

Preparation for Independence

Special Educational Needs
and Disabilities (SEND)
Provision 2018 | 19

The Nido Volans Centres

BROMLEY | BEXLEY

LONDON 
SOUTH EAST
COLLEGES

Welcome



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London South East Colleges is one of the main further education providers for learners with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) across the boroughs of Bromley, Bexley and Greenwich.

The SEND team provides discrete study programmes at our Bromley and Bexley Nido Volans Centres. These study programmes meet the needs of learners who present with a range of special educational needs and disabilities, working at different cognitive levels, ranging from complex to mild. We currently provide approximately 230 places for learners aged between 16 and 24.

Our study programmes are planned and delivered in line with the four themes highlighted within the learners' education, health and care plans. Our programmes have two clear pathways, with the potential to overlay.

The first pathway is into independent life and the other into employment. A personalised timetable created for a learner is built around their needs, aspirations and the outcomes highlighted within their plan.

Our employability programmes, which include our supported internships, are also personalised to meet the employment and career aspirations of the learners enrolled on them.

Our reputation for delivering personalised study programmes for learners with severe to complex needs (Personal Progression Pathways) at our Bromley Campus has increased beyond all expectation leading to year-on-year over subscription for the 72 places available.

Since the merger between Bromley College, Bexley College and Greenwich Community College in August 2016, we have developed the same high quality facilities and curriculum at our Bexley Campus, to meet the needs of learners from the boroughs of Bexley and Greenwich and beyond.

Local Authority Partnerships

We pride ourselves on excellent partnership working with our Local Authorities. Our already strong working partnership with Bromley Local Authority has been further strengthened as we implement the reforms under the Children and Families Act, and the associated Code of Practice.



Transition School Links

We are currently providing five personalised transition programmes for our local special schools from the boroughs of Bromley, Bexley and Lewisham.

These important links help to ensure we get to know the learners and assess their needs in order to provide a smooth transition between school and college.

The school links are personalised for each school. Subjects delivered include horticulture, media, business enterprise and motor vehicle.



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Multi-disciplinary Team

London South East Colleges commission Oxleas NHS to provide a specialist therapy service comprising of speech and language therapy, occupational therapy and physiotherapy for our SEND learners.

The therapy team provide holistic assessment and appropriate management of referred learners' complex learning and support needs within the college environment. Therapists provide advice, interventions and classroom based strategies to facilitate learners' access to the curriculum in order to maximize learning and to promote their participation, independence and safety. The therapy team works jointly with teaching and support staff with the focus on learner's individualised college learning targets and their education and health care plan (EHCP) outcomes.

The team plays an important role in signposting learners to other sources of health and social care assessment and support outside of the college.

The therapy team also provides the on-going professional development for the SEND team by delivering personalised training in line with our requirements.

"The College is a safe place where I get to take part in lots of different activities. I have met some great friends here."

"I came to The Nido Volans Centre because it taught the subject I really wanted to study and had the kind of facilities and specialist tutors that can help and support me. As a blind student, there are a number of resources and items of specialist equipment I need in order to progress and I really feel like I'm getting somewhere now.

"I didn't like school that much. College is much better and we all get treated like adults. It's more relaxed but at the same time professional. Expectations are high from the tutors and they encourage you to succeed with everything you do."

Andreas - Introduction to Work

Work Experience

Work experience and employability skills are an essential and integral part of all study programmes but in particular our employability programmes.

Placements are tailored to the needs of learners. In particular, those on Vocational Taster programmes undertake placements in line with the wider college agenda to prepare them for transition into the main vocational areas of the college.

Learners on the Employment Preparation programme go out on work experience once or twice a week in the second two terms of the year.

Some learners choose to remain in the same placements, others experience a variety of placements to identify the area they would ultimately like to work in. Each work placement is tailored to the learner's interests and aspirations. The learners on our Supported Internship programmes undertake work experience from the start of their programme in September.

