



COLLEGE PROSPECTUS





Welcome to Homefield College

Hello and welcome to Homefield College



We are a charitable independent specialist college for young people with a range of learning and communication disabilities and difficulties.

We support those who benefit from a community-based location, offering study programmes with a choice of individualised vocational education pathways.

Homefield College was founded in 1987 as a long-term residential provision for people with learning and communication difficulties and have since expanded our offering with specialist further education and training, supporting both part time and full time, day and residential students.

Our students achieve through experience. All our pathways are tailored to the needs of each student, making sure they feel safe in the environment they are in and developing their skills to enable them to be more independent once they leave our College – whether that’s through improving their personal care skills, learning how to live independently, or finding their place in the world of work.

We hope you choose to study with us, so that we can empower you to reach your future goals and continue your journey with new and exciting opportunities.

Tracey Forman - Principal

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About Us

An Overview to Homefield

We provide specialist education, training and independent living skills to young people aged 16 - 25 with a range of special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) including:

- Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
- Down's Syndrome
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health

Our students study with us for 3 days a week, or 5 days if agreed by their Local Authority. We also have a limited residential provision if the Local Authority agrees to a residential placement.

Each student has an individualised study programme that helps them progress in key areas, including:

- social and life skills
- employability and / or independence skills
- development of English and maths
- vocational experience

We focus on three main learning pathways:

- personal development & independence
- skills for daily life & work
- route to employment & further study

All our pathways are tailored to the needs of each student, making sure they feel safe in the environment they are in and developing their skills to enable them to be more independent once they leave our College.

Career opportunities are included throughout the curriculum and students can choose to study for accredited qualifications as part of their sessions.

We have several sites in the East Midlands, based within the villages of Mountsorrel, Sileby and Barrow-upon-Soar, along with our provision in Nuneaton for those located closer to Warwickshire.

Our College facilities include:

- Village café and sweet shop
- Village coffee shop
- Commercial kitchens
- Woodwork workshop
- Vocational Centre
- ICT suite
- Smart boards and iPads in classrooms
- Horticultural land
- Small animals
- Residential experience rooms
- Sensory Room

We also work with a range of external partners, including MacIntyre, WHM Work Connections and T.E.C.K. to widen the learning experience.

'Staff look at what each student could do and meet them where their level of ability is. Staff have high expectations of students but not to the point of letting them fail. They encourage life skills and give them choice, so they're allowed to have an opinion. Homefield gives them chance and opportunity.'
- Parent



Study Programmes

Bespoke learning journeys

All our students follow a study programme which enables them to build upon and learn new skills and knowledge in order to achieve your future goals. Each study programme includes core elements of our curriculum along with vocational courses and work placements suitable for each learning pathway.

Pathway 1: Personal Development

Our Personal Development pathway helps students develop their social skills and ability to look after themselves.

We embed therapeutic interventions and enrichment activities into their learning and offer transferable work skills through vocational sessions and work visits when appropriate.

At the end of the course, students are equipped with coping strategies, a range of interests and improved communication skills, along with increased independence.

This pathway is designed for young people who are more reliant on support and often unable to self-manage their behaviour. They face communication difficulties and have narrow interests and limited experiences.

Pathway 2: Skills for Life & Work

Our Skills for Life & Work students learn how to look after themselves with minimal support, identify transferable work skills and experience vocational sessions to help them in identifying future careers.

We also include enriching sessions to develop their ability to be resilient in the world.

At the end of the course, students have greater

independence in the community, leisure activities and daily life. They may go on towards supported living and work opportunities.

This pathway is ideal for young people who want to be more independent in their lives, but are lacking the practical, living, and work skills to do this. They still struggle with anxieties at times.

Pathway 3: Mission Employability

Our Mission Employability students have vocational experiences. They gain accredited vocational qualifications in their desired areas, attend career workshops and work experience placements and are encouraged to engage in positive risk-taking.

We offer guidance interviews with a careers practitioner, and hold sessions on CV writing, interview techniques and job searching.

At the end of the course, students achieve their end goal by entering into employment or obtaining a Supported Internship, or by going on to further vocational learning.

This pathway is perfect for people who have work or further education aspirations and can manage their anxieties through coping skills. This is a higher level course most suited for those at entry level 2 and above.



Our Curriculum

Core elements in every programme

Homefield's curriculum is designed to cover all aspects of daily life and what it means to be an adult.

