



Communication Specialist College

DONCASTER

A LEADING NATIONAL SPECIALIST COLLEGE
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH COMMUNICATION NEEDS



PROSPECTUS

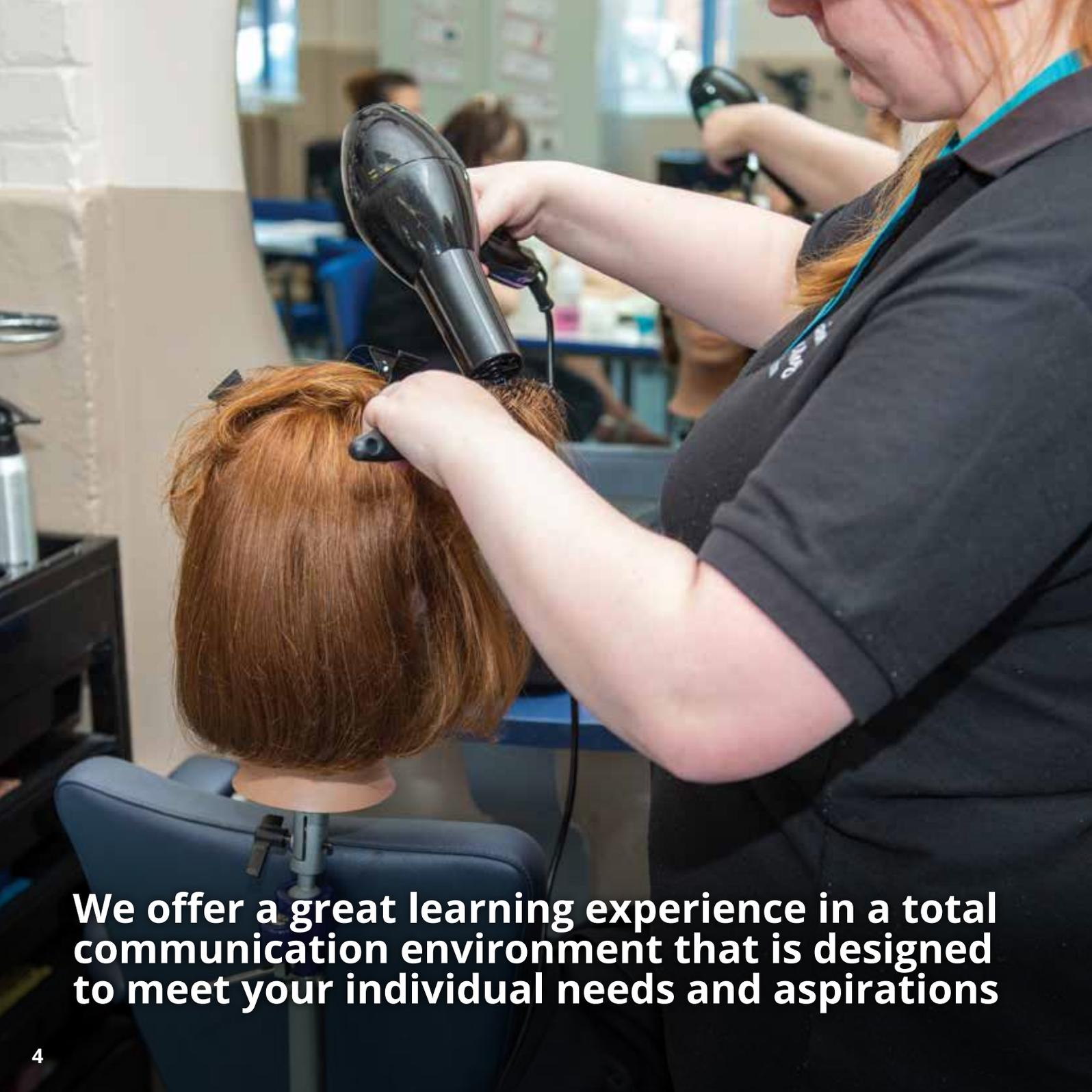


An award-winning, leading National Specialist College for those with communication needs such as; deafness, hearing impairment, autistic spectrum conditions, learning disabilities and difficulties



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We offer a great learning experience in a total communication environment that is designed to meet your individual needs and aspirations

We welcome you to the Communication Specialist College, part of Doncaster Deaf Trust

We are a national specialist college providing education and learning opportunities for people with specialist communication needs, including deafness, autism and learning difficulties.

