



RNIB College Loughborough

Choose us for your Further Education
(enterprises programme)



RNIB

**RNIB College
Loughborough**

At RNIB College Loughborough we offer specialist support to young people and adults with vision impairment and additional disabilities.

We're a small, friendly day and residential college where each staff member wants to empower you to achieve your full potential. We can help you to move on to your next step.

Our Further Education (FE) offers you opportunities to:

- develop your independence
- prepare for work, volunteering or training
- build your personal life skills
- learn about looking after yourself
- get out into the local community.

You can either learn through our enterprise-based programme or study for a mainstream course at Loughborough College, located next door.

This brochure focuses on our enterprise-based Individual Learning Programme (ILP).

"Students make at least good progress as a result of a well-managed, personalised curriculum that has a strong emphasis on preparing students for adult life."

Ofsted, 2017



Learn skills in our enterprises

Come to us and you'll learn lots of new skills and build confidence in a variety of College enterprises. These are our student-led businesses where you'll be doing meaningful jobs in real settings:

- Bell Bar café
- conference centre
- eBay shop
- arts centre
- craft studio
- shop
- college office.

Skills you'll develop include:

- functional literacy and numeracy
- personal effectiveness
- communication
- IT
- customer service
- health and safety.

You'll get opportunities to:

- work within a team, including leading a group
- focus on tasks independently
- become more confident
- use your initiative
- meet and speak with people you know and people you don't know
- deal with new situations
- cope with change
- build assertiveness
- become more independent in the local community
- learn how to look at options and make choices.

Transition to employment

You'll also have the chance to go on work placement. This might be at RNIB College or with a local external organisation. Work placements are a great way to experience a different team environment.

The type of role and amount of time you spend on a work placement depends on your goals.

Work placements help to prepare you for employment, supported employment, voluntary work or community access.

Our focus is to help you prepare for your future. We'll tailor our support, advice and guidance according to your interests, abilities and aspirations. This might include careers advice and support in applying for jobs.

Supported Internships

One way to help you move into work is our Supported Internships programme. This is a great way for you to build your work experience and move into employment.

Supported Internships are term-time study programmes which mostly take place "on the job" within the workplace. The programme includes literacy, numeracy and communication study at College. You might also work towards work skills qualifications.

You'll need an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) to do a Supported Internship. Please contact us for more information.

In-house therapies

Our on-site team of therapists can help to boost your wellbeing, build your confidence and improve your access to activities.

Available therapies include speech and language therapy and physiotherapy.

Our enterprises are supported by our therapists who ensure speech and language therapy and physiotherapy are embedded into your work.

Charlie's story

“Charlie is in his third year at RNIB College and I have nothing but high praise for them and the help they have given to him.

Charlie was a very anxious young man when he first started. The college worked with us and listened to Charlie's concerns. They immediately put one-to-one support in place to help Charlie settle in and overcome his worries.

Charlie has an Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and tends to isolate himself, especially when anxious. His teacher and I worked together and with some gentle persuasion we were able to encourage Charlie to mix more with his peers and not sit on his own as much. He now has more confidence and staff at the RNIB College know how to reassure him so he can get on with his day.

The college is helping Charlie to become more independent. He's developed many skills and has gained some qualifications. He has worked in the College office and the eBay shop with staff that encourage and push him to reach his full potential. Not an easy task when Charlie would prefer to be relaxing, reading or playing on the computer!

