

College Prospectus

Where bright futures grow





to Henshaws Specialist College

From our Specialist College campus in Harrogate, we offer **day and residential** places for young adults aged 18 to 25 with special educational needs and disabilities. Our fantastic residential offering allows young people to join us from all across England.

At the heart of our college is **Building Confidence, Developing Independence and Supporting Achievement** for all our students. Whether preparing for employment, making friends or learning to live more independently, we can work with you to make your aspirations possible and goals a reality.

Every student at Henshaws Specialist College has a personalised curriculum. Your bespoke programme will include support from our **education, personal care, and healthcare services** and will be regularly reviewed to ensure it is right for you.

There are endless opportunities to find your passion. Your tailored programme will provide opportunities to get involved in a huge number of different activities, ranging from living skills and work experience to art, music, sensory exploration and Forest School.

Call: 01423 886 451

Email: transitions@henshaws.org.uk

Contents

- 04 - Your personalised programme**
- 05 - Assistive technology**
- 06 - Healthcare**
- 10 - Living on campus**
- 12 - College facilities**
- 14 - Student life**
- 15 - The local area**
- 16 - Life after college**
- 18 - How to apply**



We can offer fantastic specialist facilities

- Bedrooms with en-suite facilities
- Swimming and hydrotherapy pools
- Accessible gym
- Multi games sports hall
- Assisted changing rooms
- Multi sensory room
- Fully accessible kitchens
- Mobility training area
- Plus much more!





Your personalised programme

Henshaws offers a bespoke timetable to all students, taking individual subjects from the list below, we create a personalised timetable that is flexible and will evolve with your interests and progression to meet your EHCP Outcomes.

Subjects include:

Outdoor Learning - Horticulture and Forest School
Creative Arts - Art, Music, Drama and Movement
Communication - ICT, Intensive Interaction, Storytelling, IMuse, End of the day review
Plan/shop
Cook
Functional Skills Community
Functional Skills Enterprise
On Campus Work Experience
Off Campus Work Experience
Enterprise
Volunteering
CIAG - Careers, Information, Advice and Guidance
Physical Education - Sport, Gym, Wellbeing, Swimming
PSHCE - Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education
Duke of Edinburgh Award
English and Maths will be embedded into all sessions for students. Some students may, if identified work towards accredited English and maths qualifications.

Assistive technology

What is assistive technology?

Assistive technology is any item, equipment or software that enables a user to access something they would otherwise have difficulty with. For example, accessing and navigating a computer or controlling environmental elements such as lights, music and television.

Examples of assistive technology include:

- Switches
- Joysticks
- Communication aids
- Adapted keyboards
- Accessibility features – iOS/Android/Windows



How does assistive technology help our students?

Our assistive technology team are here to support you with your learning, helping you to become more independent. We will help you to access the tools you need to learn, increase opportunities for you and encourage choice making to build a more independent future.

You will receive personalised support from our assistive technology team. This means that we can successfully supply the correct level of support and guidance to enable you to reach your specific goals.



Healthcare

Our healthcare team consists of qualified therapists and clinical specialists, who will work with you to develop an individual learner support package and help you access your curriculum. They work together to assess your needs and develop specialist programmes and treatments in order to improve your quality of life.

Where are therapy sessions delivered?

Therapy is delivered where it will have the greatest benefit for you. Integrated therapy occurs in various locations based on the relevant or natural setting for the skill to occur. For example, developing fine motor control skills in a practical cooking lesson. By delivering therapy at the appropriate time and location you can learn skills in context, which helps you to better generalise and transfer the skills into other situations.

We can offer:

- Speech and language therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Physiotherapy
- Vision support services
- Positive behavioural support
- Clinical services

Speech and language therapy

Our speech and language therapists will work with you to support your communication and social skills. We will offer advice to others on how best to communicate with you too. We support an inclusive communication approach using speech, objects of reference, makaton, intensive interaction, picture exchange communication system (pecs) and augmentative and alternative communication (aac). We also provide guidance to those with eating, drinking and swallowing difficulties.

Occupational therapy

Our occupational therapy team will offer additional support where required, helping you to build the skills you need to engage in everyday activities more independently. This could include activities such as washing and dressing, meal preparation or accessing your education. We will assess whether any additional equipment is required to help you achieve your goals. We will also support you to manage your sensory processing differences.

