

# EMPLOY MY ABILITY



Real Lives, Real Jobs, Real Work







THE

WALLED GARDEN

MORETON

# Welcome...



Employ My Ability based at The Walled Garden, Moreton is a unique place for our students, staff and customers. We provide many different vocational training opportunities within our commercial settings. Alongside the acquisition of work-skills, training and real life work-experience we enable our students to leave with worthwhile qualifications and a pathway into employment within their local community.

Our students engage with personal timetables and work alongside our tutor-trained industry professionals to develop understanding of the skills required for the workplace. Students follow the Employ My Ability Curriculum and access the wide variety of extra-curricular activities that this offers.

With visitors, tourists and regular customers being drawn to our site throughout the year, we set high expectations, standards of service and consequential learning is experienced throughout. Students regularly interact with customers and develop essential social and communication skills. Our students complete tasks that are relevant, worthwhile and have real outcomes for the development of their own learning.

The team and I welcome you to see the opportunities available at Employ My Ability.



*I would say, I have absolute peace of mind and confidence in the marvellous teaching staff of EMA, I know that they have the very best interests and well being of all the young people at EMA at heart. Many people do a job, just to do a job, but the staff of EMA, go past the call of duty all the time.*



# Vocational Qualifications

We currently offer a wide range of qualifications awarded through Pearson Education (Edexcel), one of the UK's largest training providers. We offer Award and Certificate qualifications at a wide range of achievement levels through our creatively developed vocational training opportunities;

- Introduction to Hospitality (Entry Level 3, Level 1 and Level 2)
- Horticulture (Level 2)
- Land-based Studies; including Horticulture and Animal Studies (Entry Level 3 and Level 1)
- Retail Knowledge (Level 1)
- WorkSkills (Level 1)
- Skills for Independence and Work (Entry Level 2)
- Personal Progress (Entry Level 1)



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*My Son looks forward to going in every day that he attends EMA, I haven't once had any complaint, which for him is absolutely novel, and the opposite situation we have experienced throughout his previous educational life*

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The use of ICT is embedded within the delivery, recording of photo and video evidence and assessment of qualification work. Students use ICT to access curriculum resources and research required learning from qualification units. Where required, we use assistive technology and communication packages to enhance learning.

## Functional Skills Maths & English

At Employ My Ability, students receive two 45-minute tutor led sessions a week for the core subjects of English and Maths. These sessions build upon previous knowledge and focus on developing and applying this in a functional, realistic, relevant and meaningful context.

Much of what is taught is then further reinforced and applied within the different vocational areas on the site. For example, operating tills, dividing seed quantities, counting different sized pots for planting, measuring lengths of wood prior to cutting and weighing ingredients for cooking.

Previous qualification achievements and assessment of attainment levels occur in the first half term of each new year and students work towards achieving a qualification in 1:1 and small ability level groups.

Employ My Ability currently offer Functional Skills qualifications at Entry Level 1, 2 and 3 and Level 1 and 2. Students benefit from a wide variety of different teaching methods and resources including bksb, an interactive online module and skills test tool that sets targets and records progress. Additional learning support can also be offered to further develop the skills required in specific areas of learning need.



# The Curriculum at Employ My Ability

## Life-skills

Students benefit from a fortnightly life-skills session, they begin by preparing the kitchen and complete domestic tasks, eg; sweeping, vacuuming, date checking foods, wiping down surfaces. Students are encouraged to make independent choices about what meal they wish to prepare food for and cook a meal following different themes, eg; a light lunch, a basic hot meal, convenience food, a hot snack and a group meal.

After compiling a shopping list, students shop independently, where possible, in local shops and supermarkets. On return to Employ My Ability, the students identify what equipment is required and what processes need to take place before starting the preparation and cooking of their chosen meal. The students sit and eat together and then complete the process by clearing away, washing up and putting away used equipment.



## Leisure activities

Students take part in a fortnightly leisure activities session. A wide range of different activities are planned throughout the year, eg; local woodland walks, visiting parks in the surrounding area, going swimming and using gyms. Once a month, students have a meal out in the local community and take part in a paid social activity eg; ten-pin bowling, going to the cinema and pitch & putt. The students have a planned activity day at the end of term before the Christmas, Easter and Summer holidays. During the year, there will be an opportunity to spend a night camping at The Walled Garden, cooking on an open fire and making pizzas using the pizza oven. There will also be an opportunity for the students to go on a 2-night residential to a city in the South of England, exploring the sights, eating out and visiting places of interest.



