Future Wolverton













26-27

Work-Related Learning Experiences

in Wolverton, Milton Keynes

Future Wolverton



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Future Wolverton offers work related learning to young people who may be out of mainstream education and have an Education & Health Care Plan.

We specialise in supporting young people who have additional needs, including autism, ADHD, specific learning, social communication and emotional difficulties.

What makes us different



Who we support

- We offer work-related learning to young people who have the potential to move-on in their lives, and might be feeling a bit “stuck”.
- We are not interested in whether someone has lots of qualifications or none, lots of work experience or none. We help people find out about their skills and talents, and focus on what they can do, rather than what they can’t do.
- We work with people who may be struggling to fit into mainstream education or college, or those who may need the opportunity to experience an alternative way of learning. This may be because they have Autism, ADHD or a specific learning difficulty, or because they have had a difficult start in life or family circumstances. We are here for anyone who feels they are a bit different.

“We help people find out about their skills and talents, and focus on what they can do...”

How we support people

- We offer a supportive environment to gain work experience and skills, and can act as a stepping stone back to education, into paid employment or into voluntary work.
- Our staff team are people with extensive life and work experience who offer one to one mentoring and skills development. Whilst some of the team have a background in teaching, we do not do any classroom-based instruction, but rather support our trainees to learn by doing.
- We can personalise the programme of work-related learning in some ways, by offering flexibility with the day of the week and times of work, and allowing people to choose which area of our business they would like to specialise in.

From September 2026 we will host all of our work related learning placements at Market Hall, a new building with a focus on creativity and performance, whilst still working with the community and developing young people with SEN.

What we do

- Our site is open to the general public, and the training we offer happens within our real-life business. We find our trainees rise to the challenge of being in a public-facing role.
- The jobs and tasks that our trainees carry out are essential to the day-to-day operation of our business.
- We are a community-run business and our trainees contribute to the community by supporting our work. We want our trainees to feel part of what we do, and feel they have given back to the local area.







"64% of the young people we have worked with since 2021 have gone on to secure paid employment, have returned to mainstream education..."



Our trainees work alongside our skilled staff team, and are supported to actively contribute to the success of our businesses. They develop employability skills and past trainees have gained work-related qualifications in First Aid and Food Hygiene.

64% of the young people we have worked with since 2021 have gone onto secure paid employment, have returned to education or have found sustainable (6 month or longer) voluntary work with many achieving qualifications and certificates to support future employment.

Our Offer to Councils and LEAs

We are keen to work with you to offer work related learning opportunities to young people aged 14 to 25* and who have an Education and Health Care Plan. NB: Young people can remain on school-roll whilst placed at Future Wolverton.

The opportunities we can offer seek to develop skills including:

- **Confidence Building** – we have an asset-based approach which focuses on strengths and what the young person can do, at the same time as providing them with the skills to help themselves, increasing their chances of gaining and maintaining future employment, as well as helping them prepare for adult life.
- **Employability skills** – we use the STEPS framework – Self management, Team Working, Enterprise Awareness, Problem Solving and Speaking & Listening - to help develop employability skills. A placement at Future Wolverton can also help to meet the Gatsby Bench Marks.
- **Soft Skills** – communication, adaptability, time management, initiative and independence.
- **Hard Skills** – food preparation, a working knowledge of health and safety, using manual tools, grounds maintenance, use of a till and marketing.
- **Life Skills** – cooking, simple DIY, handling money, confidence in communicating and interacting with members of the public and local community.

The opportunities we offer meet the following Gatsby benchmarks:

Benchmark 5 – Encounters with Employers and Employees Every pupil should have multiple opportunities to learn from employers about work, employment and the skills that are valued in the workplace. This can be through a range of enrichment activities including visiting speakers, mentoring and enterprise schemes. Every year from age 11 pupils should participate in at least one meaningful encounter with an employer. A 'meaningful' encounter is one in which the student has an opportunity to learn about what work is like or what it takes to be successful in the workplace.

Benchmark 6 – Experience of workplaces Every pupil should have first-hand experiences of the workplace through work visits, work shadowing and/or work experience to help their exploration of career opportunities, and expand their networks. By the age of 16 every pupil should have had at least one experience of a workplace in addition to any part-time jobs. By the age of 18 or before the end of study programme they should have had at least one more experience of a workplace

Benchmark 7 All pupils/learners should understand the full range of learning opportunities that are available to them. This includes both academic and technical and vocational routes and learning in schools, colleges, universities and in the workplace. By age 16 they should have had a meaningful encounter with providers of a full range of educational opportunities. By age 18, or the end of a programme study, every pupil should have had a meaningful encounter with a range of providers of learning and training that may form the next stage of their career including appropriate training providers.

*14+ year olds are covered under Future Wolverton Limited's employer liability insurance. Personal accident insurance is only available for young people over 16 years. Placements under 16 years should therefore be discussed further.

Work-Related Learning

from September ‘26 - July ‘27







Work-related learning sessions are available in all areas of Future Wolverton operations from September 2026, with a minimum booking of a full academic year (September 2026 to July 2027).

Work areas available

- Café and Catering - This opportunity involves food preparation and Front of House both within our community cafe and for events, exhibits and performances.
- Artistic Management - with a focus on the planning and facilitation of a programme of performances, workshops, etc at Market Hall.
- Business Operations - with a focus on finance. (This opportunity does require a certain mathematical ability).
- Business Operations - with a focus on facilities management, site maintenance, health and safety and building development projects.
- Business Operations - with a focus on social media marketing.

The young person must have a pre-interview with our Programme Manager before beginning the placement to we can make sure it is going to work for everyone.

Once booked, session days and times and area of work are fixed for the Winter and Spring terms, but with some potential to move to try out a different area of the business in the Summer term.

We work to an academic year, with the programme structured as follows:

- Autumn Term - September to December - initial familiarisations of expectations at work, settling in, building confidence, identifying strengths, getting to know the Future Wolverton team.
- Spring Term - January to March - introduction of more work-like rules and systems, development of skills, opportunity to get involved in other areas of the business operations as needed.
- Summer Term - April to July - an introduction to CV development and interview skills*.

*Additional one-to-one career development and job search sessions are available to facilitate this.
**Prices shown are exclusive of VAT.

What our trainees think about Future Wolverton...

"I consider myself extremely lucky to have taken part in the Future Wolverton sessions, it was a great way for me to both get out of the house to expand my boundaries and build confidence in social situations... I was able gain useful transferable skills while still enjoying myself immensely."

"I think the project has helped me improve my confidence and practical skills and I have a better idea of what is out there (employment wise)."

"I understand my strengths more than I did at the beginning.."

"I have learnt not to treat my ASD as a bad thing and to think more positively about myself and that I can do things that neurotypical people do, just as well as them or better sometimes."

and a parent...

"I cannot thank Future Wolverton enough for the difference that it has made to my daughter and our whole family. Being part of the programme built my daughter's confidence and showed her how capable she is. The programme gradually built up the responsibilities that she took on and encouraged her in areas that she had previously shied away from."

and a MK City Council Employment Development Worker...

"The programmes at Future Wolverton have provided two of my clients with invaluable skills to ready them for the work environment. Both people have been told, "You can't do it" numerous times and had become despondent and disheartened. Future Wolverton provided them with a safe space, a nurturing environment, and the confidence they needed to use these new skills in a work environment."

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