Physiotherapy

Our physiotherapy team and specialist facilities will enable you to overcome physical barriers to accessing the curriculum. This is achieved through movement-focused activities, to maintain and improve functional movement, promote physical activity and maximise health and comfort. We may help you move directly through exercise, rebound or hydrotherapy, or we may help support you through sports and fitness if you have extra movement needs.

Vision support service

We will help you understand your sight loss and develop skills in low vision, mobility and communication. Programmes may include using a magnifier, indoor and outdoor mobility skills, learning to use a long cane and reading and writing braille.

Positive behavioural support

Positive behavioural support (pbs) is about personalised support, increasing quality of life, and teaching and learning skills. Our team will help you achieve the goals that you want to achieve and will ensure that all elements of your behaviour support are tailored to your individual needs.





Care

Our care team is instrumental in helping you to access our college programme. Whether you are a day or residential student, we will ensure you get personalised support that is right for you. Our care teams are trained and competent to deliver safe, effective and responsive care.

Each day you will be greeted at college by a member of the care team who will support you to prepare for the college day. You will access a range of sessions throughout the day, and we will ensure you have the right amount of support, and your care needs are fulfilled.

As well as understanding and supporting your different needs, our dedicated care team will help you build the skills you need to communicate to the wider world. We will help you make yourself heard and understood so that you can build on your independence.

Our care team works closely with colleagues from our education, clinical and therapy teams to ensure you get the most out of your time with us and help you achieve your goals.





Clinical services

Our team ensure that any clinical needs you may have are met safely and effectively through comprehensive individualised care plans and risk assessments. The clinical team work closely with you, your family or carers and any specialists involved in your care to ensure any clinical interventions are delivered safely on site. The team also work closely with the team of staff caring for you, offering support with other areas of health including nutrition, pressure area care and oral health care.

Depending on need, we can help you to access appropriate external services which may support you with specific requirements. The clinical team also play a role in education and ensure that resources for health promotion are available in formats that you can understand and use effectively. This may include social stories or easy read resources to help improve your experiences of healthcare services.



How are clinical needs assessed?

Your individual requirements will be identified during the assessment process, once a college application has been made. Each clinical need identified is assessed by the clinical team, and comprehensive plans of care are implemented. Our team will work closely with you, your parents/carers, medical professionals and specialists to ensure these plans are current and effective.





Living on campus

Living in a home-from-home group setting offers a unique opportunity to develop your independence within the benefits of a supportive community. You will have ample opportunities to learn essential life skills and become more self-reliant. Tasks like cooking meals, laundry and personal care will become part of your daily routine, increasing your confidence.

Our dedicated care team is available to provide any support you may need 24/7, whether it's with a certain daily living task or a more intimate care need such as washing or dressing. During the day our care staff will help you to access your individual educational programmes, and in the evenings and at weekend they will also be on hand to help you to go out to any activities you have planned such as a trip to the cinema.



Residential options

We offer term time residential opportunities for day students (subject to capacity)



Student houses

Our residential houses create a close-knit and friendly atmosphere providing you with a sense of belonging. Each house has its own dedicated staff who are available 24/7, offering constant support. The houses accommodate up to 9 students per floor. The arrangement of bedrooms and communal areas promotes a healthy balance between personal independence and a strong sense of community among the residents.

Your room

Our en-suite bedrooms provide you with a private and comfortable space to relax and study. They can have adaptations such as grab rails in place for students who need them. Additionally, we have rooms equipped with hoists and tracking to ensure essential wheelchair users have comfortable and accessible accommodation.

Communal facilities

Kitchens are fully equipped enabling you to transfer skills learnt in college to a residential setting. Beyond meal preparation, the kitchen becomes a hub where you can have fun and build friendships with other students. Our houses have shared lounges, where you can relax, watch TV and socialise.

Group living

The benefits of living in our residential houses extend beyond just practical skills. The group setting fosters a sense of belonging and camaraderie among students. Meaningful friendships are formed, and you'll have the chance to interact with peers who share similar interests, broadening your social circle and enriching your college experience. By embracing life within a group, you are exposed to diverse perspectives and learn invaluable lessons in cooperation, compromise, and understanding.