The college has a wide range of opportunities which allow students to develop their skills in preparation for the world of work, alongside developing independence and social skills.

Our accredited pathways enable students to study towards nationally recognised qualifications, as well as non-accredited learning to support individual goals and ambitions.

We hope you choose to study with us, either as a day placement student, or on a residential basis. It really is a great place to learn, live and make new friends.

Alexis Johnson
Executive Principal

OFSTED 2018
GRADED
GOOD

OUTSTANDING
for residential
social care
OFSTED 2017





To empower and support individuals to be resilient, independent and skilled and enable them to achieve their future aspirations

A specialist college designed to meet students' individual needs

Communication Specialist College - Doncaster is at the forefront of specialist provision in the UK, with more than 190 years' experience in the teaching and training of students who are either deaf, hearing impaired, or with specialist communication needs.

Going to college is one of the most exciting times of a young person's life and it is important to choose the right place and programme to suit individual learning needs. We offer outstanding opportunities for a great learning experience in a communication environment that is designed to meet students' needs.

Our individualised learning programmes offer a unique approach to students who have specific language and communication needs and our holistic approach seeks to recognise each need, want and aspiration by creating opportunities to develop talents to the full in a highly supportive, 'Total Communication' environment.

We ensure each student receives the support and guidance to help them learn new skills, alongside their peers, in a community where understanding and being understood is paramount.

The college offers a wide range of programmes for students who want to gain job and life-related qualifications and for those who need to gain independence and develop their social skills. We cater for all abilities and learning styles, offering pathways to suit every ambition.

Our work pathway provides a distinctive, industry-focused learning environment for students, whilst our life and living pathways are designed to maximise personal and social development.

In recent years our performance and reputation as one of the leading National Specialist Providers has been reflected in our 'OUTSTANDING' Ofsted inspection for residential social care in 2017 and our 'GOOD' Ofsted inspection for education in 2018.





‘Learners benefit from very good facilities and highly skilled staff’ Latest Ofsted Report

Providing inspirational learning environments in great facilities

The college shares the campus at Doncaster Deaf Trust with a deaf school, nursery, employment unit and residential accommodation, a total of 24 acres. This provides us with outstanding facilities for students as regards sport and leisure activities and opportunities to invest in some of the latest technology for both learning and play.

Some of the latest technology installed at the college include:

- Interactive Smart Boards attached to walls, or taken down and placed on a table, to assist students in their studies.
- A well-equipped hair and beauty salon, just like any commercial high street business.
- A fully-equipped motor vehicle engineering workshop for learning how to undertake a range of mechanical repairs and maintenance tasks, together with a completely professional spray-painting bay with spray paints and a computer controlled mixing facility.

Our range of social and sporting options are truly exceptional and include:

- Two newly re-surfaced outdoor sports courts for tennis, volleyball, basketball, futsal/five-a-side football and netball.
- A huge indoor multi-sports centre with changing rooms, this space is also used for internal and external events, the college annual prize giving awards and the Christmas party.

- A Rebound Therapy room with full size trampoline.
- A completely new and re-equipped gym with safe flooring and a range of exercise equipment including stepper machines, running machines, rowing machines, free-weights and a multi-exerciser.
- A swimming pool which is fully accessible for all disabilities, with fully-qualified pool guards and first-aid qualified staff who supervise swimming sessions.
- 7 acres of playing fields for football, rugby, cricket and athletics.
- Our sports department houses a restaurant and lounge, both with fully licensed bars and a vibrant, lively, bright and comfortable study centre complete with new PCs and central seating, specially designed to accommodate wheelchair users. A 59 inch internet connected 'Smart' Television is also available here, as well as quiet areas, complete with comfy sofas, where students can escape for a while and just relax.





