

Harrison College is a pioneering post-16 provider that rejects one-size-fits-all education. By embedding young people with autism and SEN directly into the world of work, we shatter traditional classroom boundaries and spark genuine opportunity. We believe that no matter a learner's background, "there are no limits" to what they can achieve. Through a business-focused curriculum and the national Skills Builder framework, students grow problem-solving, teamwork, communication skills and financial literacy alongside academic learning. Internships coupled with employer mentorship guide each student from observation to ownership of meaningful tasks. Success is measured by sustained employment, apprenticeships or further study, with alumni often securing promotions within 18 months.

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HOW WE PROMOTE SOCIAL MOBILITY

Employer-Driven Learning

Partners with 200+ organisations, from local SMEs to national brands like Polypipe, co-designing curricula and host immersive projects. Over 3,000 employer engagements each year ensure learning stays aligned with real labour-market needs.

Internships

Each student completes a mentored internship building autonomy whilst the host businesses gain skilled, loyal talent.

Embedded Careers Education

Workshops on CV design, mock interviews with executive panels and digital-literacy bootcamps equip students to navigate modern workplaces
Accredited Careers Mark status

Social Action & Community Projects

From urban greening in deprived neighbourhoods to sensory gardens and pop-up social enterprises, students lead initiatives that benefit their communities and strengthen civic pride.

Advocacy & Cultural Change

Annual Neurodiversity conferences and in-company EDI training amplify our impact beyond campus, inspiring partner organisations to adopt inclusive recruitment and retention practices.



▶ CEO Gemma Peebles speaks at a national conference, championing neurodiversity and inclusive education on a wider stage



▶ Scenes from Harrison College's annual graduation celebration, a flagship event that marks each learner's unique journey.

Impact by the Numbers
 ■ 90%+ of graduates enter employment, apprenticeships or further education.

By aligning our model with local economic goals and embedding social mobility at every turn, Harrison College transforms students' lives and in doing so, injects fresh talent and inclusive mindsets into the wider community.

What impact has your initiative had so far on students, staff, families, or the wider community?

Harrison College has a smaller than average cohort, annually around 55 young people, who have an additional need such as autism, ADHD or a SEMH need. According to ONS and autistica.org.uk only around 30% of working-age autistic people are in any paid work. It specifically shows just 21.7% of autistic people are in employment, the lowest rate of any disability group. In addition, only 36% of autistic graduates secure full-time work within 15 months of finishing their degree and are twice as likely to be unemployed. In comparison to national statistics Harrison College achieve an average of 90% of graduates entering employment, apprenticeships or further education.