



NEXUS In-School is an alternative education programme for **Year 10 and Year 11 students** who benefit from a more practical, work-related approach to learning.

The programme combines:

- **An extended, structured work placement** with a local employer
- **Core GCSE study** delivered in school
- **Intensive 1:1 support and mentoring** to ensure student success

Our aim is to help young people develop the confidence, skills and employability needed to progress into further education, training or employment.

How the Placement Works

- Students attend a **work placement for up to two days per week during term time**
- The remaining days are spent in school studying **core GCSE subjects**
- Placements are **long-term** (rather than short work experience), allowing students to build real workplace skills and strong employer relationships
- All placements are **individually matched** to the student and employer wherever possible

What Employers Are Asked to Provide

Employers play a vital role in supporting young people to succeed. We ask employers to:

- Offer a **safe, supportive working environment**
- Provide **meaningful, age-appropriate tasks** that build confidence and skills
- Identify a **workplace contact/mentor** for the student
- Encourage good workplace behaviours such as punctuality, teamwork and communication
- Share informal feedback with the NEXUS team to support student progress

You are **not expected to assess academic progress** or manage complex needs — the NEXUS team provides comprehensive support.

Support You Can Expect

Employers are fully supported throughout the placement:

- A **dedicated NEXUS Project Worker** as your main point of contact
- Regular **check-ins and site visits**
- **1:1 wraparound support and mentoring** for each student
- Guidance on **safeguarding, attendance and behaviour**
- Swift support if any issues arise

We work in close partnership to ensure the placement is positive for both the student and the employer.

Benefits to Employers

Taking part in the NEXUS In-School Programme allows employers to:

- Support young people who may not thrive in a traditional classroom setting
- Help develop the **future local workforce**
- Give students meaningful exposure to your industry
- Build a talent pipeline and identify potential future apprentices or employees
- Contribute positively to the local community and social value commitments

Many employers report increased staff engagement and pride in supporting young people.

Safeguarding & Health and Safety

- All students are **risk assessed and fully supported**
- Employers receive clear guidance on **safeguarding expectations**
- Health and safety checks are completed prior to placement
- Students remain on roll at school and are covered by appropriate insurance arrangement

Hear from our 2025-26 Employer Partners



What made you want to get involved with the Nexus In-School project?

A visit from a NEXUS careers adviser and was happy to try out a work experience placement as I am considering taking on an apprentice next year.

How have you found the process?

Very easy so far.

How has it benefited the company?

An extra hand around the garage has been really helpful. I am growing my business and starting to do MOT testing so the extra help will benefit both myself and the student.

Would you recommend the Nexus In-School programme to other employers?

Yes, I would recommend it. Young people need a chance to gain real life work experience, and this programme gives them the opportunity to do that.

Ben, Owner, Bridge End Garage

ELIYANA

What made you want to get involved with the Nexus In-School project?

We wanted to be involved with the programme because it's a great way to support local young people and help them build confidence in a real working environment.

How have you found the process?

The process has been smooth and really well supported throughout.

How has it benefited the company?

It's been lovely having Harvey as part of the team. His enthusiasm and willingness to learn have been a real asset!

Would you recommend the Nexus In-School programme to other employers?

We'd definitely recommend the programme to other employers — it's a rewarding experience for everyone involved.

Imran, Owner, Eliyana Café & Lounge



What made you want to get involved with the Nexus In-School project?

I wanted to get involved as I feel some children are misinterpreted at school. My daughter found school hard but with guidance and her strong independence to succeed she has her own business and has recently launched her own sunbed products and has her own social media platform that pays her a wage. I wanted to guide others in the life journey.

How have you found the process?

The process was really easy. Caz is excellent at what she does with great help guiding me through everything.

How has it benefited the company?

Our student loves coming and is a great help to the salon. Clients love her, she has already learnt to greet clients, offer refreshments, shampoo rinse colours, and keep the salon environment clean and tidy. What a super star.

Would you recommend the Nexus In-School programme to other employers?

I would definitely recommend this service to children who think out of the box. To educate, nurture, and give them a chance to change their life path all for the good.

Any other comments?

Giving back is something all successful business owners should want to do, it's their way of helping the next generation to learn resilience, discipline, and growth to achieve a great career.

Helen, Managing Director, High Society Hair Studio

Next Steps

If you are interested in becoming a NEXUS Employer Partner, we will:

1. Discuss your business and placement opportunities
2. Complete all necessary health, safety and safeguarding checks
3. Match a suitable student to your placement
4. Provide ongoing support throughout the programme

Please contact Sarah Moore, Programme Manager sarah.moore@ckcareers.org.uk

***Thank you for supporting young people through the
NEXUS In-School Programme.***