'Learners continue to develop the skills that they will need for a successful adult life' Latest Ofsted Report

Preparing students for the world of work

At the Communication Specialist College, we prepare students to secure and sustain a range of employment/self-employment opportunities through their entire college experience, including:

- Dedicated transition team
- Employability skills courses
- Industry visits
- Independent or supported work placements
- 1:1 tailor-made transition support

Our individual learning programmes, or vocational pathways, provide a distinctive, industry-focused learning environment for students of all levels and abilities who each aspire to enter employment, or perhaps go on to further or higher education. At the same time we encourage students to excel in their studies, achieve greater independence and confidence.

The unique environment at the college here in Doncaster helps to prepare students for the workplace and ensures they have the core skills required to succeed in their chosen sector.

We provide:

- A wide range of vocational courses
- Real work environments
- Courses from Entry Level to Level 3
- Work preparation programmes

A list of vocational courses available are shown on pages 12 and 13 of this prospectus.



Vocational courses

These are exciting and dynamic departments where all students are equally respected and able to participate fully in the education programme of their choice, we help them to prepare for the workplace and to ensure they have the core skills required.

Most of our vocational curriculum is from Entry Level to Level 3. Please contact us to discuss any individual requirements so that study programmes can be tailor-made. Our vocational courses include:

Catering and Hospitality

Students learn in training facilities that reflect the real-life workplace. Skills are taught at the students' own pace and level to build their confidence and to work towards industry recognised accredited qualifications.

Construction/Multi-skills

Each student works in a real-life working environment to gain understanding and practical experience in a variety of trades, such as: plastering, bricking, joinery, wall and floor tiling and painting and decorating. Many students receive industry recognised qualifications, whilst others learn practical skills.

Customer Service

This course provides students with the opportunity to gain basic and intermediate skills and knowledge needed for a career in customer service, or any employment dealing with customers. Each student works towards industry recognised qualifications, in-house certificates and attends work experience.

Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy

The college has its own on-site salon giving students a realistic environment in which to gain skills knowledge and expertise in either hair, beauty or both. Students can work towards recognised industry specific qualifications, or take a non-accredited pathway if required where they will achieve certificates for individual units of study.

Health, Education and Social Studies

These courses include varying levels or studies towards Health and Social Care or Child Care qualifications as required. Students can learn the theory and practical skills needed for the world of work in this field, supported by qualified industry tutors. Learning can then be transferred into off-site work placements in the local community such as nurseries, schools, care homes etc.

Horticulture

Our large greenhouse, planting beds, various orchards and an award-winning show garden, provide a unique environment where emphasis is on practical learning in real situations. Students can work towards recognised accredited qualifications and have the opportunity to take part in major competitions.

Media and Office Technology including Business Administration

We offer three pathways of administration, Office, ICT and Media, each offers a range of skills and qualifications to give the best opportunity for students to achieve their long-term goal.

Motor Vehicle Engineering

We offer an industry standard workshop environment where students are trained using real customer vehicles. We place great emphasis on work experience placements, as they play an important role in preparing students for the world of work where opportunities are extensive.

Sports, Recreation and Leisure

People are spending more time and money on recreation, leisure and well-being, creating a shortage of qualified personnel within the sport, leisure and fitness industry. We provide students with sport and leisure qualifications and additional training for transferable skills.

Sign Language

All students who come to the college have the opportunity to learn sign language. It is taught by a small dedicated team of Deaf staff who adapt their style and pace to allow students with learning and physical disabilities equal access to achieve Signature qualifications.

Skills for Life

We teach two different paths, both of which aim to help students gain maths and English skills needed to pass a nationally recognised qualification. Sessions are taught in small class sizes (4-6) to enable all students to receive the support they need and learn in a way which suits them.

Employability, Personal and Social Development

Employability skills qualifications are designed to support an individual to successfully gain a job, progress in their chosen field, prepare them for further study and support the development of techniques required for successful independent living.