English & maths

Students learn maths, English and ICT skills that will help them excel in daily life. These skills are embedded in every session, but we also hold standalone sessions when working towards accreditation or EHCP goals.

Employment

We make sure students experience work opportunities suitable to their needs and abilities. Students benefit from career advice and the opportunity to work in our enterprises under the guidance of trained staff. We provide opportunities for students to experience a range of vocations to enable them to make informed choices over their career path and aspirations.

Community

Our students learn, work and live in the local community. We help with travel training and road safety, learning how to access community facilities appropriately, and how to keep themselves and their belongings safe in public.

Independence

We help our students develop their ability to make choices, understand their rights and engage in self-determination. They improve their communication in order to advocate for their own needs. We also focus on money management including how to use bank cards and sensible spending.

Pastoral Support

Students have scheduled 1:1 tutorials with their Personal Tutor in order to reflect on the past week and discuss the learning coming up. Students also use their time with their Personal Tutor to write home about the great achievements they've done during college. This helps develop reflective practice as well as communication skills.

Health & Wellbeing

Our students' physical and emotional health are important to us. We make sure to check in with students regularly, and also teach students how to care for their wellbeing. Enriching activities are also available, including craft and performing arts.

Focus Weeks

Each week the whole college community focuses on a topic, and we discuss and learn about those topics in relation to the timetabled sessions. Focus weeks include: British Values week, cyber safety week, equality & diversity week, employability week, health & safety week and autism week.

'People are kind at Homefield. The staff help me to make choices and learn, it is great' - Student



Vocational courses

Kick-start your career with vocational foundations

Gain a solid foundation of skills and knowledge in vocational industries to boost your career prospects.

Catering

Students on this course focus on working in our enterprises and developing their food technology and cookery skills. You'll be working in real-life environments under time restraints to deliver exceptional service to customers. You will learn approaches to food safety, health and safety legislation, and a broad understanding of kitchen operations.

Construction

Working with Enstruct Training, students on this course learn a range of construction skills such as brick-laying, plastering, floor and wall tiling, carpentry and joinery work, painting and decorating, plumbing, roofing and hard landscaping. You can work towards Level 1 and Level 2 BTEC qualifications.

Hair and Beauty

Learn the ins and outs of hair and beauty to work towards a City & Guilds qualification. You'll cover topics such as shampoo and conditioner treatments, blow-drying and styling techniques, make-up and hair care. Our aspiration is to open a salon for autistic people.

Horticulture

Learn horticulture skills and how to work safely in an outdoor environment. You can learn how to maintain outdoor plants, how to use gardening tools, and the science behind why plants, fruit and vegetables require different types of soil and maintenance.

Motor Vehicle

Students on this course learn the skills and knowledge necessary to work in car mechanics and valeting settings. At T.E.C.K, you'll be given a range of cars, bikes and engine-based projects to gain practical experience working on different types of vehicles. Learn about basic motor vehicle repair principles and health and safety in the workplace whilst developing your team-working skills in the process.

Woodland and Conservation

Using the natural environment at WHM Connections, students on this course learn how to take care of our local woodlands. They learn through tasks such as paving and pathway maintenance, dry stone walling, hedge laying, fencing skills, horticulture practices, tree felling, bankside management and cultivating fruit and vegetables. You can work towards a ABC Awards Level 1 Certificate in Practical, Environmental and Conservation Skills.

'The best thing about Homefield College is the interactive nature of student provision between learning, independence and contact with the community. It makes the experience an enjoyment rather than one of just learning' - Parent



Qualifications

Gain accredited qualifications

Our students have the ability to undertake accredited learning in a range of subjects. We deliver the following qualifications:

Arts Award

Take part in various art forms and showcase your creative talent in this award running from pre-entry (Discover) to Level 2 (Silver). You will research different artists and share your skills within the Arts.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Embark on a programme of activities to help you navigate adult life, discover new interests and develop essential skills for life and work. Sections include helping with the local community and environment, developing your fitness levels, improving your team-working skills, and completing an expedition.

Driving Theory Test

We offer support to develop the theory, knowledge and understanding required to be a safe driver in order to pass the official UK driving theory test.

Employability Skills

Develop successful independent working techniques in this qualification delivered across four levels - Entry 2 to Level 2. Employability Skills are designed to support you to successfully gain a job, progressing in your chosen field and prepare you for further study.

English & maths

Completed in a wide range of College, community and work-based settings, you can work towards Functional Skills qualifications across five levels - Entry 1 to Level 2, or enrol on GCSEs to boost employment prospects.

