



Parent: _____

“Thornbeck College has given my son a great foundation to build on. He has gained independence and his social skills have developed, which has helped him to settle into his new Supported Living home.”

north east
autism society

Thornbeck College

Prospectus



Welcome to Thornbeck College

I take great pride in introducing you to our college based in County Durham. Here at Thornbeck College we offer personalised study programmes for learners aged 16–25 years who are autistic, neurodivergent or have additional needs.

We tailor our study programmes to suit the individual needs of our learners, taking into account their starting point and planned destination to support their progress into adulthood.

Our dedicated staff team are committed to ensuring learners experience a high-quality learning journey and develop the knowledge and skills required to fulfil their potential.

If you would like to find out more about Thornbeck College, please don't hesitate to contact us to arrange a visit.

“We would love to welcome you.”

Fay Strong
College Principal



Our Vision: _____

‘Working together to inspire, support, celebrate and equip autistic and neurodivergent people to fulfil their potential in life’

Our Core Values: _____

To help us achieve our mission statement we have four core values underpinning our practice:

- to have our pupils and those accessing our services at the heart of the organisation
- To operate a fair, respectful and honest culture
- To strive for the highest quality
- To operate with integrity



The Curriculum

At Thornbeck College, we are committed to helping our learners fulfil their potential by preparing them for the next stage in their education, employment and lives.

Our ambitious curriculum is divided into four study programmes with each learner matched to the route that is best suited to their assessed needs and individual aspirations.

Our curriculum is designed to:

- Equip each learner with the skills, knowledge and behaviour needed to fulfil aspirations for learning, employment and independence
- Develop skills to enhance employment opportunities including meaningful work experience
- Promote communication and community engagement
- Empower learners to have greater independence
- Increase self-confidence and resilience
- Support learners to develop strategies to regulate their own well-being
- Equip learners to be responsible, respectful and active citizens
- Enable learners to live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives
- Develop functional skills that learners are able to transfer into all aspects of their lives

We use a range of specialist strategies to support our pupils:

- Total communication approach
- Individualised Support Plans
- Bespoke learning environments
- Hierarchy of Cues
- Zones of Regulation
- Visual support systems
- Sensory profiles
- Staff with specialist training
- A range of differentiated teaching and learning strategies
- Multi-disciplinary approach
- Staff are extensively trained in Positive Proactive Support



Sensory Programme

- Personal, social and emotional development
- Support with sensory needs and self-regulation
- Social communication skills
- Independent living skills
- Community participation
- Health and well-being
- Pre-entry literacy
- Pre-entry numeracy
- Social enterprise activities



Learning for Living

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Communication
- Personal, social & emotional development
- Independent Living
- Community Inclusion
- Health and Well-being



