



Fairfield  
Farm  
College

# PROSPECTUS



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Fairfield Farm College, 43 High Street, Dilton Marsh

# ABOUT US

Fairfield Farm College is a Specialist College for students with learning disabilities; it is a registered Charity, with residential, day and weekend courses. Additionally, we offer training at the Hope Nature Centre in Southwick Country Park – an Animal Park and Café. You can join our study programme (vocational and independence training) when you are between 16 and 19 years old, but can join when older providing you have completed your course before your 25th Birthday.

The college is situated in the village of Dilton Marsh in Wiltshire. Our 26-acre farm site includes well-resourced teaching and vocational learning areas, including a dedicated teaching house, a student common room, 3G sports facility, conference room, café and a farm shop. We offer residential programmes delivered in our houses in the village. The Hope Nature Centre, a café and animal park located in Trowbridge is also part of the Trust.

When you start at the College, you will take part in an induction where you can try all subjects. This helps us develop a programme with you that meets your longer term aspirations and your Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) outcomes. This includes:

- i-Curriculum covering independence training, travel training, PSHE, and skills to keep you safe and healthy.
- Vocational learning including practical skills and enterprise, farming and animal management, equine with stable management and horticulture.
- English, maths and IT.
- Pastoral support through your tutor group and dedicated tutor.
- Work-based learning in our café, farm shop, catering kitchen, reception and at Hope Nature Centre's animal park and café.
- Regular external work experience, initially with an appropriate level of support available through our Careers Team.
- Career guidance available from our Careers Manager.

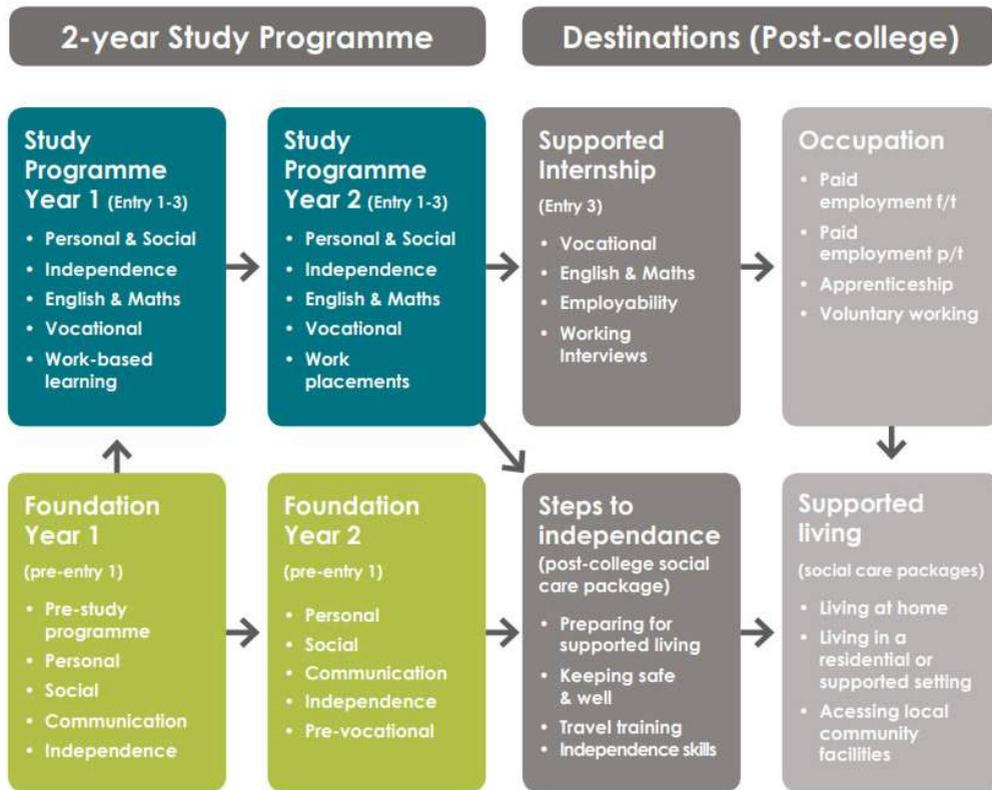
**Fairfield Farm College is committed to promoting equality, eliminating discrimination and encouraging diversity amongst staff and students. For further information please see the college's Equality and Diversity policy and related documents on our website. We are graded Good by Ofsted in every area. Inspection reports are available on the Ofsted website.**



# PROGRAMMES AND PATHWAYS

You will follow a 2-year study programme which will enable you to build upon and learn new skills in order to support your educational and career aspirations. All our programmes of learning will be appropriately challenging with a focus on individual progression.

