

A young man with curly hair, wearing a dark blue jacket over a grey shirt, is smiling broadly. He has safety glasses perched on his head. The background is a blurred workshop or industrial setting. The image is overlaid with a large diagonal graphic element in orange and dark grey.

ILLUMIN8 **SKILLS FOR LIFE & WORK PROGRAMME**

Get Ready, Skilled, Going

Contents

Programme Overview	02
How are we Different?	03
Why Enrol?	04
Curriculum	04
Building the Vision	05
Learn with Intention	06
Step Forward	07
Skills for Life and Work	08
Unlocking Potential with the 5 Cs of Education	09
Action Planning	11



Programme Overview

At Prospect Training Services, we are proud to offer a lllumin8 initiative that supports young adults with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). As part of this initiative, individuals with SEND benefit greatly from our Skills and Life Programme, which offers a highly personalised and supportive alternative to mainstream education pathways.

Unlike traditional settings that may not always adapt to individual needs, our programme is built around flexible, inclusive teaching strategies, smaller group sizes and tailored support plans. Students are guided by dedicated mentors who understand their unique strengths and challenges, ensuring that every learner can build confidence, independence and essential skills at their own pace.

Through practical experiences, enriched learning opportunities and a strong focus on personal development, our Skills and Life Programme empowers SEND learners to achieve meaningful progress, develop a clear sense of purpose and successfully transition into further education, employment or independent living.

How are we Different?

Our programme is designed to empower students to shape their educational journey with purpose, confidence and a clear plan for future success.

The journey begins with **Building and Planning**, where students engage in work experience, meet employers and complete a personalised action plan with our in-house mentor, as well as compliment this action plan with short, personalised and accessible assessments to create a personalised learning plan. This tailored approach ensures all student's strengths and ambitions are recognised and supported from the start.



Next, in the **Learn with Intention** phase, students strengthen their skills in core areas through Functional Skills in Maths and English, Progression Sessions and enriching activities. Innovative, inclusive teaching helps ignite curiosity, improve communication and build essential life skills, helping students develop both personally and academically.



Finally, in **Step Forward**, students apply their knowledge and hard work to real-world opportunities. They prepare for and take Functional Skills exams, complete their Progression Qualifications and explore diverse next steps like further education, vocational training, apprenticeships or employment—supported every step of the way by expert guidance.

Why Enrol?

Join us to build your vision, learn with intention and step forward into a successful future.



Tailored pathways to match individual goals and strengths



Celebrated achievements with engaging experiences, outings and celebrations across the year



Work experience units spaced evenly across the academic year



Essential skill-building in Maths, English and personal development



Fully supported and fully staffed to ensure consistent support is available



Clear routes to future education, training or employment



Real-world experiences through work placements and employer/guest interactions



Supportive environment that builds confidence, ambition and clarity for the next chapter

Curriculum

Our curriculum is structured into three clear phases.



Build the Vision
September - October



Learn with Intention
November - Easter



Step Forward
May - July



Building the Vision

Shape your path with purpose and learning

The first phase of our curriculum, **Building and Planning**, lays the foundation for a purposeful and personalised year of learning. Taking place between September and the October half term, this phase immerses students in a series of exploratory experiences designed to help them reflect, set goals and make informed decisions about their learning journey.

During this time, students engage in a diverse range of activities, including work experience placements, interactions with employers, educational assessments and structured sessions with their dedicated mentor. These opportunities not only help students discover their strengths and interests but also encourage them to develop a clear sense of direction.



The core aim of this phase is to co-create a meaningful and individualised plan for the year ahead—guiding progress into Phase 2 and 3 of the curriculum. By the end of this stage, each student will have a tailored pathway that supports their aspirations, maximises their potential and prepares them for future success.



Learn with Intention

Gather, grow and gain knowledge

In the **Learn with Intention** phase, students embark on a dynamic journey to gather, grow and gain knowledge across core areas that support their wider learning and personal development. This phase forms the foundation of their programme and focuses on building essential skills that unlock future opportunities.



Students engage in:

01 Functional Skills in Maths and English

02 Progression Sessions

03 Enrichment Activities

These sessions are carefully designed to be impactful, empowering and accessible to all learners. Through innovative and inclusive teaching strategies that spark curiosity and ignite a love of learning, every student is supported to reach their full potential.

Whether it's improving communication skills, building confidence with numbers or exploring new interests through enrichment, students are encouraged to take ownership of their learning. By the end of this phase, they will not only have gained key knowledge and skills but also developed a stronger sense of direction and purpose—ready to move forward with confidence.

Step Forward

Turn progress into possibilities



The **Step Forward** phase is where students begin to see the results of their hard work come to life. This is a pivotal point in the programme where progress is transformed into real-world possibilities.

During this phase, students will:

Be registered for their Functional Skills examinations, ensuring they are fully prepared and confident to achieve success in these essential qualifications.

Finalise their Progression Qualification, drawing together the skills, knowledge and experiences they have built throughout the programme.

Be introduced to transition opportunities that align with their individual aspirations and goals.

These may include:

- **Work placements**
- **Further education at college**
- **Vocational training providers**
- **Apprenticeship routes**
- **Or other tailored next steps**

This phase is designed to help students explore and take advantage of the many pathways available beyond the programme. Through guidance, support and exposure to real-life scenarios, students are empowered to make informed decisions about their future.

Step Forward equips learners with not just the qualifications, but the confidence, ambition and clarity to take their next step—whatever that may be—with purpose and pride.



Skills for Life and Work

This programme is built on top of five key pillars. All five pillars are key for a successful outcome. Your mentor will ensure that attendance and results within all five pillars are being met.