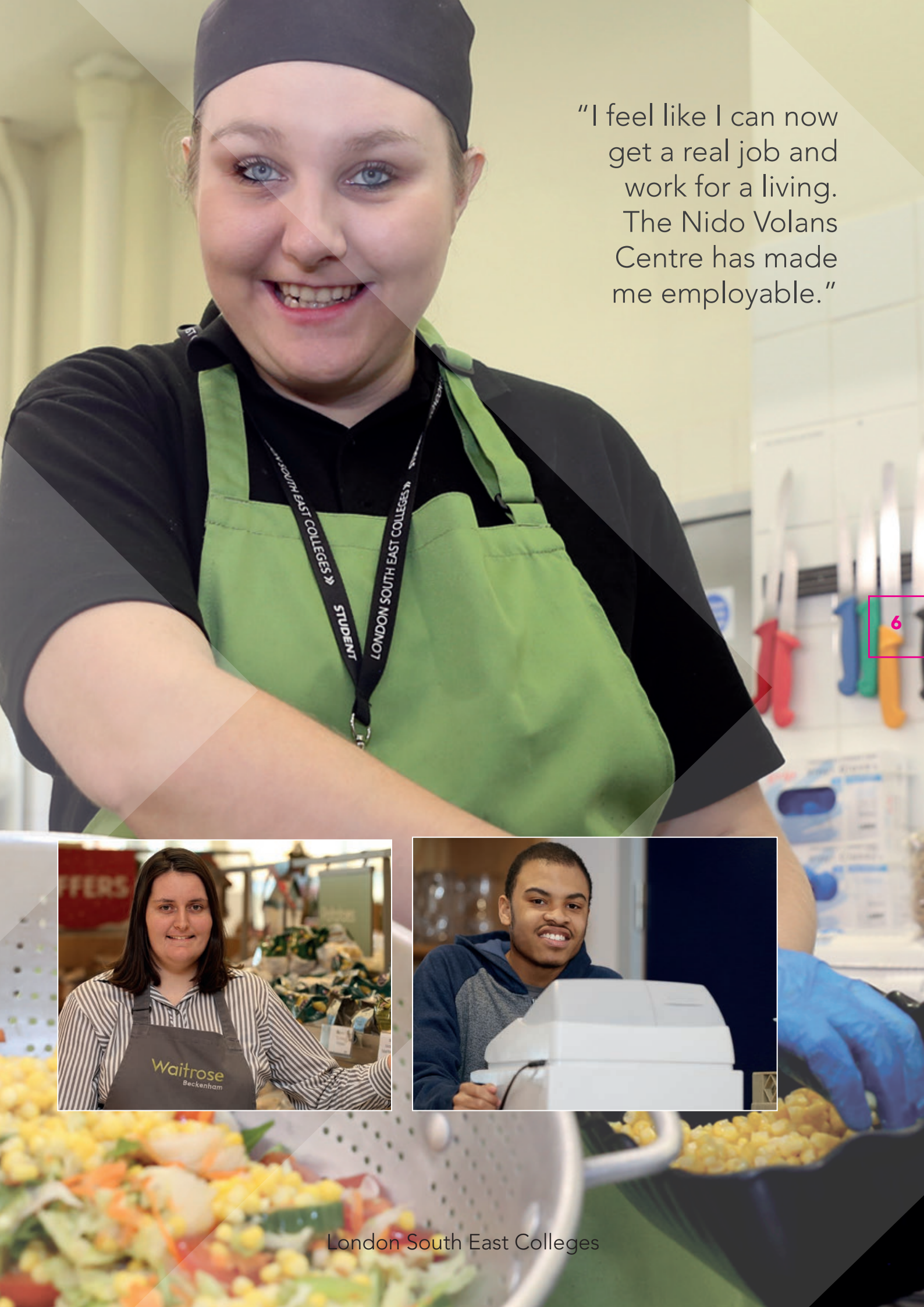
We offer a diverse range of placements with retailers such as Sainsbury's, Waitrose, The Co-op, Gap, Art Shop, in hospitality with employers such as Caterlink, Travel Lodge, Toby Carvery, and in the horticulture industry with employers such as Wyevale Garden Centres. Highly bespoke placements include an art gallery, Transport For London, Kent County Cricket Ground and the Museum of London.

Students who have complex needs also have the opportunity to take part in work placements and enterprise as part of their individual programmes.

For learners who still need time to become work ready, they develop their enterprise and vocational skills in realistic working environments, including catering, carpentry and horticulture. They produce high quality goods that are sold to the public.

The Chef's Table restaurant offers excellent realistic opportunities for the learners to develop not only their catering skills, but also their confidence, and customer service skills in a fast paced environment.

Employer engagement is also an integral part of ensuring our learners are equipped with skills that are needed to secure and maintain employment. Throughout the year employers visit the college to give presentations and answer questions in relation to successfully gaining employment.



“I feel like I can now get a real job and work for a living. The Nido Volans Centre has made me employable.”

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"I love learning something new every day. This is a wonderful place to be."

Study Programmes at Bromley Campus

- » Personal Progression Pathways
- » Introduction to Work
- » Employment Preparation
- » Vocational Tasters
- » Supported Internship

Study Programmes at Bexley Campus

- » Independent Life Skills
- » Introduction to Work
- » Employment Preparation
- » Vocational Tasters
- » Supported Internship

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