The core elements of our study programme include vocational pathways, relevant aspects of English and maths, independence skills, tutorials, enrichment and work experience or work-related activity. We offer externally accredited qualifications through nationally approved awarding organisations at Entry Level and beyond.



# STUDY PROGRAMMES

Fairfield Farm College is a provider of post-16 education and training for young adults with learning difficulties and physical disabilities. As a college of Further Education, we are funded by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) with Local Authorities commissioning places from us.

We deliver study programmes that combine a range of subjects and opportunities. These help you to develop new skills, knowledge and experiences that will prepare you for your transition into adulthood.

## Qualifications

Each part of your programme is tailored around you and the level that you are working at. We deliver accredited functional maths and English qualifications as well as a range of employability and work skills qualifications.

You will have a weekly tutorial, work experience opportunities, sports, and access to the i-Curriculum to support you to keep safe and healthy. There are a range of enrichment activities during and outside of the college day.

The qualifications we currently offer include maths and English, Personal Progress, Employability Skills and Work Skills. In addition, you may be able to complete specialist qualifications, for example Sports Leaders, Barista, Health and Safety or Food Hygiene.



## Tutorial

You will have a personal tutor in the same way that you had a class teacher in school. You will be part of a tutor group and each week you will meet with your tutor and have an opportunity to review your progress, set targets, share concerns and explore social issues and college life. Your tutor is one of many staff that you can talk to or seek help and support from.

## English, Maths & IT

These subjects are really important as they form the basis of everything we do in the world of work and life. You will have sessions that focus on the functional use of English and maths and allow you to work towards qualifications that you can achieve. You will also be encouraged to think about how maths and English are part of all of your sessions at college and in the work place. IT is embedded across the whole college. You will learn how to stay safe online, use the internet safely and also be able to use a range of different technologies. These might include iPads, PCs, laptops, digital cameras, iPods, interactive boards and much more.

## The World of Work

As part of your programme you will be supported to engage with the world of work. This can sound frightening but our specialist staff will help you every step of the way. We offer impartial advice on career opportunities as well as a range of work experiences. A key part of the study programme at Fairfield is learning about the world of work and the skills that enable you to access jobs that interest you. You will gain confidence through accessing work experience at Fairfield and through work placements linked to your EHCP outcomes.

## i-Curriculum

This part of the programme focuses on your personal development and wellbeing and helps you learn to be safe whilst at home, using transport, whilst shopping and when accessing the community. This session takes place in our dedicated teaching house and in the community.

We use the i-Curriculum to support you in practical projects and activities that help you to input to, and understand the outcomes in your EHCP. This will empower you to achieve success as you transition into adult life.



# PRACTICAL SKILLS AND ENTERPRISE

## Introduction

The aim of this subject is to provide an opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and competence in creative and practical skills in a real work and home context. Sessions take place across the site as well as in a purpose-built workshop, and in a real home environment. Central to this subject is the focus on your understanding of Health and Safety in a workshop and in the home, and how to use a range of tools and equipment safely.

## Learning, Knowledge and Skills

The Practical Skills element of the subject will focus on learning skills to be used in a home setting, including painting and decorating, hanging pictures or putting up shelves, sourcing products and budgeting.

The Enterprise element of the subject will focus on designing, sourcing and producing a range of products using a variety of techniques. These may include: ceramics, woodworking, metalwork, textiles, photography, decoupage, appliqué, mosaic, jewellery making and tie dye, again with a focus on attention to budget setting, planning, business and leadership skills and team work.

Products are advertised, marketed and sold through a variety of platforms such as the college farm shop and online as part of this subject.

## Progression and the Future

Having developed a range of practical and creative skills and understanding you could progress to further study or work, you will also have developed greater independence in the home.



# HORTICULTURE

## Introduction

The aim of the subject is to learn about plants, how to grow them and Health and Safety in the plant house. You will learn to sow seeds, prick out seedlings, identify parts of a plant, plant out, weed, feed, water and harvest a range of vegetables. You will help to plan what we grow in each plot and select produce to be sold in the farm shop as well as help maintain the gardens at the college houses. You will learn to identify and use a range of hand tools as well as using a petrol mower and cultivator under supervision.