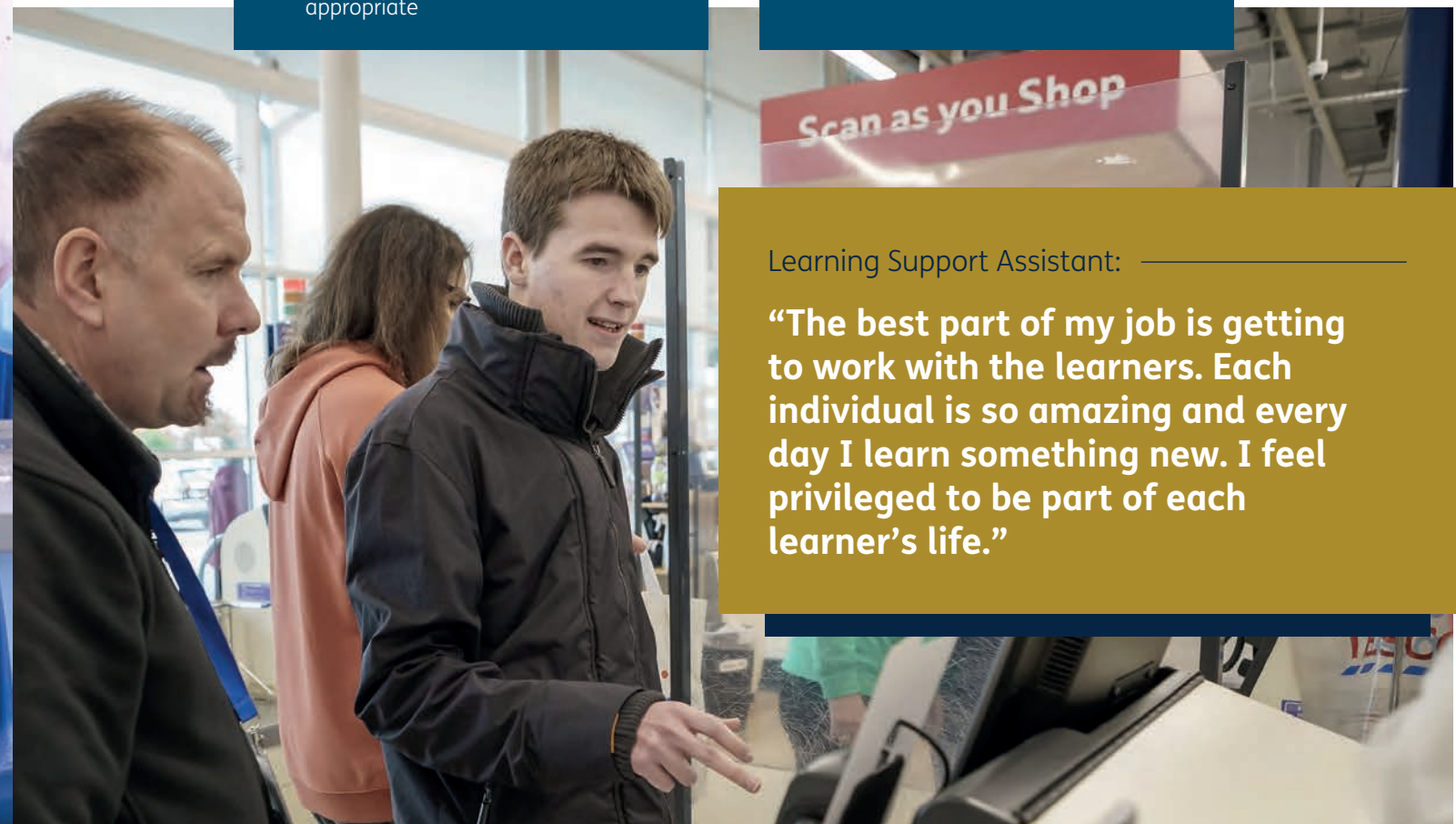
Preparation for work

- Functional English, maths, ICT
- Careers advice and guidance
- Choice of vocational pathway: retail, horticulture, catering, business admin or woodwork
- External work placement
- Personal, social and emotional development
- Team work and problem solving
- Individual travel training
- Accredited qualification where appropriate



Supported internship

- Workplace training to increase employability
- English and maths development
- Personal, social and emotional development
- Vocational training sessions
- Employment opportunities
- Support from job coach
- Mentoring to start a business



Learning Support Assistant: _____

“The best part of my job is getting to work with the learners. Each individual is so amazing and every day I learn something new. I feel privileged to be part of each learner’s life.”

Our Admissions

Thornbeck College accepts referrals from Local Authorities (LA) and the majority of our learners have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or Special Educational needs support plan.

