



Positive Partnerships

Gatsby Benchmarks 3,5 and 6.

We are very lucky to have partnered up with Forge on the Green cafe in Shamley Green. They run "Forging Futures", a charity promoting positive futures for students with special needs in the hospitality industry.



[Forging Futures | Forge on the Green](#)

Students participate in their Cookie Project. They attend a six-week training session afternoon where they learn about coffee and the coffee industry, learn barista skills, how to use the till and to deliver excellent customer service. Volunteer customers attend the cafe in week 5, so students can have a real experience of serving the public.



Alongside this, they follow a secret recipe to make 80 cookies a week. These cookies are then sold at the café during the week and £1 per cookie is given to the student group towards a Positive Impact Project of their choosing. The first group earned £170 which they used to add framed pictures, throws and bean bags for our newly developed Life Skills Flat. The second group decided to use their money for a class trip that would benefit the whole class. They earned a huge £240!

In their final session the students invite family members and staff to have a complimentary drink and cookie, so they could see them at work. Following this there is a lovely celebration of their achievements.

Following the successful Cookie Project with Forge on the Green we were very lucky to secure two work experience placements for our students.



They work every week for a shift of two hours, where they are supported by Forge on the Green staff to become more confident in all the hospitality skills. They are enjoying their placement and now attend on their own. We are extremely grateful to Forge on the Green and their brilliant staff and for Forging Futures for giving our students such a wonderful opportunity.



It has certainly built up their self-confidence, broadened their skill set and definitely widened their horizons. They now undoubtedly recognise how job worthy they are!