## Learning, Knowledge and Skills

You will learn about plants and gardens and grow plants to sell in the college farm shop as well as for planting in college house gardens. You will undertake projects in the community, including: conservation work, working in a local quarry as well as undertaking work experience at local garden centres.

## Progression and the Future

With the skills and experience of working in the college and local community, you could secure paid or supported employment or voluntary work in a Garden Centre or for a Gardener or Landscaping Company. You could also gain employment by supporting others to maintain their own gardens.



# FARMING AND ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

## Introduction

You will learn to look after a wide variety of small and larger animals as well as work on the farm. You will learn about Health and Safety on a farm and when working with animals. Sometimes you may see animals born. You will meet the vet and the sheep/alpaca shearer and see them working. You may learn to drive the college tractor, help with chain harrowing, rolling, haymaking, mending fences, hedging and ditching.

## Learning, Knowledge and Skills

You will learn to care for a wide range of animals, the food and conditions they need to survive. You will learn the life cycle of animals and how some are used for meat which is sold in our Farm Shop. You will learn skills to maintain the land around the farm. You could gain additional work experience on a farm, at a local nature centre, animal park or at a farming retailers such as Mole Valley Farmers.

## Progression and the Future

You will have gained a wide range of skills and could look for work or voluntary positions in a pet shop or animal park, you could also work with a local farmer or farm shop. You could work independently to help others to look after their pets, particularly dog walking or caring for pets when their owners are on holiday.



# EQUINE AND STABLE MANAGEMENT

## Introduction

You will learn stable management, horse riding and Health and Safety when dealing with horses. You will learn to groom, muck out and feed the horses. You will learn to clean tack and find out about First Aid for horses. You will meet the vet and the farrier and see them working. You will learn to ride the college horses in our outdoor arena.

## Learning, Knowledge and Skills

You will work on real projects within the college, supporting preparations for events such as the Horse and Dog show. You may work at a local stables to gain valuable experience of working with different horses or at the animal park with miniature ponies and donkeys.

## Progression and the Future

If you are passionate about horses you can use your skills and experience to work or volunteer in a local stables or equestrian centre. You could also help people in the community with daily care for their horses.



# CATERING

## Introduction

In the college kitchen you will learn about different foods, planning and preparing meals. You will prepare lunch for everyone in the college. You will help to make cakes, bread and other products that will be sold in the farm shop and café.

You will learn how to set tables, use a range of kitchen equipment and prepare a variety of foods. You will learn about Health and Safety in the kitchen, working as a team and completing real life tasks.

## Learning, Knowledge and Skills

You will gain an understanding of different food types and how to create a wide range of meals. You will prepare buffets and may cater for the college conference venue. You could gain experience working in local kitchens and cafes.

## Progression and the Future

There are always opportunities to work in catering in one of the many cafes, restaurants and hotels in your local area. You could secure paid employment or voluntary work in a kitchen or food outlet.



# CUSTOMER SERVICE IN THE CAFÉ

## Introduction

When you work in the café you will learn about preparing food and food hygiene. You will learn about Health and Safety in the kitchen, communication skills and customer care. You will serve behind the counter, work with customers, use the till, prepare food and drinks.

## Learning, Knowledge and Skills

You will learn to take orders, clear tables and use the dishwasher. You will gain an understanding of environmental health requirements for a business selling food to the public. You will gain confidence in working with members of the public.

## Progression and the Future

There are plenty of jobs in the hospitality industry in local cafes, coffee outlets and restaurants. You could gain paid or voluntary work in a kitchen or cafe, serving customers or preparing food and drinks.



# CUSTOMER CARE AND OFFICE SKILLS

## Introduction

When you work in the college reception and office skills area you will be the first point of contact for telephone enquiries and greeting visitors. You will learn to answer the phone, use the computer, produce essential documents for the college such as letters and posters. You will liaise with staff to provide support such as creating stationery orders, placing the order, checking and delivering the order, distributing post and parcel deliveries.

## Learning, Knowledge and Skills

You will gain valuable skills in working in an office as well as confidence in dealing with customers at reception, on the telephone or via email. You will provide administrative support to staff and contribute to the daily operation of the college.

## Progression and the Future

With the skills and confidence you have gained you could gain paid or voluntary work in the office of a local business.



# RETAIL

## Introduction

When you work in the college farm shop you will work with customers. You will learn the skills to be able to serve customers. You will learn to order and price stock, check deliveries, stock shelves, create displays, use the scales and the till. You will care for plants that are available to sell to the public. You will learn about Health and Safety in the shop, communication skills and customer care.

