he is so happy at school and wants to attend. Previously he was struggling and not getting the support he needed. This is not said as a criticism, however it is clear that he is very well supported at Buzz... Buzz is clearly well run and the staff are committed to the children and young adults."



"The level of communication with staff is excellent... We would like to praise the staff on the medical care they provide for J's Type 1 diabetes. It's not an easy task to have to deal with."



"I like Buzz because they make lessons fun and they take the No Bullying policy seriously."