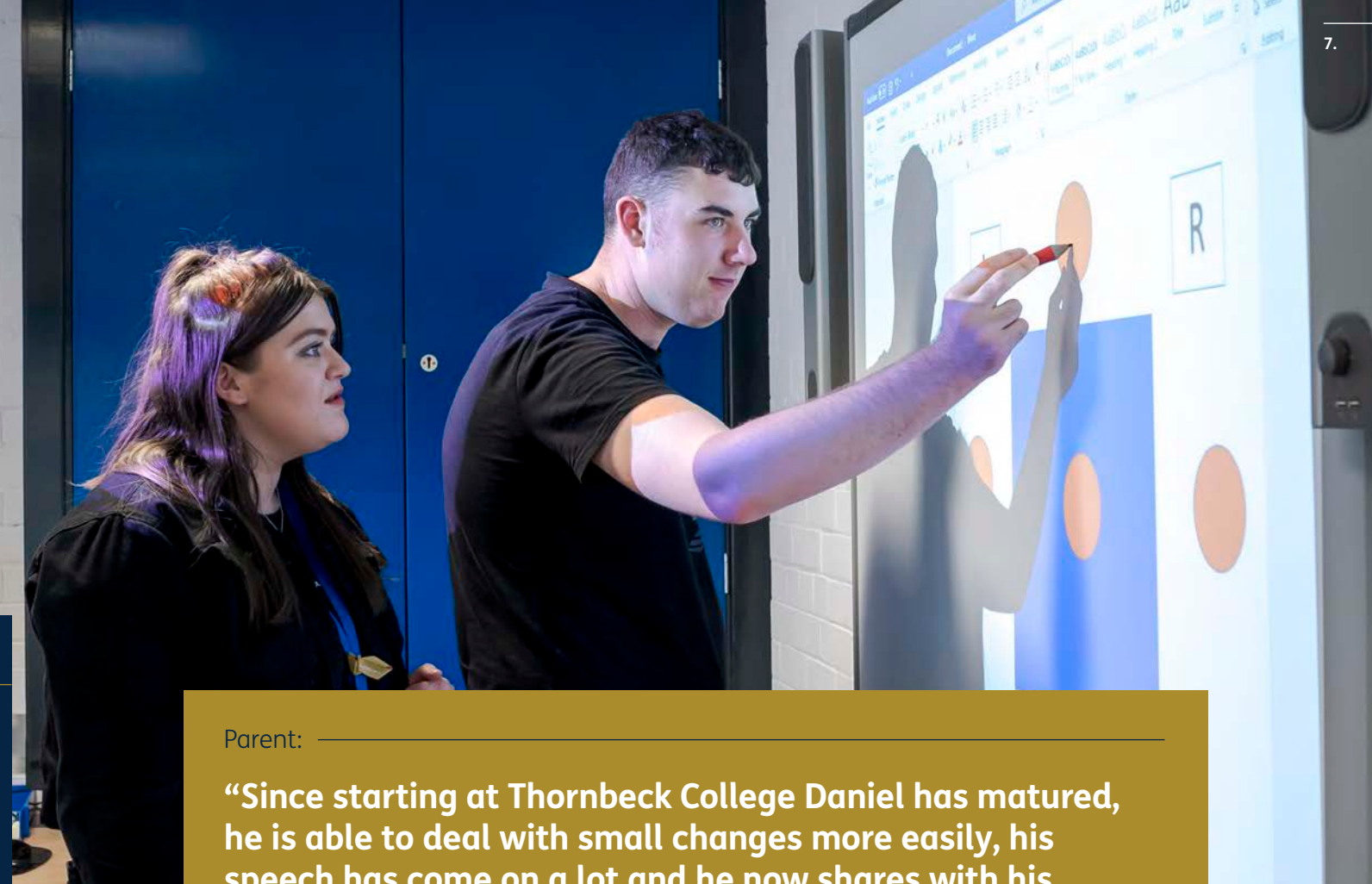
Before a place is offered, Thornbeck College will strive to ensure that all special educational needs outlined in the young person's EHCP are able to be met within the setting, as well as the provision of any additional resources.

If you feel Thornbeck College could be the right fit for your child, please contact us to arrange a visit to the school or to discuss our [Admissions Policy](#) in more detail.



Vice Principal:

“Thornbeck College is an amazing place to work. Seeing the learners make progress, build their confidence and increase their independence whilst attending the college is definitely the most rewarding aspect of my job.”



Parent:

“Since starting at Thornbeck College Daniel has matured, he is able to deal with small changes more easily, his speech has come on a lot and he now shares with his siblings at home. All of that is down to the staff and I can't thank them enough for helping Daniel. They are all angels in my eyes.”



Safeguarding

We place the highest priority on ensuring the safety of all learners at Thornbeck College.

We have a number of policies and procedures in place that contribute to our safeguarding commitment, including our [Learner Protection and Safeguarding Policy](#) which can be found in the policies section on our website.

Safeguarding is also embedded throughout the college curriculum, providing learners with the knowledge and skills to keep themselves safe in all aspects of life.



Thornbeck College

Thornbeck College is part of the North East Autism Society, a registered charity which has led the way in providing autism-specific care and education for children, young people and adults across the North-east for more than 40 years.

**For more information about Thornbeck College,
visit our website or contact:**

☎ **01325 328 088**

✉ **college@ne-as.org.uk**

🌐 **www.ne-as.org.uk/thornbeck-college**

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