



**Bankside
College**

**High-quality further education
for autistic young people and
those with learning difficulties
and/or complex needs.**

We build incredible futures by
empowering autistic young
people to develop their
independence, self-esteem and
confidence through a relentless
focus on learning and caring.

banksidecollege.co.uk

Bankside College is part of

OptionsAutism

Welcome to Bankside College

Bankside College is a brand-new specialist provision offering high-quality further education for autistic young adults and those with learning difficulties and/or complex needs, who are aged 16–25.



At Bankside College we build incredible futures for our students by empowering them to develop their independence, confidence and self-esteem. Students will experience an engaging and wide variety of learning and social experiences that promote a love of learning, happiness and aspiration to fulfil their full potential. Our personalised curriculum consists of academic, vocational and life-skills learning and students follow their own bespoke curriculum pathway.

With small class sizes, students benefit from a holistic, person-centred approach and clinical support. All classes are delivered by specially trained teachers, vocational tutors and a team of experienced learning support mentors.

Our pathways include a core curriculum offer, vocational skills, independent living, social skills and communication. Students are also offered the opportunity to study from a range

of external BTEC and ASDAN qualifications at appropriate levels. We also offer work experience placements and a supported internship programme.

Staff at Bankside College are passionate about providing a full enrichment programme for all of our students. Students will have the opportunity to engage with a variety of trips and participate in their local community. We are also very proud to offer the Duke of Edinburgh as part of students' enrichment programme at Bankside College.

Every young adult who attends Bankside College will be supported by an experienced, specialised team striving to enable them to fulfil their potential and become happy, confident and independent members of society.

We look forward to meeting you.

Jon Bell
Principal



In the heart of Worcestershire with the beautiful Malvern Hills just on the doorstep.

A brand-new college

Bankside College is a brand-new facility with purpose-built vocational and learning environments. We're lucky to be based in a beautiful location in the heart of Worcestershire with the Malvern Hills just on the doorstep.

The college has been designed to include spaces where students can socialise and meet with their friends, as well as quieter areas for those who need more space and calmness.

We have purpose-built vocational areas, including sports and IT, as well as individualised learning kitchens and an independence flat, which helps students prepare for adult living.

We've worked hard to ensure that our college is a welcoming and safe place where all our students can flourish.

Facilities include:

Large coffee bar area and social space

Independent cooking kitchens

Independent living flat

Arts and crafts base

ICT general classrooms

Sensory and virtual reality resources

Horticulture gardens

Quiet zones

Outside space, including grounds and picnic area

Our approach

Our curriculum provides education and training to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and behaviours necessary for a successful and fulfilling adult life.

Our approach of combining education with specialist therapeutic support in a specialised modern college environment, means that students can improve their independence, confidence and, where appropriate, employability skills.

Students can choose a pathway of study which meets their particular needs. This may include supported and independent living, supported and voluntary work, and paid employment. They will also have the opportunity to improve their application of maths, English and digital literacy.

With a focus on the Preparation for Life Agenda, learners will develop essential life skills and knowledge of the world and the communities they live in. They'll be able to transfer these skills and knowledge to their home and/or workplace.

Students will also focus on their health and wellbeing, learning how to cope in various situations and lead a healthy lifestyle. This includes access to services such as doctors, health and social care professionals and community organisations.



Individual learning plans map out each learners' goals and aspirations. The majority also have Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs), outlining outcomes they will work towards in an educational and social context.

All learners will have an induction, regular update meetings, target setting and reviews. Each year, a full review will take place, focusing on the learner's aspirations, objectives, and positive progress. Each learner's programme is different, as is their progress and careful consideration is given to the planning of timetables, support, and attendance patterns.

Our curriculum is designed to challenge, be age-appropriate and focus on learners achieving their goals.



Our pathways

All our programmes have an element of literacy and numeracy to help our learners progress and develop communication skills. We also focus on using money, life skills and using technology including online safety.

Core Curriculum – Vocational Study

Learners at all levels benefit from vocational education courses that build on their skills, interests, and aspirations, including:

- Horticulture
- Practical and art skills
- Enterprise to Vocational
- Catering
- IT
- Sport and fitness
- Practical Skills
- Personal Progress (ASDAN Award)
- Communication

Learners can complete certification in these areas or work towards employability qualifications, and also get the opportunity to participate in entrepreneurial skills, social enterprise and work experience.

Academic study

Learners who are ready to study academic qualifications are fully supported by our experienced teachers and vocational tutors. We currently offer students optional pathways to study a range of ASDAN qualifications and BTECs in Land Studies and Design Skills at appropriate levels. Students' work is assessed and quality is assured through internal and external verification.

Independent Living

This pathway focuses on learners living independently or semi-independently, including developing skills in cooking, maintaining a home, shopping, travel and housing advice and guidance. The curriculum also focuses on maintaining a healthy lifestyle, appropriate food choices and budgeting. We are extremely proud of school meals which offer students a high quality a varied meal choice, prepared on site by our professional chef every day.

We have an independent living training flat to help learners develop their practical skills, which can be transferred to the home.

Supported Employment and Internships

This pathway is designed to provide learners with the skills, qualities and attitudes that are matched to their career aspirations. With supportive staff and employers, learners work at their own pace, in practical and simulated work environments. There are also opportunities to progress into voluntary work and to a supported internship programme, which allows learners to work with a job coach and an employer, so they gain vital work and social skills to enter the job market.

Clinical and pastoral support

Our learners will benefit from the support of our clinical team, including psychologists, occupational therapists and speech and language therapists.

The clinical team works alongside the educational team to ensure that the learners' sensory, communication and emotional needs are being met.

With this support, learners will be more able to open themselves up to opportunities, better engage in sessions, develop further skills and improve their quality of life.

Learners will also receive regular pastoral support and be assigned a lead staff member who will ensure their progress is planned, monitored and celebrated. This person also assists with the learners' transition and will be a key link for families. Our pastoral team also signpost parents/families to external agencies for support, information, advice, and guidance.



We work very closely with parents and carers to ensure that students' targets and outcomes are met. Before all students start college, we ensure they have time to transition from school or other providers and complete a statement of need and baseline assessment.



We also work very closely with Local Authorities to ensure that Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) procedures are followed, and all appropriate parties are invited to EHCP annual reviews for input and contribution.



Careers

Our careers provision takes a holistic, person-centred approach.

All learners have access to a named impartial careers advisor working with the Outcomes First Group, specialising in SEND. These sessions are tailored to the individual needs, meeting each student as many times as needed to establish good rapport and get to the heart of what each young person wants to achieve.

As an external and impartial party, our advisors provide valuable input throughout the student journey, which is documented in their learning plans and EHCPs, and informs their learning pathway with us.

We strive to empower each young person to lead a meaningful life by offering careers and lifestyle support either online or in person, and at an appropriate level for each person at a pace that is challenging but not overwhelming.

Where appropriate, work experience, visits to further and higher education, and interactions with employers and employees will be offered. Using links to the local community and beyond is vital to ensure our students receive the highest level of career support in line with the Gatsby Benchmarks.

**Outcomes
First
Group.**



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Bankside College is part of

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