

Henshaws Specialist College - Local Offer information

The Children and Families Act 2014 aims to transform the system for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. As part of the reforms, local authorities must provide a local offer of support. The local offer brings together information about services young people and their families can access from birth to 25, including providers of specialist education, healthcare and social care.

The services we provide at Henshaws Specialist College will form part of every local authority's local offer. Read on to find answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about how we deliver our programmes as part of your local offer.

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1) Who can attend Henshaws Specialist College?

Henshaws Specialist College is an independent national specialist college for young people aged 16 to 25 with a wide range of special educational needs including learning difficulties, physical disabilities and sensory impairments.

The College, which welcomes residential and day students, provides specialist staff and offers excellent facilities and equipment to support learners to develop the skills, knowledge and independence they need to achieve the future they want.

If you are applying for a residential place, you can choose either four night boarding (Monday to Thursday) or full seven night weekly boarding. We also offer residential respite for students.

2) How will learning programmes meet my needs?

We will offer you the support you need through an individual study programme, tailored to help you make as much progress as possible towards achieving your goals for life, learning and work. Every study programme is unique to the student and will be designed around you and your needs. There will be compulsory components to

your course that all students will have to complete but there is also opportunity for you adapt your programme when necessary with the help and support of your personal tutor. We'll support you to develop your communication, personal and social skills which will help you to be a more confident and active participant in everyday life.

Opportunities for work and social enterprise experience include arts & crafts, media & ICT, horticulture, administration & retail, and hospitality, both on and off campus. Emphasis is on personal progression and practical application of skills, including communication, English, maths, independent travel and ICT. Students are fully supported by our multidisciplinary team of specialist staff who provide physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech & language therapy, rehabilitation and behaviour support.

3) How is the decision made about how much support I will receive?

We always invite young people and their parents/carers to visit Henshaws before making an application, either on an individual family visit or on one of our Open Days. By meeting you, we will learn about the extra help you will need to support your learning and also your personal care whilst you are at College.

All applicants to Henshaws Specialist College are treated on an individual basis. When we have received your application form, we ask for copies of reports from people who know you including teachers, social workers, specialist careers advisers and therapists. We can then see what support you have received whilst at school.

If we feel that Henshaws might be the right place for you, we will invite you to College for an initial assessment. This will be for a whole day if you are applying for a day placement or for an overnight stay if you are applying for a residential placement.

Your initial assessment is carried out by experienced specialist staff, who will work with you to identify your existing skills, what support you need, and any equipment which you might benefit from.

Staff will work with you to identify support you need in different areas of your education and care programme. For example, you might benefit from support to gain more independence, to learn the skills for future volunteering, training or work, or for communication and also personal care.

All of this information is then put into a report and a group of college staff (the Admissions Panel), look at the information and decide if we can meet your needs at Henshaws. The report is then sent to you, your parents, and the people supporting your application for funding.

4) How will the College staff support me?

From the reports we have received from your previous school, from getting to know you during the initial assessment and from understanding you as a result of the longer

baseline assessment during your first term, we will identify the support we believe you will need to be successful and achieve your goals.

This support will cover individual support in learning sessions, the specialist help you might need and any therapeutic help required for your physical wellbeing (physiotherapy), or to look after yourself (occupational therapy), or for communication (speech & language therapy).

We will also look at any support you require to help you cope in social situations or with behaviour in general. The support we identify will also cover times such as breaks, lunchtimes, evenings and weekends so that you are assured of support at all times whilst you are at Henshaws.

5) How will you assess and monitor my progress?

We will work with you throughout your time here to ensure you're achieving your goals. You will follow a study programme at the right level for you, up to and including Level 1.

From your very first day, we will support you to consider your future options such as employment, voluntary work, living arrangements and continuing education. Internal education and careers advice and guidance is supplemented, where appropriate, by professionally qualified independent advisors.

As a result of your thorough baseline assessment during your first term, you will have targets in education, personal care and therapies to work towards. Some targets may be over a half term or a term, while others might be over a year. These targets help you to measure your progress and to plan for the future. They are linked with your aims of placement - that is, what you are hoping to achieve during your time at College.

Your aims of placement will also be linked to your longer term goals, such as living independently, volunteering, working in a social or commercial enterprise, further education or training either full time or alongside a programme of daily activities.

Staff will work with you to monitor your progress and to discuss and set new targets to make sure that the programme of learning and support you are following is effective and that you are continuing to make progress towards achieving your aims of placement.

You will have a named person at College called a personal tutor who will know all about you and the work you are doing. They will have regular contact with you in College so that they can support your learning. We also have review meetings each year when you, your family, social worker and specialist careers adviser will meet to celebrate your progress, to plan ahead for your transition from College and to make sure you are on target to meet your aims.

6) How will you prepare and support me to join the College, transfer to a new college or move on to the next stage of my life?

Everyone who makes an enquiry is given information about Henshaws College and invited to one of our Open Days or to make an individual visit as a family. We keep in contact with families to ensure they are aware of key events during the application process, such as submitting an application form and attending for assessment, and will give as much support as possible throughout this process.