Enterprise

Students work as a team to produce and sell good quality, innovative products through our on-site shop, market stall and various fayres and events around Doncaster and the local area. Many products are produced through the joinery, horticulture or catering departments where the projects enable all those involved to be able to make products they are proud of. Each rewarding project encompasses many of the skills needed for the world of work.



Over the last year we successfully placed 100% of students in meaningful work experience placements

Preparing students for transition

The work experience team within the college supports students to experience meaningful work placements. First year students have opportunities to go on at least three industry visits to see different working environments and provide them with information about their future work placements.

Students in their second year are given the opportunity to complete a “Work experience request form” which highlights preferences, qualifications, attributes and the support they need to make the placement successful.

Student placement times vary hugely. Some students undertake one hour work placements, while others at least half a day. Each student has the appropriate amount of support, with some needing 1:1 support and others starting with 1:1 support but reduced over time to allow more independence. All placements are reviewed with students, support staff and employers. Students who have successful independent work placements are then offered a block placement of either 1 or 2 full weeks.

The work experience team is part of the transitions team and is located centrally within the college. They have an open-door policy, which generates a positive environment with students happily popping in to discuss work placements and their more general college life.

Communication Specialist College - Doncaster offers the opportunity for all students to be at the centre of their transition planning, to explore their wants, needs and future aspirations.

Such as:

- Time for transition planning and developing long-term goals
- Sessions to discuss and make informed decisions about their future
- Good communications with external agencies across the country
- Regular meetings with appropriate professionals
- Individual one-to-one sessions with facilitators, planners and advocates
- Visits to a range of services for their future and a smooth transition





**'Learners make good progress and
achieve their personal targets'**
Latest Ofsted Report

Giving students essential skills for everyday life and work

The Communication Specialist College – Doncaster delivers a fully personalised programme of learning to ensure all students grow in confidence and develop personal and social skills for everyday life.

We are a lively, caring college where students have lots of fun in a safe environment, whilst receiving all the help and support they may need.

Life Skills

All students within the life skills department work in small groups and 1:1 sessions towards individual targets according to their learning needs. Bespoke timetables can also incorporate accredited qualifications where appropriate. Students access all areas of college to support their experiences and opportunities within college life.

Sessions include:

- Independent travel
- Accessing the community
- Group meals
- Rebound therapy
- Personal presentation
- Managing social relationships
- Sports
- Music
- Enterprise
- Work experience
- Literacy and numeracy
- smiLE therapy





'The activities help learners to prepare well for adult life and appropriate employment' Latest Ofsted Report

Helping students develop personal and social skills

PSD forms part of the timetable for all students and depending on the assessed needs of individuals it can comprise of:

Tutor Group/Pastoral Support

Students are linked to small tutor groups to develop skills in socialising with peers and preparing for the day ahead. They are also given time to share emotions and discuss the world around them, have training in internet safety and discuss issues which they as a group have found challenging. Students have regular tutorials with key staff and set their own achievable targets.

Travel / Accessing the Community

This course aims to help students become more confident in accessing new places and explore strategies needed to manage different travel scenarios.

Independent Living Skills

The aim of this course is to develop student's skills in shopping, budgeting, cooking, cleaning and socialising.

smiLE Therapy

(strategies and measurable interaction in Live English)

Our Speech and Language Therapists support students with communication difficulties to communicate in everyday situations, without the usual support and

protection from home and college. These skills need to be explicitly taught, to enable them to become confident young adults. smiLE Therapy is a therapy designed to equip students with the skills necessary to become responsible individuals who operate at the highest level of independence that their circumstances and condition allow..

Managing Social Relationships/ Communication/Assertiveness Courses

Students are encouraged to be more assertive in a range of situations and explore strategies to support themselves during formal and informal situations including developing skills in socialising.

Managing Money

The goal for students in these sessions is to develop real life skills relating to money management according to individual ability and need.

Work Experience

Supported work experience is timetabled on a weekly basis with all work experience linked to the student's future plans and goals.





'Young people thrive in a specialist and bespoke care setting' Latest Ofsted Report

Providing a comfortable and supportive living environment

Graded 'Outstanding' in 2017, our residential provision provides a comfortable and supported living element of college life in which we promote independence, embrace individuality and encourage a range of enrichment activities and opportunities for all.