## Learning, Knowledge and Skills

You will work on retail projects in the farm shop including looking after plants and collecting eggs to sell. You may undertake work experience placement in a local retail outlet or charity shop to further develop your confidence and skills.

## Progression and the Future

These skills will give you confidence to explore a range of opportunities within retail and customer services. This will prepare you for working or volunteering in a shop, garden centre or retail outlet.



# FOUNDATION PROGRAMME

Our Foundation Programme is highly structured and supports young people with more complex needs. This is a specialist course that meets all of the expectations of a study programme.

You will study life skills, maths, English and undertake small group sessions that will help you to work towards your EHCP outcomes. You will be supported to improve your communication, understanding using money, keeping safe, working in a team, problem solving and turn-taking.

The Foundation Programme provides a safe environment with specialist facilities, such as adapted wet room, hoist, specialist toilet and changing facilities.

With high levels of support, the programme provides an opportunity to work both in a small group, and to access all areas of the college. These include, equine studies, catering, practical skills and enterprise, horticulture and animal management. You can also work in the shop.

Young people on the Foundation Programme will also work with our Careers Manager to explore transition opportunities and future planning.



# HOPE NATURE CENTRE

## Introduction

When you work at Hope Nature Centre you may be part of the Café or Animal Park team. In the Café, you will learn about preparing food and food hygiene, Health and Safety in the kitchen, communication skills and customer care. You will get the opportunity to serve behind the counter, take orders from customers, use the till and prepare food orders. In the Animal Park, you will learn to look after a wide variety of small and larger animals, undertake maintenance tasks accross the site and learn about Health & Safety in the park.

## Learning, Knowledge and Skills

You will learn how to take orders, wait on tables, and use a range of catering equipment. You will gain an understanding of enviromental health requirements for a business selling food to the public. Working in the Animal Park, you will learn to care for a wide range of animals. You will gain an understanding of how best to care for them, such as food and living conditions. You will learn general maintenance skills for the park, including painting, fencing, hedging and ground maintenance. You will gain confience whilst working with members of the public, both within the Animal Park and Café.

## Progression and the Future

There are plenty of jobs in the hospitality industry in local cafés, coffee outlets and restaurants. You could gain paid or voluntary work in a kitchen or café, serving customers or preparing food and drinks. You could look for work or a voluntary potsition in a pet shop, animal park, vets or with a local farmer.



# STUDENT LIFE

There are many reasons to come to Fairfield to study. We offer a natural progression from school, with a small campus in a rural setting where we deliver a diverse range of learning opportunities in a safe and caring setting.

We are small enough to enable all staff and students to know one another but large enough to offer a wide range of experiences that will prepare you for life after college, living and working in the community.

## Work Experience

Whilst you are at college you will have the opportunity to undertake work experience placements (with support if you need it). You may work as part of a group on a conservation project at a local quarry or at a country park. You may go on weekly work placements to a café, retail outlets, a riding stables, garden centre, school or museum. All placements are flexible and targeted to meet individual needs.

## Social Skills

The student common room is your space to socialise with your friends at lunch and break times. You can enjoy food and refreshments as well as playing games and using the computers. You can also use the sports facilities.

## Advice and Guidance

You will be supported to find out about opportunities that will be available to you in the future. You will be supported to plan your course at college to help you achieve your long-term goals. Our Careers Manager will support you to plan your transition for when you leave Fairfield.

## Therapies

You can access Speech and Language as well as Occupational Therapy as required. We offer Art Therapy and Talking Therapy. Swimming and yoga are available to some students.



# STUDENT LIFE

## Youth Club

Youth Club is for young people aged between 14 and 25 years, to get together, have fun and make new friends. It is currently every Thursday in term time, 7 – 9pm. College staff facilitate and supervise Youth Club attendees and activities. We cannot provide specific or additional support to attendees, this type of support must be provided by way of a Personal Assistant or external Support Worker.

## Enrichment

Your wellbeing is important to us and taking part in sports sessions will help you to find physical activities that you enjoy and help you to stay fit. You will have the opportunity to work with young people in Wiltshire and take part in regional events. If you enjoy sports there is an opportunity to become a sports leader. You can use the sports pitch during lunch and break times. We accommodate specialist sports coaching.

## Holiday Activities

We offer weekly workshops throughout the holiday periods. These vary but popular workshops include: caring for animals, cooking, dance, sport, arts and craft, gardening and outdoor learning. See our website for further information and to book.

