.henshaws
specialist
college

CURRICULUM SEPTEMBER 2026

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INTRODUCTION

Henshaws Specialist College is for young people with learning difficulties and differences, and additional needs.

Academic levels range from Milestone 3 to Level 2. Students are grouped by aspirations then learning styles, communication methods and environmental needs.

The curriculum is based on the Preparing for Adulthood agenda.

OUR VALUES



AMBITION

continuously striving to do more and do better.



RESPECT

acting with integrity, valuing each individual and their voice.



EMPOWERMENT

enabling others to thrive and take control of their lives.

CURRICULUM AREAS

GOOD HEALTH AND RELATIONSHIPS

PE
PSHE
Swimming
Outdoor Learning & Forest School

INDEPENDENT LIVING

Living Skills
Expressive Arts

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

English
Maths
Digital Skills
Work Experience
Employability Skills

ENRICHMENT

TUTORIAL

3 YEAR PLANS

Good Health and Relationships

SWIM	TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3
YEAR 1	Induction, safety and baseline of swimming skills	Movement and Propulsion	Control and Coordination
YEAR 2	Participation and Independence	Skill Development	Water Safety
YEAR 3	Personal Achievement	Applying Learning	Lifelong Swimming and Preparation for Adulthood

3 YEAR PLANS

Good Health and Relationships

PE	TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3
YEAR 1	Induction and baseline of physical literacy.	Movement Skills	Exploring Movement & Physical Activity
YEAR 2	Strength, Stamina & Wellbeing	Communication, Cooperation & Teamwork	Applying Skills in Physical Activities
YEAR 3	Participation & Access	Choice, Responsibility & Personal Achievement	Healthy Active Lifestyles & Preparation for Adulthood

3 YEAR PLANS

Good Health and Relationships

PHSE	TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3
YEAR 1	Induction About me	Healthy Lifestyles	Personal Safety
YEAR 2	Money Skills	Environmental Awareness	Emotional & Physical Wellbeing
YEAR 3	Problem Solving	Online Safety	Life After College

3 YEAR PLANS

Good Health and Relationships

FOREST SCHOOL	TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3
YEAR 1	The Woodland Environment	Weather & the Seasons	Trees, Planting & Growing
YEAR 2	Wildlife & Habitats	Natural Materials	Adventure & Shelter
YEAR 3	Caring for Nature	Enjoying Time Together Outdoors	Celebration & Reflection

3 YEAR PLANS

Good Health and Relationships

OUTDOOR LEARNING	TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3
YEAR 1	Induction & Outdoor Safety	Plants & Animals	Growing
YEAR 2	Looking After Nature	Outdoor Art & Creativity	Natural Building
YEAR 3	Working Together Outdoors	Helping Our Community	Life Skills Outdoors

3 YEAR PLANS
Independent Living

PLAN/ SHOP	TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3
YEAR 1	Baseline assessment- Introduction to shopping skills	Shop familiarisation- types of shops and store layouts	Shopping list skills- understanding money and payment methods
YEAR 2	Reassessment. Explore different supermarkets Safety	Food storage. Reading labels, dates and packaging	Comparing prices and finding value
YEAR 3	Reassessment. Consumer rights, sustainability, independent decision making	Increased Independence in planning	Increased Independence in shopping

3 YEAR PLANS
Independent Living

COOK	TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3
YEAR 1	Baseline assessment. Induction - kitchen basics	Basic food preparation	Simple cooking and recipe skills
YEAR 2	Reassessment. Healthy meal preparation	Expanding cooking techniques Food hygiene	Planning, preparing and sharing meals
YEAR 3	Reassessment Independent cooking	Adapting and improving recipes	Preparing for Life Beyond College

3 YEAR PLANS
Independent Living

COMMUNITY ACCESS	TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3
YEAR 1	Induction. Places in my community	People who help us	Community expectations and social skills
YEAR 2	Using community facilities	Staying safe and respectful in the community	Travel and accessing the community
YEAR 3	Planning community visits	Being an active community member	Preparing for life beyond College

3 YEAR PLANS

Expressive Arts

EXPRESSIVE ARTS	TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3
YEAR 1	Explore various techniques and forms of expressive arts	Trying new creative activities and skills	Expressing preferences, making choices and sharing ideas.
YEAR 2	Communicating feelings and stories through expressive arts	Exploring cultures and traditions from around the world	Creating and sharing small projects
YEAR 3	Finding my creative voice	Planning and developing projects	Performing and celebrating success

3 YEAR PLANS
Employability

English	TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3
YEAR 1	Performing and celebrating success	Using reading skills	Reading for meaning
YEAR 2	Using grammar and punctuation in writing	Writing letters of the alphabet and spelling words	Using structure in writing
YEAR 3	Speaking and listening to provide information	Speaking and listening to obtain information	Speaking and listening to take part in a conversation