With a 'Total Communication' ethos and person-centred values, we aim to ensure that our students have a sense of belonging and are able to develop friendships, skills and interests which they can continue to pursue into the future.



A team of staff within residences ensure students can relax in the comfort of their lodges or get involved in activities which are run during the evenings and weekends.

For example:

- Wii competitions
- Craft nights
- Inter-lodge bake offs
- Pool competitions
- Discussion evenings
- Trips to local attractions





**'I have had lots of different experiences
at college and love living with my friends'**
Student

Helping students develop their identity and feel they belong

The sense of community at the Communication Specialist College – Doncaster is unrivalled, and it really helps students build up great friendships.

As a college we strive to offer a range of enrichment activities to develop social interaction and life experiences. Students are immersed into a 'Total Communication' environment that aims to break down the barriers of exclusion and positively promote a socially inclusive environment.

The opportunities to get involved are varied and include:

Student Council

Each department and residence has a student representative, they attend regular meetings about aspects of the college with senior management and make a real impact on decision-making.

Socialising

The college provides many varied opportunities to socialise on the campus. We offer a number of groups such as men's and women's football, water polo, gym sessions and dance classes and we also have a drama group and a sign choir. A weekly youth club is open to day and residential students which provides a variety of social activities including the fully licensed 'Blues Bar'.

Doncaster itself offers some great places to socialise including the Dome Leisure Centre, a bowling centre, multi-screen cinema, riding school, ice skating centre, football and rugby clubs, golf, angling, water sports, paint balling, go karting, nature reserves, shopping, art galleries, theatres, the Yorkshire Wildlife Park or the famous Doncaster Race Course.



Providing the right level of support and therapy

We have a dedicated team of specialist staff who provide a range of support and therapies for students. We also have access to an extensive range of external networks and professionals such as doctors, dentists, opticians, nurses and other bespoke services.

As part of the support network, the college has its own audiology department. Our clinical audiologist is committed to ensuring that every student who comes to us has access to the best equipment available for their particular need. Students are encouraged to make the best use of their residual hearing and see the audiologist for any concerns they may have.

The department has forged close links and has the full support of local and NHS audiology departments and specialist cochlear implant centres throughout the UK. The department strives to ensure every student has regular hearing tests, individual support for personal equipment and help with accessing specialist services off-site.

Some of the medical services at the college include:

- On-site nurse during the college day
- Supported access to local health services
- Supported programmes of self-medication
- Personal health awareness programmes

Some of the therapies at the college include:

- Speech and Language therapy
- Counselling therapy
- Access to physiotherapy
- Access to occupational therapy
- On-site mental health support
- Rebound therapy
- smiLE therapy

Some of the emotional and behavioural support provided include:

- Specialist support and intervention strategies
- Individualised risk assessments
- Positive behaviour management
- Multi-disciplinary assessments
- Assertiveness courses
- 24/7 staff support
- 1:1 support as and when required

Education and communication support available includes:

- Dedicated support staff
- All staff trained in the use of BSL
- Specialist knowledge of autistic spectrum conditions
- Teachers of the deaf
- Adapted resources and teaching strategies to meet student needs
- Use of 'Total Communication'
- Assistive technologies



