



Case Study - "We purchased, converted and branded a horse box into a cafe "

THE BREW CREW

The Brew Crew is designed to equip our young people with practical work experience, enabling them to train as baristas and get involved in the community. In turn we are helping to create equal opportunities for young autistic people.

OPPORTUNITY/PROBLEM

Very few autistic adults are in full-time employment. We are always looking at ways to enable the best possible outcomes for the people we support when they transition into the world of employment. Gaining skills and confidence really helps showcase what people can achieve when given the opportunity. The Brew Crew is just one way we can do that.

SOLUTION/BENEFIT

The beautifully branded coffee horsebox provides a safe and supportive environment for our young people to learn skills and develop key competencies, such as their communication, problem-solving, attention to detail, and teamwork.

Portfield School students and Futures Learners have already undertaken barista training, learning how to use the different equipment and machinery to make lattes, cappuccinos, tea, hot chocolate and more! They have also been taking orders and serving customers, interacting with different people and gaining vital customer service skills.

Growing confidence

Building communications skills and interacting with customers. Working as part of a team and the art of multitasking.

Gaining skills in hospitality

Learning how to make an amazing cup of coffee as well as having attention to detail, time management skills, and a smile on your face.

Accessing opportunities for work

refining your talents and tailoring them to work experience within the hospitality sector whilst picking up important transferable skills.

AT A GLANCE

Challenges

- Gaining the right permissions
- Getting a suitable generator
- Capacity at the current Sixth Form site
- Replacement coffee machine

Opportunities

- Opening the Brew Crew at the new site
- Having a presence in the local community
- Attending festivals and fairs

Funding Sources - £14,000

- Selling products from the Brew Crew
- Gift in Kind
- One off donations



"I always wanted to see inside the new coffee box and i was pleased when they said i could have a go at making a coffee. It was good to try it and i would like to have another go and make a hot chocolate."

Student - Max



SUCCESS STORY

Michael, one of our Futures Learners, has learned a range of barista skills that he will be using at the café where he is doing his work placement. Another Futures Learner is working back-of-house in a different café, and used their creative skills by designing the Brew Crew advertising A-Board.

We are fundraising for a professional training kitchen within our new Sixth Form where students will cook and bake items for sale on the Brew Crew. We will continue to identify opportunities for young people to enjoy what they learn and further progress their skills.

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STATISTICS



Disabled people are 28.6 percentage points less likely to be in employment than non-disabled people.



FSM students make up only 16.7% of students in KS5 (16-18 years) academic pathways in comparison to 28% on vocational pathways.



26% of young people who received free school meals (FSM) in year 11 are not in education or employment (NEET) aged 18-24, compared to 13% of non-FSM students.



"By maximising the support and opportunities available to autistic young people, we can help to bridge the autistic employment gap."

Work Experience Programme Lead -
Corné Van Deventer