College facilities

Our health, fitness and leisure centre provides a safe and accessible environment. We will support you to achieve your exercise goals whilst having fun. Your targets could include; improving your fitness, building up your strength or increasing your range of movement.

Our sports facilities

- 12.5m by 7m heated swimming pool with ramp and hoist access
- Hydrotherapy pool with hoist access
- Multigym
- Sports hall
- Assisted changing rooms.

We will help you to access our sports and fitness sessions in a way that suits your needs. Our gantry hoist system supports students with complex physical disabilities to stand and walk, allowing them to access a wide range of equipment.

Our swimming pool and hydrotherapy pool are accessible through a combination of ramp access and overhead hoists. We have two assisted changing rooms.

Independence kitchens

Develop your skills for independent living with the help of our specialist equipment including talking microwaves and rise and fall workstations. You can prepare meals, become a star baker, and learn all about healthy eating and nutrition.



Forest School

This unique educational experience offers students the opportunity to develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences. Outdoor learning takes place in a small woodland area on campus where we have a large 6.7m/22ft yurt with wood burning stove to base the sessions from, providing an opportunity to learn even in bad weather.



Mobility training area

We have our own pelican crossing, bus stop and tactile training area on campus to help you become a more confident traveller. You will be supported to learn the routes to community facilities including shops, the library and train station.

Sensory spaces

Our sensory room provides a quiet space for students to explore. The room features soft lighting and comfortable furnishings as well as a fantastic interactive floor. If you prefer getting out and about, we also have a sensory garden. We also have additional small sensory rooms around the campus.

Braille resources

The braille resources on campus enables us to produce materials for our visually impaired students. It's just one of the many communication tools used by our Integrated Therapy Service to help our students understand and make their voices heard.

Potting shed

This is where our horticulture sessions take place. Students love growing and tasting fruits and vegetables and selling them around campus.





Student life

Student wellbeing

Our dedicated student liaison lead will support you to be happy, healthy and work towards meaningful goals. This can be one to one, or a group wellbeing session.

Student parliament

Every student at Henshaws has the opportunity to express an interest in joining the student parliament. Students then vote for their representatives. The elected parliament will meet together and agree on goals for the year.

Student enrichment

We have events throughout the College year, including World book day, Annual talent show, Winter fair, Summer ball and Graduation. Students are involved in the planning of these events.

Accessible information

This service promotes the accessible information standards across the college. It ensures that you have access to information in a format and communication method which meets your needs.

Examples of accessible resources include:

- Visual timetables
- Social stories
- Easy reads – recipes, instructions, forms, questionnaires
- Fan/key rings
- Signs/notices

On campus opportunities

You will have opportunities to apply your skills on campus through:

Work experience
Enterprise activities
Helping with tours of the college
Interview panels

The local area



Our college is situated on the outskirts of Harrogate, embraced by the stunning North Yorkshire countryside. The local area on the college doorstep offers a blend of natural beauty and convenience, with nearby shops and community facilities. On-campus, we provide bespoke facilities crafted to ensure a safe and accessible environment for your growth. These facilities are designed to empower you with transferable skills for independence and employability, creating an environment where you can thrive and develop to your fullest potential.

Harrogate

Harrogate is a charming town located in North Yorkshire. Known for its picturesque surroundings, it is surrounded by beautiful countryside. The town offers a mix of historical architecture, elegant gardens, and vibrant streets filled with shops, cafés, and restaurants. It hosts various events and festivals throughout the year, attracting both locals and tourists. With its pleasant atmosphere and numerous attractions, Harrogate is a delightful destination for those seeking a blend of relaxation, culture, and natural beauty.

Knaresborough

Nearby to the college is Knaresborough, a historic market town located in North Yorkshire. It is renowned for its picturesque setting along the River Nidd, with an ancient stone castle overlooking the town. The town features charming cobbled streets, traditional architecture, and a bustling market square where visitors can find a variety of shops, cafés, and local produce. Knaresborough's scenic location offers opportunities for walks and leisurely boat trips along the river.





Life after college

Become an Artmaker

If you wish to continue your journey within the Henshaws family after graduating from college, you have the opportunity to join us as an Artmaker at our Arts and Crafts Centre in Knaresborough. The centre offers a wide array of workshops to suit most creative interests, ranging from jewellery and paper crafts to woodworking and horticulture. Upon application a full assessment would take place to ensure we could meet your individual needs and that the setting is suitable for you.

