



 Rotherham Opportunities College
 @RotherhamOpp
www.theroc.co.uk
 Part of the Newman School Family

Rotherham Opportunities College Ltd
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Rotherham
Metropolitan
Borough Council 

next
DISTRIBUTION



Project SEARCH at The ROC

Our College aims to help young people with SEND find their place in the community, be as independent as possible, find employment and lead healthy lives.

A Brief History

Project SEARCH started in 1996 in Cincinnati, USA at a Children's Hospital. The aim of Project SEARCH is to meet the employment requirements for people with learning needs. They partnered with schools and colleges and have had a great success in creating employment pathways.

Key Concepts

- Project SEARCH is a transition to work programme for students with learning disabilities and autism spectrum conditions, aimed at those motivated to achieve competitive employment.
- The programme is evidence based and works at scale and includes total workplace immersion at its very best, facilitating a seamless combination of classroom instruction, career exploration, and hands-on skills training in the workplace

Project SEARCH – UK

There are over 11.6 million disabled people in the UK alone, which is a fifth of the UK population. Working age adults account for around half of this figure, but sadly a significant portion of this population are unemployed. According to the latest data from the Office for National Statistics, only 7% of people with a learning disability are currently in paid employment, despite the UK's unemployment rate being less than 8%.





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How it Works

- One year supported internship training programme with a job coach/tutor
- Around 8 to 12 college students in each cohort from a variety of learning needs
- Rotate through three different areas and skills, building opportunities with continual feedback
- Classroom sessions to improve Maths & English
- When successful, the training offers an excellent chance of paid employment

Eligibility Guidelines

- 18 to 25 year olds with an EHCP
- Local authority resident
- Have the ability to take directions
- The willingness to use public transport & pass necessary employment checks
- Desire to Work

Our First Project SEARCH

NEXT Distribution is one of the most advanced logistics operations in Europe. It employs over 8000 people at 9 warehouses in Yorkshire, 6 regional service centres, and 4 international sites. Students from Rotherham Opportunities College started the one-year internship project in 2019. The students learnt new employment skills and also improved their educational experience, i.e. literacy and numeracy. This is what they had to say while working at NEXT:

“So far I’ve enjoyed working here. Learnt new things.”

A - Nov 2019

“I would like to earn money so that I can support my parents.”

K - Nov 2019

“Am so very grateful for all your help and support and it's the best opportunity that could come my way. I highly recommend anyone doing these internships because there is always a opportunity that may come along to us.”

H - Oct' 2020

H was offered a job and is now working full time at NEXT as a Trainee Frame Fitter.





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Education and life skills at the college

Learning life skills at the college is very important.

Our interns had the opportunity to meet the Police as part of the course about the Emergency Services.



ROC, Project SEARCH interns completed an accredited First Aid course. The session involved the interns participating in the theory side as well as the practical side to the course. The practical demonstrations included carrying out CPR and practicing how to use the Defibrillator. By the end of the course, all interns stated that they felt confident carrying out First Aid when in the workplace and when out with the public if needed.





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Project SEARCH at The ROC

It is important to understand the local employment market and the business needs of the community.

The Rotherham employment market is expanding and there is a great opportunity awaiting you as part of our next Project SEARCH cohort.

Gulliver's Resort in Rotherham are a local employer who are part of Project SEARCH. They offer fantastic work opportunities for young people with learning disabilities and autism.

"Teachers are passionate and help you be the best you can be. I have never felt comfortable within a group before, but I do with this group of interns and staff."

E-Jan' 2021

"Although it can be hard work at times, it pays off at the end when you have transferrable skills that you can take with you into any job."

J-Jan' 2021

Are you ready to take part?

For more information and enrolment contact:

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