3 YEAR PLANS
Employability

Maths	TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3
YEAR 1	Whole numbers	Addition	Subtraction
YEAR 2	Money	Time	Measure
YEAR 3	Shape	Extract Data	Represent Data

3 YEAR PLANS
Employability

DIGITAL SKILLS	TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3
YEAR 1	Baseline - Introduction to Digital Skills	Developing Digital Skills for Work and Life	Developing Digital Skills for Work and Life
YEAR 2	Job Search Skills and Career Preparation	Job Application Skills for Employment	Using IT for Leisure Safely
YEAR 3	Managing Money Online	Online safety	Consolidation of Qualification skills

3 YEAR PLANS
Employability

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS	TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3
YEAR 1	Baseline - Introduction to employability skills Communication Skills in the Workplace	Professional Behaviour in the Workplace	Workplace Safety and Emergency Peparation
YEAR 2	Managing Personal Finances Effectively	Developing Personal Skills for Success	Developing Personal Skills for Success
YEAR 3	Planning for Future Progression	Safe Travel and Journey Planning	Consolidation of qualification skills

3 YEAR PLANS
Employability

WORK EXPERIENCE	TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3
YEAR 1	Baseline assessment - introduction to work experience	Identifying and Developing Workplace Skills Through Work Experience	Identifying and Developing Workplace Skills Through Work Experience
YEAR 2	Applying Employability Skills Through Work Experience	Applying Employability Skills Through Work Experience	Off campus work experience Placement evaluation
YEAR 3	Exploring Work Experience and Employment Opportunities	Exploring Work Experience and Employment Opportunities	Transitioning to Employment and Adult Life

3 YEAR PLANS
Enrichment

	TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3
YEAR 1	Exploring new experience and personal interest	Health, welbeing and active participation	Communication and self-expression
YEAR 2	Communication and self-expression	Diversity and community awareness	Adventure , recreation and teamwork
YEAR 3	Self-advocacy and leadership	Active citizenship and community contribution	Preparing for adulthood and future success

3 YEAR PLANS

Tutorial

	TERM 1	TERM 2	TERM 3
YEAR 1	Who I Am	Feelings and Wellbeing	Keeping Safe
YEAR 2	Everyone Matters	Relationships	My Community
YEAR 3	Choices and Everyday Skills	Future Opportunities	Next steps

PATHWAYS



Flourish

Supports learners to develop independence in daily living and make meaningful choices about their adult lives. The focus is on communication, engagement, wellbeing, and building routines that promote independence.

Thrive

Focuses on developing communication, social interaction, and confidence. Learners build skills that enable them to engage more fully with others and participate in their communities.

Aspire

Designed for learners who are working towards employment. The focus is on developing employability skills, gaining work experience, and achieving relevant qualifications to support progression into work or further opportunities.

PATHWAY

Flourish - Example Timetable

	AM	PM
MONDAY	Expressive Arts	PE / PSHE
TUESDAY	Living Skills	Living Skills
WEDNESDAY	English and Maths	Enrichment
THURSDAY	Expressive Arts	Forest School
FRIDAY	Swim / PSHE	Tutorial

PATHWAY

Thrive - Example Timetable

	AM	PM
MONDAY	Living Skills	Living Skills
TUESDAY	English and Maths	Expressive Arts
WEDNESDAY	PE/PHSE	Enrichment
THURSDAY	Swim / PSHE	Living Skills
FRIDAY	Outdoor Learning	Tutorial

PATHWAY

Aspire - Example Timetable

	AM	PM
MONDAY	Living Skills	Living Skills
TUESDAY	Employability Skills	PE
WEDNESDAY	Digital Skills	Enrichment
THURSDAY	Swim / PSHE	English and Maths
FRIDAY	Employability	Tutorial

MEET THE TEAM



Rachael Martindale
Vice Principle



Naomi Parish
Education Lead



Ellissia Wood
Education Admin Co-ordinator



Rachael Martin
Curriculum Lead



Rob Holliday
Curriculum Lead



Danuta Dabrowkska
Curriculum Lead



Amy Dixon
Lead Practitioner



Nicola Lund
Lead Practitioner

MEET THE TEAM



Katy Hartley
Lead Practitioner



Jo Currie
Tutor



Lizzie Donegan
Tutor



Wioletta Pawlowska
Tutor



Sara Murrow
Tutor



Jenny Mullins
Tutor

MEET THE TEAM



Debbie Hall
Tutor



Nicole Calvert-McKeag
Tutor



Sarah D'Arcy
Job Coach



Hollie Hylands
Swimming Instructor



Jack Dakin
Job Coach



Lianne Oddy
Job Coach

A team of highly qualified, friendly and professional Learning Support Assistants work alongside tutors throughout the college day, providing support for learning, independence and, where required, personal care needs.