*We were very impressed with how efficiently staff at EMA put together an individual programme for our son. He is now benefitting from a combination of classroom learning and gaining practical experience in the work place.*





## Estate Projects

Once a week all the students work on a development project. These projects help improve and develop the site at The Walled Garden, eg; preparing the marquee for an event, clearing land for a new path, repairing bridges, painting and bramble bashing. Teaching & learning focusses on work skills that are developed; including stamina, physical development, working together as a team, communicating effectively, and completing a task. The tasks often offer an insight into real-life work as a young adult and students feel part of the ongoing development of the site and a real sense of achievement when the tasks and associated projects are completed.

Students also carry out work and tasks as directed by the Moreton Estate, students demonstrate the skills that have been acquired at Employ My Ability and take this knowledge off-site within the immediate local environment. These tasks currently involve maintenance and land based activities.

## Business Enterprise



Students take part in a fortnightly business enterprise session. The aim is to create and develop opportunities for learning about business enterprise. Students will make products that can be sold at our retail shop, eg; summer hanging baskets, hazel hurdles, solid wood chopping boards, bundles of bamboo sticks, willow wigwams, and Christmas wreaths. Students will make these products and be involved at each stage of the process. They will then have to market, advertise and price these products whilst recording items of sale and any profits made. All profits of the sale of these products will go directly to the students.

*I would personally say this environment was made to measure. Although leaving school and transitioning was something I was naturally anxious about, Harry soon settled into EMA within a very short period of time. Jacqui Church is extremely supportive of all her students and she very quickly identifies the students needs. A careful bespoke support package is put in place for each student. Harry has been attending EMA for approximately seven months with transformational results, he has built wonderful new friendships with students and members of staff who always support him positively.*

# Therapies

At Employ My Ability we are committed to providing a holistic range of therapies that support our students to fulfil their potential and have a better understanding of the world around them.

## **Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT)**

Cognitive Behavioural Therapy is a talking therapy that can help you manage your problems by changing the way you think and behave.

## **Drama Therapy**

Drama Therapy can provide the context for participants to tell their stories, set goals and solve problems, express feelings, or achieve catharsis. Through drama, the depth and breadth of inner experience can be actively explored and interpersonal relationship skills can be enhanced.

## **Speech and Language Therapy**

Speech and Language Therapy is commonly used to help people with language or communication difficulties, although it can also be used to help individuals with difficulty swallowing, eating or drinking.

## **Occupational Therapy**

Occupational Therapy is a person-centred approach concerned with promoting health and wellbeing through occupation. The primary goal of occupational therapy is to enable people to participate in the activities of everyday life. Occupational therapists achieve this outcome by working with people and communities to enhance their ability to engage in the occupations they want to, need to, or are expected to do, or by modifying the occupation or the environment to better support their occupational engagement.

This is not an exhaustive list of the therapies we can offer students.



*It is an environment I would whole heartily recommend for young students with sensory processing needs that can find the constraints of a classroom overwhelming. EMA offers an environment that nurtures and supports each student individually with a great deal of understanding and empathy. I am deeply grateful for this outstanding provision and do hope to see more similar provisions like this one in the near future - where our young people can be given an opportunity to make a difference and give something back to the community.*

*Thank you EMA team we are truly grateful.*







If you are interested in finding out more about us and would like to have a look around – we are more than happy to organise this. Just contact us on **01929 405 685**.

We believe every young person is different and we embrace this individuality ensuring each young person's transition is tailored to meet their needs.

### **Taster Sessions**

We are more than happy to organise taster sessions for young people to give them an insight into what we do and support them in making their choice about their future.

### **Visits**

If you would like to come and visit us and have a look at Employ My Ability and meet staff and students, we are more than happy to arrange this.

### **Referral**

Once you have all the information and decide EMA is the place for you – we will send you a referral form to complete. Once completed this can be emailed or posted back to us.

### **Student Assessment**

After we receive your completed referral we will arrange a time for our assessment to be completed. One of the team will come out and meet with you and your family – in order to complete the assessment. This ensures we have all the information we need to support you academically and emotionally.