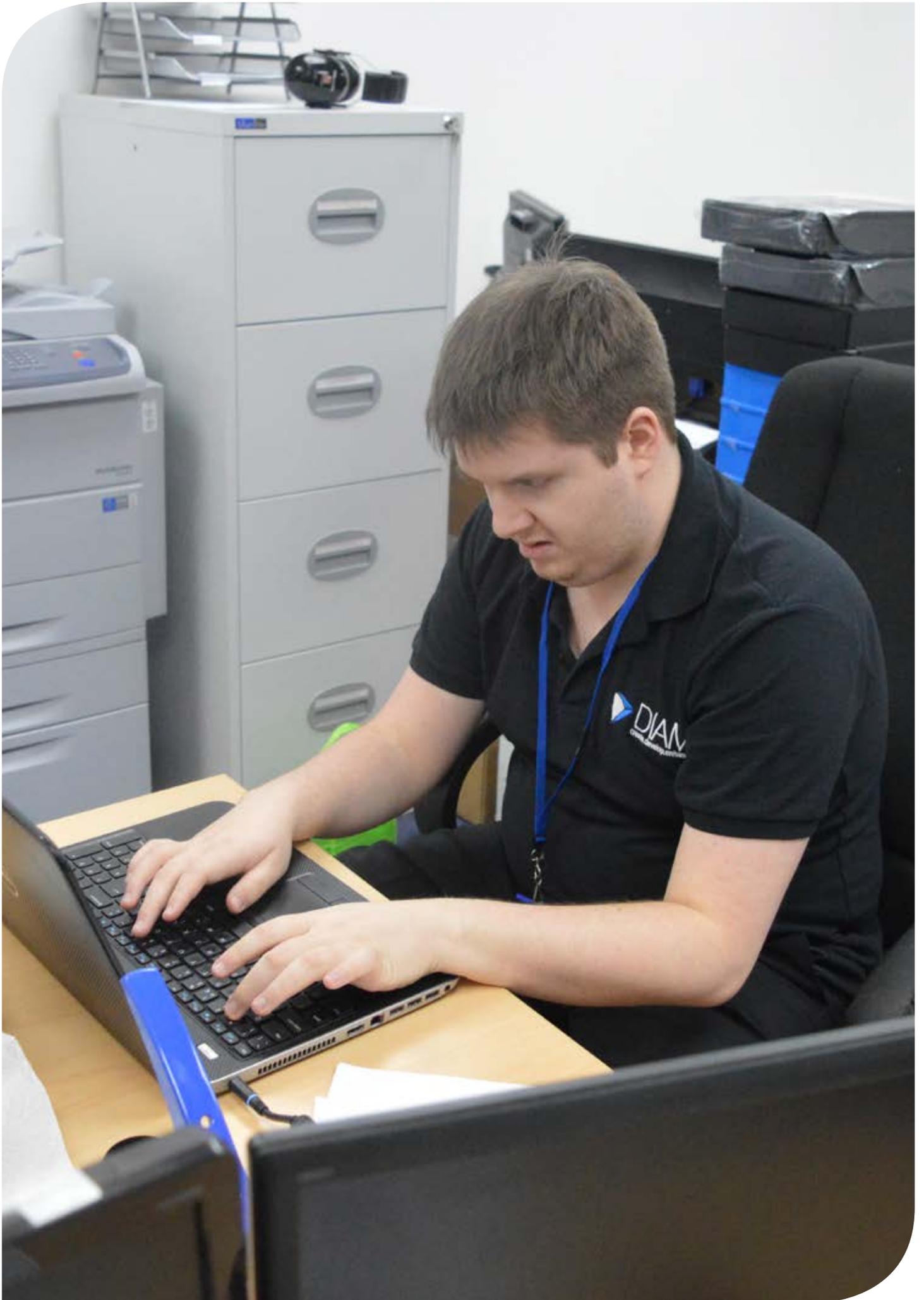
Charlie is now in his final year and is on a Supported Internship programme out of the college setting. He is fully supported by RNIB and learning more new skills.

I would recommend the RNIB College to others in an instant. It is a warm, calm and friendly atmosphere as soon as you enter the building. They understand Charlie and meet his needs, whilst doing their utmost to help him strive for a promising future and becoming a valid member of society.”

Diane – Charlie's mum

“Anna, my teacher, has helped me with my problems at college. I have learnt new skills in the college office and the eBay shop. I enjoy going on the karaoke at lunch time and singing my favourite songs. I have met some nice friends there too like Pete, Lewis, Jamal, Alisha, Libby and my old friend Nathan. I also worked in Sip & Surf and am now working at Diam in reception with help from Naomi, Doris and Louise.”

Charlie



Residential independence

If you need accommodation, our on-site Stan Bell Centre offers modern purpose-built flats. Our waking night staff can provide care throughout the night, if needed.

Whether you decide to live here during term-time or stay overnight sometimes, we'll support you to be as independent as possible.