We provide information to help students and their families prepare for entry to College, including transition visits, and we welcome queries on any aspect of the transitions process. Throughout your programme, we are focused on what you want to do when you leave College. We work with you, your family and the professionals working with you (such as social workers, transition managers and specialist careers advisers) to ensure your needs are met.

In particular, Annual Reviews are a very important part of this process. At the review, everyone comes together to share information about you and your goals to help plan your life after College. Every effort is made to ensure that students leaving Henshaws Specialist College will have appropriate provision in place to move into to support their independence and future aspirations such as volunteering, social enterprise, or further part time training alongside a programme of daily activities. Our transitions team will keep in contact with you after you leave College, to check that you are satisfied with your transition arrangements and provide any support you may need.

7) What expertise and training do staff have?

All Henshaws Specialist College staff undergo extensive training in order to ensure that students are well supported throughout their time at College. This may include:

- disability awareness training
- visual impairment awareness training
- wheelchair guidance
- Makaton
- autism awareness training
- epilepsy management
- moving & handling of people
- behaviour management training

If a student has a specific need, then training to meet that need will be requested and delivered to our staff by appropriate professionals.

Henshaws Disability Support Services is an in-house team of therapists and visual impairment specialists, experienced in working with young people with a range of disabilities. Our specialist team includes physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech and language therapists and assistive technologists to provide support for our learners on campus.

If you need support that we do not provide here on campus, then we will work with you and your family to make sure you can access that support through other services, for example counselling or Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services.

8) How accessible is the College environment?

Henshaws Specialist College has been purpose built to be fully accessible for all our students. All teaching areas are on the ground floor and some have adjustable height tables.

Our Sport & Fitness Centre has two assisted changing rooms, a swimming pool with ramp access and overhead hoist and a hydrotherapy pool with overhead hoist. Our recently refurbished multigym offers rehabilitation fitness machines including exercise bikes and treadmills. The multigym also includes an overhead hoist and wherever possible the equipment is adapted for young people in wheelchairs to use.

Our modern Media & IT Centre includes an accessible IT suite, where each individual workstation is equipped with a rise and fall desk and a flexible mounted touch-screen monitor which can be adjusted to the height and distance which is most comfortable for you. Our assistive technology team will work with you to provide the resources and support that you need to access technology in the way which suits you best. This might include setting up software such as the Grid 2, switch access or supporting you to set up your own personal devices such as tablets on the College Wi-Fi network. The Centre also offers two soundproof recording studios and a fully equipped work centre, which houses our professional print centre to offer you real work experience.

Training kitchens on campus contain rise and fall units, a range of microwave ovens including talking microwaves, and equipment which has been tried and tested over the years to ensure ease of use for our students. When you are learning how to cook, recipes are available in a range of formats e.g. standard print, large print, Braille, symbols, pictures and photos.

Within our residential student accommodation, most rooms are ensuite with shower, hand-basin and toilet, with adaptations such as grab rails in place for students who need them, and also rooms with hoist and tracking for essential wheelchair users. House kitchens are equipped to a high standard and reflect the training kitchens on campus, enabling you to transfer skills learnt in College into your house.

9) What activities are available for me?

We believe your College experience should be focused around the areas which interest you. Your flexible programme means you can choose from a range of social, creative and leisure activities during the day and at evenings and weekends:

- Improve your fitness in our fantastic multigym and sports hall
- Challenge yourself by taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Learn new moves at our music and dance classes
- Entertain your new friends at our karaoke evenings

- Try out the latest technology in our state of the art IT facilities
- Explore our local towns and beautiful Yorkshire countryside
- Get dressed up for social events including our fabulous Summer Ball

You'll never be stuck for things to do at College. We'll encourage you to challenge yourself by trying different activities and having new experiences every step of the way.

We have a very active Student Council which represents the voices of all our students and helps make decisions at College. Council members are passionate about making sure your views about College life are heard and that every student has the same opportunities. They take part in lots of internal and external activities to represent College, such as:

- interviewing new staff members
- promoting College at craft fairs and enterprise stalls.
- showing visitors around College
- attending fundraising meetings and events

As a leading specialist college for young adults with learning difficulties, physical disabilities and sensory impairments, we pride ourselves on being able to offer equal opportunities to all who study and work with us. We strive to provide an inclusive environment where staff and students alike are fully supported to succeed and achieve their full potential.

Henshaws Specialist College is fully committed to eliminating unlawful discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations with all staff and students. Day students are welcome to join in activities during evenings and weekends, but must provide their own transport and staff support as required.

10) Who can I contact for further information?

Please get in touch if you have any questions which we haven't answered, and we'll do our best to help. You can contact us for more information:

Visit our website [henshaws.ac.uk](https://www.henshaws.ac.uk)

Email us at admissions@henshaws.ac.uk

Speak to our friendly College team on **01423 886451**