### **Funding**

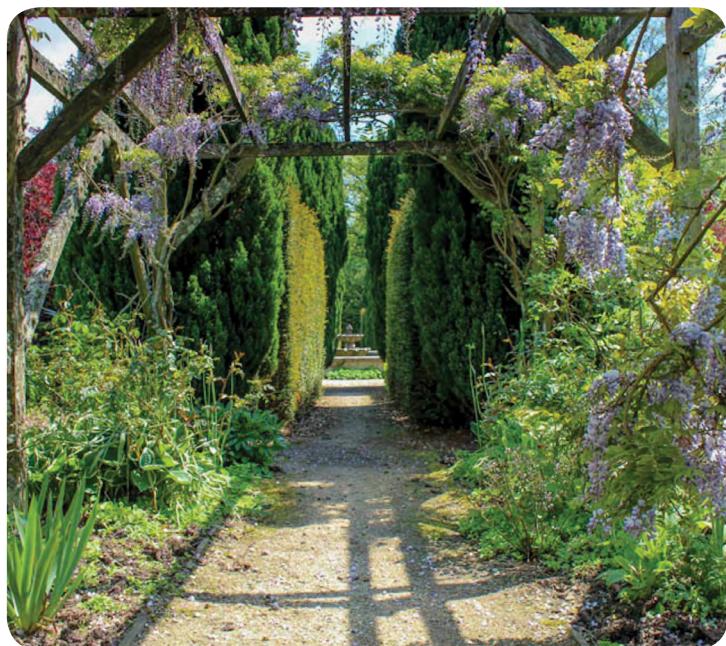
Funding options will be discussed with you throughout the assessment period.

# Our Business at The Walled Garden, Moreton

## **Real work – Our business, their business, everyone’s business**

Employ My Ability is committed to developing successful and self-sufficient businesses so that our young people develop a real understanding of the working world. It is our belief that successful vocational learning can only take place in a real working environment. That only when serving actual customers, whilst delivering real services, products or projects can the classroom theories of vocational studies be fully understood and applied.

**The Walled Garden, Moreton** – Set in the village of Moreton between Dorchester and Wareham we have our formal gardens. These gardens are open to visitors year-round and attract people from all over the UK and the rest of the world. Led by our Head Gardener, The Walled Gardens are developing into something quite special, with collections of rare species and full of wildlife. Students who have chosen to study horticulture, land-based and other qualifications develop their skills and knowledge whilst working every day in this beautiful setting, as well as our kitchen gardens, family gardens and our small plant nursery.





**The Dovecote Café** – Set in The Walled Gardens, the Dovecote Café provides breakfasts, brunches, lunches and afternoon teas to over 60'000 customers throughout the year. The Dovecote Café has a large, fully equipped and modern commercial kitchen for our students to be taught in, improve their skills and fully understand the pressures of a busy kitchen. The café also provides a perfect setting for skills in hospitality, retail and customer services to be honed and polished.

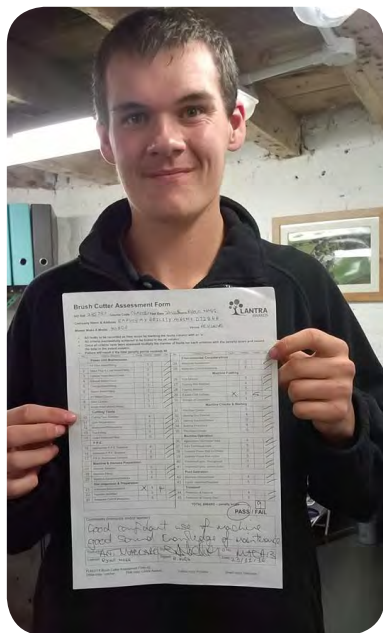
**Wedding and Events at The Walled Garden** – The Walled Gardens are fully licensed for civil ceremonies, receptions and every type of event. Students are fully involved in all areas of these events. From the planning, setting up and delivery.

**The Garden Shop and Plant Nursery** - The Garden Shop is the point of sale for our plant nursery. The shop also sells gifts and ice-creams. The shop is used to teach, develop skills and confidence for our Retail Qualification students and is another area of work for students who access our Skills for Independence and Work qualification. Students are involved in all areas of the running of the shop.