Our Artmakers are individuals aged 18 and beyond, with no upper age limit, who have a diverse range of disabilities and additional support needs. We tailor a personalised programme of creative workshops to cater to your individual requirements. Our aim is to help you explore your talents, put them into practice, and unlock your full potential.

Beyond the workshops available on weekdays, Artmakers can also participate in occasional evening events and some weekend social activities.

With over 150 Artmakers accessing the centre each week, there are numerous opportunities to make new friends.



Lucy's story

We are so proud of Lucy, a recent graduate from Henshaws Specialist College. Below her mum shares what the experience at College meant to Lucy and to them as a family...

"College is the place where Lucy can be Lucy and doesn't have a disability and is just loving life, enjoying experiences, the company of others, learning and having her needs met just like everyone else. Lucy never fitted in anywhere until she came to College. And what a transformation. Lucy blossomed in so many ways and had the expertise and knowledge of so many professionals. Lucy loved every aspect of College life and has been on a journey of self-discovery and has grown as a person. Lucy struggles with separation anxiety and a big challenge was staying overnight which she now does and enjoys the social aspects of the evening with her peers.

Lucy has complex medical and health needs as well as a learning disability which need to be carefully managed. The care at College is amazing. Lucy's cerebral palsy and spinal rods mean that she needs to be positioned carefully and have regular changes of position as she is susceptible to pressure sores. College has changed all our lives, I can say that the relief we felt knowing she was loved, cared for and appreciated for all her qualities is immense.

College offers the student not only the education, learning and care but a whole wealth of expertise and opportunities in one setting. The hydro pool was a firm favourite of Lucy's but the evening socials with her peers were a massive part of her life that wasn't accessible to her before. It may be a quiz, karaoke, dance or just chilling and having a pamper with her friends.

That's what Lucy has now - friends, a social life, a meaningful and fulfilled life full of choice and promise.

Lucy we are proud of you and proud to be part of the Henshaws' experience!"



How to apply

We understand that embarking on a new journey can be daunting. Our team is here to guide and support you throughout the entire application process and beyond. Our goal is to assist you in finding the perfect path for your future.

Come and say hello

We recommend that you visit us before making an application as it gives you the chance to look around, ask questions and see whether Henshaws is right for you. We hold open events in the Autumn and early Spring terms, or you may wish to sign up for a virtual tour of the college. You can find information about our latest events at **henshaws.org.uk/opensdays**

Our friendly and experienced transitions team is available to provide guidance and bespoke support from the time of your first enquiry. You can contact them on **01423 886 451** or **transitions@henshaws.org.uk**



OFSTED report

Overall effectiveness Good

Quality of education Good

Behaviour and attitudes Good

Personal development Outstanding

Leadership and management Good

Provision for learners with high needs Good

Overall effectiveness at previous inspection Good

Correct as of May 2023



Making an application

We welcome applications at any time, but we recommend applying early to avoid disappointment. (please discuss this further with the transitions team).

You will need to complete an application form, and enclose a copy of your latest education, health and care plan (EHCP). Our transitions team will offer guidance and support throughout the process.

Our assessment

If you are successful at the application stage, we will invite you to college for an assessment. You will be invited with your parent or carer to an assessment at college where you will meet lots of college professionals.

If you apply for a residential place your assessment will also include an overnight stay on campus. This important step in the process will help us determine your care, clinical support, therapy and study programme.

Your offer

Following your assessment a decision will be made whether we can meet your needs, if we can, an offer will be made to you and your local authority.

Tracking your progress

We will review your progress throughout your time at college through teams meetings, formal reviews and tutorials. This will include baseline assessment during the autumn term to make sure you are on the right programme, with the right level of support.

Find out more

Our transitions team is here to answer any questions you have about applying to Henshaws, offer guidance on EHCPs, assessments and funding.

Call: 01423 886 451

Email: transitions@henshaws.org.uk





Our transitions team are happy to help with any queries you may have, just give us a call on **01423 886 451** or you can email us at **transitions@henshaws.org.uk**

For more information about our Specialist College and to find out the latest dates for our open days please scan the QR code or visit our website: **henshaws.org.uk**

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