Functional Skills Maths & English



Progression Qualification



Work Experience tailored to young people's needs



Life Skills & Complimentary Experiences



Mentoring



Unlocking Potential with the 5 Cs of Education

How do we ensure our curriculum is robust, engaging and purposeful for our learners and their journeys into life and/or employment?

At the heart of our curriculum lies a commitment to empowering learners for success in education, work and life. We integrate the 5 Cs—Creativity, Critical Thinking, Communication, Collaboration and Collective Behaviours—into every facet of our approach to teaching, learning and preparation for the future. Here's how we make it happen:



Creativity

Our curriculum encourages students to think outside the box and explore new ways to solve problems. Through project-based learning, arts integration and innovation challenges, students are empowered to develop original ideas and apply them in real-world scenarios. Creativity is woven throughout lessons to inspire curiosity and imagination.



Critical Thinking

We encourage an environment where students can analyse, evaluate and synthesise information. By engaging with complex problems, debates and case studies, students develop strong decision-making skills and learn how to approach challenges with a clear, reasoned perspective. This critical mindset prepares them for life beyond the classroom.



Communication

Whether through written, verbal or digital platforms, our curriculum places a strong emphasis on effective communication. Students learn to articulate their ideas, express opinions respectfully and listen actively. We ensure that communication skills are nurtured across all subjects, supporting both academic achievement and personal growth.



Collaboration

Learning is a shared journey. We encourage teamwork and cooperative learning, where students collaborate on projects, share knowledge and respect diverse viewpoints. Teachers model collaborative strategies to promote peer-to-peer learning, and staff work closely to align teaching practices across disciplines, ensuring a cohesive approach to education.



Collective Behaviours

Success in today's world depends on working well with others. Our curriculum emphasises collective responsibility, where students understand the importance of community, empathy and respect. By engaging in group tasks and community-oriented projects, students develop a sense of social responsibility and prepare for active participation in society and the workplace.

The 5 Cs are seamlessly integrated into the planning and delivery of Functional Skills, Maths and English, ensuring a holistic approach to learning that is accessible to all students. Our experienced team, with expertise in working with additional needs, skilfully incorporates Creativity, Critical Thinking, Communication, Collaboration and Collective Behaviours into every lesson.

In Functional Skills, we encourage students to apply practical problem-solving techniques, while showing clear communication and teamwork. For Maths and English, we focus on critical thinking to help students approach tasks with analytical skills and creativity to engage them in real-world applications.

In our Progression and Enrichment programmes, we ensure that these core competencies are reflected through tailored learning pathways that promote both individual growth and collaborative opportunities. This approach is underpinned by a well-structured, highly skilled team that works together to create a cohesive, supportive environment where all students can thrive, regardless of their learning needs.

Action Planning

How we empower and motivate our students to create their own personalised action plan:

Six Weeks of Action Planning Empowers Students to Reach Their Goals

A carefully structured six-week schedule will dramatically boost students' ability to identify, pursue and achieve their goals. By offering experiences that connect them with new people, expose them to real-world possibilities and encourage self-reflection based on their interests, students build the confidence, skills and networks they need to succeed.

Here's how the process works:

01

Week 1: Goal Setting and Self-Discovery

- **Activities:** Workshops on goal setting (using SMART goals) and self-assessments (interests, strengths, values).
- **Purpose:** Students identify personal ambitions and understand their unique qualities.
- **Impact:** Builds self-awareness and creates a personalised map of where each student wants to go.

02

Week 2: Exposure to Opportunities

- **Activities:** Career fairs, guest speaker panels, virtual tours of workplaces, universities and organisations.
- **Purpose:** Students see a wide range of pathways available to them – jobs, education, travel and entrepreneurship.
- **Impact:** Broadens horizons; students realise they can aim for more than they previously imagined.

03

Week 3: Skill Building and Networking

- **Activities:** Workshops on communication, teamwork and professional networking; speed networking events with mentors and peers.
- **Purpose:** Teach students how to present themselves, ask good questions and make valuable connections.
- **Impact:** Students begin forming relationships that could support and inspire them for years to come.

04

Week 4: Decision-Making and Pathway Testing

- **Activities:** “Taster” sessions (mini-courses, job shadowing and volunteering) and decision-making workshops.
- **Purpose:** Allow students to experience different fields and reflect on what excites them.
- **Impact:** Helps refine choices based on real experiences rather than assumptions or pressure.

05

Week 5: Action Planning

- **Activities:** One-on-one coaching sessions to develop individual action plans; setting short-term and long-term goals.
- **Purpose:** Students create step-by-step roadmaps toward their goals, including tasks, deadlines and support needed.
- **Impact:** Turns dreams into achievable plans, making success feel tangible and motivating.

06

Week 6: Presentation and Celebration

- **Activities:** Students present their action plans to peers, mentors and educators; celebration event.
- **Purpose:** Validate students’ hard work, strengthen their communication skills and build a supportive community.
- **Impact:** Boosts confidence, commitment to goals and experience pride in their progress.

Why This Six-Week Journey Matters:

- **Empowerment through Exposure:** Students cannot aspire to what they have never seen. This plan shows them possibilities.
- **Empowerment through Relationships:** Meeting mentors and peers builds emotional and practical support systems.
- **Empowerment through Action:** Students aren’t just dreaming – they are doing, reflecting, adjusting and growing.
- **Empowerment through Ownership:** By basing decisions on their own likes, experiences and values, students feel true ownership over their paths, leading to stronger motivation and persistence.

UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL, SHAPE YOUR FUTURE

Contact us for more information:

Sarah Weston

01452 300 255

sarahw@prospect-training.org.uk

www.prospect-training.org.uk

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