**The Folly Campsite** – Open for the summer holidays the Folly Campsite is set on our southern edge and allows for further skills to be taught, practiced and improved.



# Pathways to Employment



**Experience and Paid Work** – Whilst attending EMA, students have the opportunity not only to gain experience in our vocational areas but to have paid positions within our businesses. Students are able to have paid weekend, holiday and evening jobs, all paid at the Dorset Living Wage rates. At EMA, we are fully committed to have our young people take a full paid part in all that we do and deliver.

**External Contracts** – EMA has a small number of external contracts, both paid for and voluntary. Students are involved in site maintenance, gardening, historic re-development, charitable work and community lunch clubs. Students involved in the delivery of our paid contracts are again paid as part of our team.

**Future Plans** – EMA will look to diversify and develop current and different vocational settings. Current plans are looking into vocational areas such as production, e-commerce and Data Entry.

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*EMA staff are completely approachable, professional and helpful, if one has concerns, there is no question that one must not, cannot approach the staff and highlight concerns, or worries... I know that queries will be answered, helpfully, fully and kindly.*

*EMA provides a fantastic, supportive and inclusive environment for our son, he has matured and developed independent skills over the past 12 months due to the aspirational education and work life opportunities provided at The Walled Garden. EMA offers a truly inclusive setting where students with learning disabilities are exposed to real life work experiences'*

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## Employment and Work Placement

### Pathways to Employment

Qualified trainees work along side experienced professionals within chosen industry to consolidate existing skills and broaden knowledge and experience.

### Preparation for Employment

Students make career decisions and gain in-depth knowledge, experience and qualifications within their preferred vocational area.  
Students work closely with vocational tutors to gain confidence, competence and nationally recognised qualifications in their chosen industry.  
Relevant qualifications ranging from Entry Level to level 2 are achieved to enable students to understand how to successfully access the job market.

### Developing Skills for Employment

Students have the opportunity to gain wider experience of a real working environment and make decisions about the vocational area and working environment they are most suited to.  
Structured approach to developing employability skills within a real working environment.  
English, Maths and ICT Functional Skills are developed and delivered in a vocationally relevant context where possible.

### Introduction to Employment

A personalised approach to introducing students to employment using their interests, abilities and aspirations as the basis for curriculum development.  
Working alongside professionals in a working environment employability skills are introduced.  
Initial and diagnostic assessments identify Functional Skills levels and enable process of working towards relevant English and Maths qualifications.

# STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2017 - 2020

## **Vision**

- To enhance the understanding and acceptance of SEND for our paying customers
- To create an open and inclusive society where barriers, and stigma are removed, enabling SEND students to contribute fully to their lifepaths
- To enable students to become as independent and successful as possible across all aspects of their life
- For our students to have the same goals, dreams, aspirations and achievements as their mainstream peers

## **Mission**

- A SEND provision for 16-25s focusing on training, accreditation & qualifications to enable pathways into employment within the localised community
- Real lives, real jobs, real work!!
- Our business, their business, everyone's business
- To meet individual need through tailored curriculums, qualifications, and Functional Skills in English and Maths
- Create opportunities for student's self-growth, achievement and fulfillment through real life working

## **Values**

- Improve – change it
- Team work – share it
- Pride – show it
- Communication – say it
- To create positive life-enhancing outcomes and opportunities for Young People aged 16-25 with a SEND
- To develop an individual's social, physical, emotional and employability skills wellbeing

## **Strategic Themes**

- People – to attract and develop the best team
- Quality – Give students a safe, effective high quality experience
- Improvement – Relentlessly improving our services and outcomes to young people
- Leadership – A collective, values based leadership culture
- Teaching & Learning – to become an 'outstanding' recognised South and South West SEND vocational training provider
- Create opportunities for Continuing Professional Development (CPD), supporting career progression for our staff team
- Create and support commercial business opportunities for our students

## **Strategic Objectives**

- Continue to improve and diversify the quality service we offer to our students
- To continue to drive improvements in student vocational experiences, learning outcomes and employability skills
- To commit to support and develop our staff team, welcoming feedback in an open and transparent environment
- Developing our services across Dorset and the surrounding area
- Ensuring EMA remains financially sustainable
- Extend social care and independent living model to achieve outcomes based on a 24-hour curriculum of learning





# EMPLOY MY ABILITY

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