Food Safety & Hygiene Catering Certificate

Working towards a Level 1 or Level 2 food hygiene course, we make sure that anyone working in an environment where food is cooked, prepared or handled complies fully with current UK legislation.

Skills for Working Life

Develop personal and work-related skills to support your progression into further learning or supported employment, and enhance your independent living skills. You can also choose specific vocational courses and develop the kind of skills and abilities that interest you:

- Animal care
- Construction
- Horticulture
- ICT and digital media
- Woodland Management
- Woodwork
- Vehicle maintenance
- Coming Soon: Hair and Beauty

We work with other Further Education colleges and are open to discussing new qualifications that you may be interested in gaining. Get in touch with us if there is a course you would like to take whilst studying with us.



Our Enterprises

Experience employment in a supportive environment

We run our own enterprises to give our students valuable experience in real workplace environments under professional guidance from our trained staff. Through skills developed in our enterprises, we help our students achieve their career aspirations by developing their transferable skills ready to go onto paid employment, supported internships or further vocational education.

Barrow of Treats

Barrow of Treats is formed of a vibrant community café and sweet shop in the busy village of Barrow-upon-Soar.

At the café, our students experience both the kitchen and café aspects of the business, allowing them to develop their cookery skills whilst routinely interacting with customers.

Skills our students learn in the café include:

- preparing hot and cold food
- stock rotation and control
- food hygiene
- serving drinks and meals
- using the till
- meeting and greeting customers
- setting tables and clearing tables

The café is renowned locally for its excellent variety of home-baked cakes and students often develop a signature item.

Our traditional sweet shop sells over 200 varieties of candy. Here, our students learn how to make orders for parties, weddings, and events.

Students working at our enterprises have the opportunity to work towards formal qualifications such as City & Guilds Skills for Working Life, and practice independent travel using public transport to work.

Breward's

Breward's is a village coffee shop in the heart of Mountsorrel.

At the coffee shop, our students focus on good customer service and hospitality and develop their functional IT abilities. They also build on their English, maths and communication skills in a real business environment.

Skills our students learn in the coffee shop and bakery include:

- serving drinks
- meeting and greeting customers
- using the till and money handling
- taking orders
- bread making
- functional IT skills
- stock check

Breward's also holds an outlet for Homefield Craft Enterprise, selling the exceptional art and craft works our students, residents and day service members have created.



Career Development

Careers threaded through the pathways

We support and encourage our students to develop and explore vocational areas to achieve dreams and aspirations. In each of our tailored pathways, we take into consideration each student's individual needs and put support in place to help access these opportunities.

Our Personal Development students will:

- access vocational sessions
- attend work place visits where appropriate

their chosen career paths, whether that's to go on to further educational training or enter the world of work.

Our Skills for Life & Work students will:

- sample vocational sessions to help identify a career area
- have work experience or work place visits
- have guidance interviews with a practitioner
- attend transition events

Current employers include:

- Dunelm
- Co-op
- Loughborough University
- BomBom Patisserie
- Great Central Railway
- Leonard Cheshire

Our Mission Employability students will:

- undertake work experience, careers fairs and supported internships
- take vocational sessions linked to their chosen sector and gain qualifications
- access career workshops focusing on CVs, interview techniques and job searches
- have guidance interviews with a practitioner
- attend FE visits

Supported Internships

We also develop supported internship opportunities, where our students take part in a structured study programme based primarily at an employer. Where possible, students get the opportunity to apply to the company if a suitable role is available at the end of the internship.

Work Placements

We offer work placements in a wide range of vocational areas in order to enable our students to experience working environments and correct any misinterpreted beliefs within different sectors.

Students work with a Job Coach at the employment site to gain training, support and work skills needed to get a job. The Job Coach helps the student settle in, liaise with the employer and learn the job they've been given. Once a student is confident with the role, the Job Coach provides less hands-on support so that the student works independently.

Our enterprises and vocational classes help develop transferable skills that can be used across several sectors. We make sure our students can make informed choices around

The aim is to secure paid work at the end of the programme, or in the near future, using the work skills acquired through the process.



Supporting our students

Holistic approaches to therapies, inclusion and pastoral support

Our therapies and inclusion teams work together to ensure our students are holistically supported during their time at Homefield College. Students can be referred to our internal therapy team by their tutors, support workers, parents and other external professionals, and also by self-referral. We offer both individual and group-based support, by direct or indirect methods of delivery. Our therapists are registered with the Health Care Professions Council and are members of their own professional bodies.

