

Case study

Heart of the South West Careers Hub and Longcause Community Special School (SEND)

John and Mike Helliwell are both Careers and Enterprise Advisors supporting Longcause Community Special School. Mike works for Babcock who are a Careers and Enterprise Cornerstone Employer and John is his son, who is a young person with special educational needs and who is an ideal peer to support the students on their mentoring programme.

The mentoring programme together with targeted work placements, assists students in their preparation for the workplace.

A group of three students from year 11 visited a Babcock site, which helped them understand the types of employment opportunity available and to raise their awareness of life in a busy working environment.

Along with a support worker from the school, John helped the students understand how barriers to work could be removed.

John himself has benefited from an 18-month work placement via Babcock's Neurodiversity Programme, demonstrating that young adults with autism can function well within a busy working environment. John's improved confidence and enhanced communication skills has enabled him to brief other SEND establishments in Plymouth.

School staff also benefited by significantly increasing their industry knowledge and the understanding the importance of meaningful work placements, all helped by Mike who provided additional briefing sessions.

The outcomes were positive with students gaining an increased awareness of the working environment, helping them in selecting their next step and raising their awareness of the need to develop transferable skills. Positive feedback was received from the school, the students and their parents. The school are continuing with this valuable mentoring programme.



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The Careers & Enterprise Company

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