We can help you build your confidence in personal care, budgeting, taking medication, getting out in the community and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. You'll develop your cookery skills and learn about shopping and meal planning to a budget within your flat, practising important independent and teamwork skills. We also hope you'll make some lifelong friends.

If you're a day student, you might be able to stay overnight with us from time to time. This could help to build up your skills and confidence towards moving into supported living in the future. You may be able to apply for Social Care funding from your local authority towards this.

Purpose-built home from home

We want our Stan Bell Centre to feel like your home during your stay. Our purpose-built accommodation has 23 single en-suite bedrooms, divided into four flats, each with a shared kitchen and dining room.

Each private room has a bed, bathroom, desk, telephone, broadband and TV points. We also have rooms adapted for wheelchair use and fully accessible ground floor flats. Within the building there is a shared TV lounge, a games room, and a laundry room. There is also a large garden with outdoor seating for you to enjoy.

A great environment to learn in

Our **adapted facilities** include tactile flooring, an easy to navigate layout, high contrast seating and door frames, and adjustable lighting. We also have personal care rooms with electric ceiling track hoists.

Our **specialist resources** ensure everyday tasks are accessible and that everyone can get involved. These include low vision resources, RNIB PenFriend audio devices, liquid level indicators, recordable talking objects and signage using symbols, large font, and braille.

Needs we support

- Vision impairment
- Learning difficulties and disabilities
- Autistic spectrum disorders (ASD)
- Physical disabilities
- Communication difficulties
- Mild hearing problems
- Additional healthcare needs, such as epilepsy
- Additional emotional and behavioural difficulties

Personalised support for you

We personalise our support to suit your needs and abilities. We'll offer you activities that will help you develop the skills you need, but are also challenging and fun! By working closely with you and your family, we'll make sure you achieve your goals.

We recognise that you may need support to enable you to cope with personal stresses and life changes, so you will have nominated staff members to speak with.

Our literacy and numeracy teacher, braille tutor and mobility officer can give you specialist support in these areas if you need it.

Other provision available

Flexible Futures is our daytime activities programme delivered through our enterprises and out in the community. If you're not on a five-day FE programme, this is something you could also do with us on your other days. Flexible Futures is funded by your local authority's Social Care department, as are overnight stays. If you'd like to apply for these, please ask your local council for an adult needs assessment.



Jamal's story

Jamal started with us in 2015 and wanted to build his confidence as he was a little apprehensive in his new environment. We focused on giving him opportunities to communicate with other students. Jamal's long term goals were to get involved in the community and to do some voluntary work. He loves animals so in the first year he secured a work placement at Manor Farm which helped him develop his work skills. Jamal got on really well here and received great feedback and gradually took on more tasks.

Jamal enjoyed working in our café, the Bell Bar, both in the kitchen and front of house hospitality work. He gained a range of transferrable skills to use in other work places. He was able to make hot drinks, serve customers and keep the café clean.

Jamal is now able to do more tasks independently. He has built up his reading, writing and numeracy skills which in turn helped his confidence. He enjoyed wrapping the parcels in our eBay shop and going out to the post office to send the parcel. Jamal has attended activities at the local leisure centre, particularly enjoying tennis and step aerobics.

Our transitions team worked with the local McDonalds to develop a Supported Internship for Jamal. The Supported Internship is an education programme based for two days with an employer and for one day in College. Jamal has made a great start and is really enjoying it. He's working in a hospitality host role, keeping the restaurant clean and tidy and greeting customers, following on from his Bell Bar café experience. On Wednesdays when they are not in College the Interns get out in the community for independent travel training and have been practising travelling by bus and train to Leicester.

Thinking about his Internship, Jamal said "I like doing the maths lessons as it helps me count the money for the bus. I like trips on the bus and train."

"I have noticed a positive change in Jamal and feel he has developed a great deal since coming to the RNIB College. He seems to be really enjoying the supported internship at McDonald's. Every time I ask him what he likes about College and his Internship, he says, 'I love it! What more could you want?!' – Rosie, Jamal's mum



Interested? Apply today!

Contact us and arrange a visit, then complete and return our application form.



Call our Referrals and Admissions team on **01509 631220**



Email us at **enquiries@rnibcollege.ac.uk**



Go to our website **www.rnibcollege.ac.uk**

We look forward to hearing from you soon