Speech & Language Therapy

Our Speech & Language Therapists support our students with their communication needs within the learning environment. Every student has their own communications plan, and our teaching and support staff are trained to use a variety of methods to support communication and language. We regularly use pictorial timetables, high and low tech systems, visual methods, talking mats, Makaton and symbols.

Occupational Therapy

Our Occupational Therapist ensures our students can access everyday activities through assessing their mental and physical health in terms of illness, disability or injury. We then use specialist equipment or techniques to help students participate equally in sessions.

Psychotherapies

We have access to external therapists for art and music therapy. We use art as a therapy as a form of self-expression, and explore emotions through the use of colour, movement and style. Art therapy can help reduce anxiety and provide a safe way to understand emotional conflicts. Music therapy enhances health and wellbeing. Through using instruments and voice work, our students are encouraged to communicate, express emotions, and enact positive change.

Inclusion Support

Our person-centred approach to emotional and behavioural support ensures that all our students have equal opportunities to participate in sessions and real-life experiences. Our Inclusion Team create positive behaviour plans for each student, informing staff on what makes them scared or worried, and how to calm them.

Personal Tutorials

All our students are assigned a Personal Tutor. The Personal Tutor supports the student during their time at the College, looking after their physical and emotional wellbeing and creating a positive learning experience. They are the first port of call for any struggles and can help refer the student for additional support.

Total Communication Environment

We operate a total communication environment. This means using a combination of methods of communication that reinforce each other and strengthen meaning. At Homefield, we use:

- written language
- speech
- sign systems (Makaton)
- objects of reference
- photos and symbols
- non-verbal cues



Inclusive Learning

Tailored learning environments

We adapt our teaching and support to meet our students' individual needs and strengths.

We make your voice heard

We are part of the National Union of Students (NUS). Our Student Council meets once every half term throughout the academic year and discusses items on the student-led agenda.

Student Council members represent Homefield at events such as Natspec's Student Voice Parliament and NUS events.

Our members want to improve the learning experience at Homefield and provide a voice that is recognised and listened to by the Trustees and Senior Management Team.

Our Council is open to all students who would like to make their voices and opinions heard, and the Chairperson is elected democratically via a voting system in line with the Government National Parliament week initiative.

We develop skills through competition

We have been active in the establishment and development of inclusive competition. We participate in national and international inclusive skills competitions, enabling our students to strive for industry standard and offering them the ability to show off their skills.

We have been recognised by Natspec as an outstanding provider of competitions within our curriculum. We schedule competition activity into sessions, ranging from horticulture and catering to the design of our Christmas cards.

Competition activity is a great learning method, as it gives students a goal but also helps them learn through failure – a great real-life skill to have under their belts.

We employ assistive technology

Technology is an inevitable part of modern life, so we make sure our students can access these in the safest way possible. We view technology as an additional way of supporting our students' independence.

All our tutors have access to iPads which help support learning in practical ways, such as assisting with spellings or using the maps to find locations. The iPads also provide a voice for students with communication difficulties.

We use technology to support sessions as it can be used for finding out information independently. For example, telling the time, finding the correct spellings or giving the current weather forecast.

In our classrooms, we have large touchscreen computers which can be used as the focal point of a session, but also enable our students with poor fine motor skills to use computers more easily. We can also provide a range of keyboards and mice to help.

We encourage our students to learn to use their own mobile phones safely to enable them to be more independent in everyday life.



Keeping you safe

We put your safety at the forefront of our teaching

Homefield is committed to the highest standards in protecting and safeguarding our students. We provide a safe, caring and positive environment where students are listened to, feel valued and secure.

Safeguarding

Our staff are trained in safeguarding and Prevent, and we have a Designated Safeguarding Lead (Principal Tracey Forman) who takes overall responsibility for safeguarding our students.

We work with our students to develop their understanding of how to stay safe within the community, learning about managing money, online safety, sexual health and relationships, equality and diversity and how to access support in their local community. We teach students how to ask for help, and how to recognise signs of abuse.

Prevent

The aim of Prevent is to monitor, manage and deal effectively with any threats posted by people engaging in extremism. We have good relationships with our Regional Prevent Co-ordinator, and together we safeguard our students against radicalisation. Early intervention is important in protecting vulnerable people like our beneficiaries from being coerced into extremist activity.

County Lines

People with learning and communication difficulties can be exploited to traffic illegal drugs. We work closely with our students to educate them on the signs of being exploited, how to say no, where to report suspicious activity and what to do if they have concerns.