## Short-breaks & Residential

If you are aged between 16 and 25 years and would like to learn to live independently, we offer flexible weekend and short-breaks and respite to meet your needs. You can stay in one of our houses with our existing residents. Prices vary on length of stay. See our website for further information and call our Care Team on 01373 866068.



# WE ALSO OFFER

## Supported Internships

In addition to our full-time and residential programmes we offer Supported Internships as a transition from college into the world of work. You will spend most of your time in a range of work place settings that interest you and meet your longer term work ambitions. Job coaches will help you to settle in to your work placements.

## Work Experience Opportunities

We can accommodate young people with learning difficulties from local schools and colleges to undertake work experience at Fairfield Farm College and Hope Nature Centre. Placements may form part of your weekly programme, as part of a course you are studying elsewhere or as a work experience week from local schools. If you would like to be considered for a placement please visit our website. Please note, there is usually a charge.

## Training Opportunities



We also offer opportunities to undertake training at Hope Nature Centre, Southwick, Trowbridge. There is a Café and Animal Park with a wide range of training opportunities, these include working in the Café, serving customers preparing food and drinks, working in the Animal Park, caring for animals and looking after the site.



# HOW TO APPLY

## 01

Please telephone the college on 01373 823028 to make an appointment to visit on one of our open days. See our website for dates and to explore our virtual tour.

If you have questions before you visit, please telephone Helen Beer on 01373 866066

## 03

Courses at the college are usually funded by the Education and Skills Funding Agency and the Local Authority. You will need to tell your SEND Lead worker, Social Worker or Personal Adviser that you would like to attend Fairfield so that they can help you with your planning. The Local Authority will then consult with us over a placement.

Due to the nature of the college site and the courses offered, Fairfield Farm College is unsuitable for young people who display really challenging behaviour which requires regular physical intervention.

## 02

If after this visit you feel that this might be the right college for you, then you can apply for a place. You will need to fill out an application form and send it to us, with information from your school, from other professionals who have worked with you, and your EHCP or My Plan.

Suitable applicants will be invited for an assessment day. During the assessment you will follow a timetable that allows you to try all the activities on offer at the college.

## 04

Once this process is complete the Local Authority and the college will inform you of the outcome.



# OUR HISTORY

Founded in 1975 by Ruth and Ken Hester after inheriting the farm from Ruth's father. With support from Wiltshire County Council, Fairfield was established as a Rural Training Unit. It started with just a handful of students who were primarily taught agriculture and horticulture skills.

The Rural Training Unit grew slowly over the next few years and employed a part-time teacher and residential care staff. As the training facility grew, it employed further staff and purchased residential properties in the village, as well as the Breakspear nursery site in 1981. In 1992, following the Incorporation of Further Education Colleges, the Rural Training Unit became Fairfield Opportunity Farm (and Fairfield Farm College in 2005). Additional properties were acquired to provide homes for students to learn to live independently within the community.

A longer term site development plan was established, and in 2011, work had completed on the reception, café, shop and classrooms expansions, shortly followed by the catering kitchen and common room extension in 2012. The final stages of the development plan included the completion of a new agriculture building in 2014, along with further classroom space and a conference room. The 3G sports facility providing sports enrichment was built in 2016, with development of an indoor sports facility coming soon.

In 2018, the Charity acquired Hope Nature Centre, an Animal Park and Café established to work with adults with learning difficulties. This has provided additional learning and training opportunities for students and trainees at the Centre as well as longer term employment opportunities.

In March 2018, Ken Hester sadly passed away leaving the farm and properties, including the farmhouse to the Trust. The grade 2 listed farmhouse was at the heart of the Charity and has been renovated to provide additional learning and living space for students and resident.

Fairfield Farm Trust has provided training opportunities for young people with learning disabilities for 45-years. It has always been an organisation with the vision to grow and develop to meet the changing needs of young people and we thank Ken and Ruth for their inspiration and hard work in establishing the Charity.

We provide young people with opportunities to be successful and make a positive contribution within their community.



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[www.ffc.ac.uk](http://www.ffc.ac.uk)



01373823028



Open Days - Please visit our website to book a tour

**Registered Office:**

Fairfield Farm College, Dilton Marsh, Westbury, Wiltshire BA13 4DL.

**Registered in England:** No. 1318397.

**Registered as a charity:** Registered No. 273924.