Pastoral Team

On-site Nurse

Counselling Services

Autism Specialists

Speech and Language Therapy

Audiology

Work Experience Team

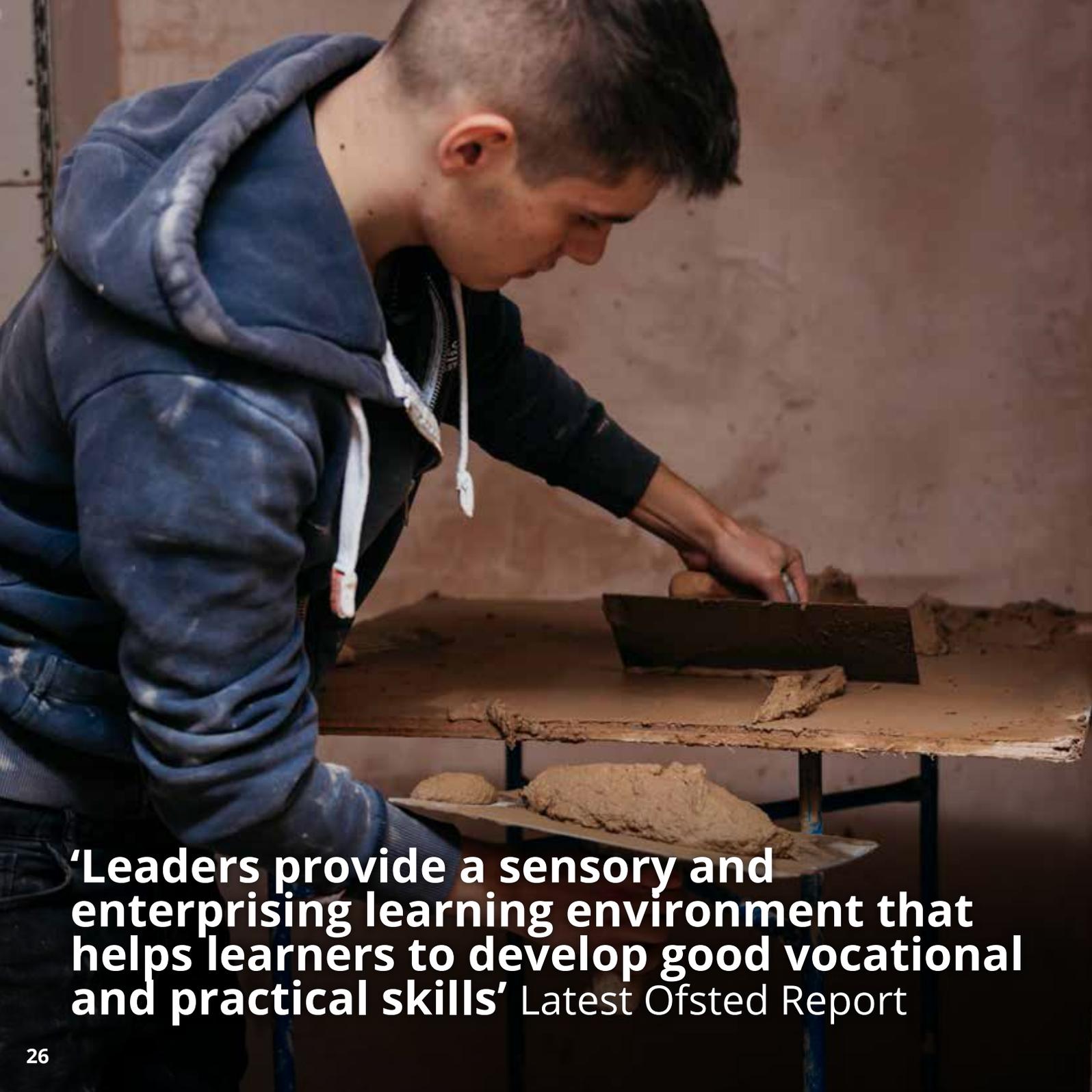
Person Centred Plans

British Sign Language

Teachers of the Deaf

Transitions Team

Behaviour Management Team



'Leaders provide a sensory and enterprising learning environment that helps learners to develop good vocational and practical skills' Latest Ofsted Report

College admissions

How do I apply to the Communication Specialist College?

If you think that our college is right for you or have been refused funding for any reason, then you may contact the college admissions office for advice, guidance and further information.

When can I start at the Communication Specialist College?

We accept enrolment throughout the year. Please note that when you are offered a place, a suitable starting date will be negotiated.

Not ready to apply?

You may be too young, not prepared, or simply unsure as to whether the Communication Specialist College is right for you. If so, why not attend one of our open days - or contact us to arrange an informal visit.

We can be contacted by email at admissions@cscd.ac.uk or by calling 01302 386720.





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