E-safety

We focus on the importance of staying safe online as the internet is an inevitable part of modern life. We have external presenters talk to students about topics such as cyber-bullying and password security, and focus on best practice of using the internet in PSHE sessions.

Equality and Diversity

We believe everyone should be treated with fairness, dignity and respect regardless of their:

- age
- disability
- gender reassignment
- marital / civil partnership status
- pregnancy
- race
- religion or belief
- sex
- sexual orientation

We challenge discrimination and advocate for our students, as well as helping students learn what discrimination is, and how to report if they feel they are discriminated against in society.

'I like Homefield because the staff helps us to change our life' – Student



Life after College

We are not just a College.

Your time at Homefield does not have to end after college. We provide for adults with learning disabilities all year round and many of our residents and day service users are ex-Homefield students.

Day Services

We help people with learning disabilities receive assistance and support with carrying out everyday activities away from their homes.

Our day services present opportunities to learn new skills and hobbies, to socialise with other people, to travel out in the community and to take part in a wide range of exciting activities.

Our daily programme of activities are built around the tenants of learning, aiming for achievable goals and personal wellbeing.

We run from Monday to Friday for 50 weeks in the year and ranging from 10am to 3pm with occasional evening and weekend events.

A wide number of activities fall across the week and can be available on more than one day to maintain an interesting opportunity for our day service users. This could mean that we have arts & crafts, music, and sign language on one day and health and safety, wellbeing, self-improvement on another.

In addition, no two people are the same or learn the same way and this approach allows our day service users to work as teams with their peers or to spend longer individually. We link up with work placements, community services and leisure facilities to help you achieve your ambitions.

We offer even more activities, including:

- Woodwork / restoration
- Garden & building maintenance
- Social history – metal detecting, responsible recording of local history, art and model making, digital photography
- Games and hobbies from Bolt action to Warhammer 40k, Boggle to Trivial Pursuit
- Art & craft projects (big and small)
- Ebay buying and selling
- Horticulture and small animals
- Sports and keeping fit outdoors and indoors
- Local community enterprises

If you would like to find out more about our Day Services, please contact reception and ask for our Day Services Manager.

Respite & Residential Experiences

We offer respite options as well as weekend experiences for people with learning disabilities to stay with friends and experience living away from home, to promote independence, self-confidence and self-esteem.

Residential Experience includes chances to develop travel training, keeping safe, personal care skills, managing money, daily living skills including domestic and cooking and more.

If you would like to know more about our residential options, please contact reception and ask for our Staff Deployment Manager.



How to Apply

Take the next step to becoming a Homefield student

We welcome referrals from students themselves, the Local Authority, parents and carers, schools, Connexions Advisors and Support Workers.

To apply, follow the admission steps below:

- 1 Attend an Open Day**
Our optional Open Days are a chance for you to meet our teaching staff and current students, who can tell you all about the sessions we provide that interest you, as well as answer any questions you or your family may have. It's a way of exploring our College offering and making sure you feel certain that Homefield is the right place for you.
- 2 Name us at your review & fill in a form**
You need to say at your EHCP review meeting that you want to go to Homefield College and tell the Local Authority this as well. Please also fill in an initial interest form at our Open Days or on our website. This information gives us an idea of what you are interested in learning at college and your needs.
- 3 Await a consult & College decision**
Once we receive your interest form, we wait for a consultation from the Local Authority. Our Admissions Team will consider whether we can support you. This may involve a member of our team visiting you at your current school, or you attending an interview.
- 4 Confirm with the Local Authority**
If we can meet your needs, we tell the Local Authority that we can offer you a place. The Local Authority then decides with you that Homefield is your main choice for continuing your education, and to fund your place with us.
- 5 Fill in your Student Information Pack**
Once your funding has been agreed by the Local Authority, you will be sent a student information pack. This contains forms asking for further details in order to make sure we have the most up-to-date information to support you fully. It also contains information about bursaries, and a welcome guide to answer any questions you may have.
- 6 Come to a Transition Day**
You will be invited to attend an optional transition day supported by your current school. These transition days give you the opportunity to join in with sessions, get to know fellow students, meet tutors and settle into the College before term starts (subject to risk-assessments and capacity).

If you have any queries regarding the application process, please contact our Admissions team:

By email: admissions@homefieldcollege.ac.uk

By phone: 01509 815696

By post: 217 Loughborough Road, Mountsorrel, LE12 7AR



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