

Beacon Alternative Provision – 1st Anniversary Newsletter



Just over a year ago, we began with a simple but powerful goal: to create a service where young people facing school attendance challenges or the impact of school-related trauma could learn and grow in a space that felt safe—whether at home, in a neutral setting, or online. One year on, that vision has become a reality, and the impact has been truly rewarding. We've had the privilege of working alongside schools to support young people aged 7 to 16, and it's been a joy to witness their progress, confidence, and enthusiasm for learning grow day by day.

Over the past year at Beacon Alternative Provision, we've seen extraordinary growth in our young people — not just academically, but personally and socially. Learners who once struggled to attend school, communicate their needs, or engage with learning have blossomed into confident individuals who now arrive each day with purpose and pride. This transformation is the result of consistent support, creative teaching, and a nurturing environment where every achievement, no matter how small, is celebrated.



From school refusal to 100% Attendance – A Remarkable Journey

When some of our students first arrived, they hadn't been in regular education for some time. Now, they are attending every day. This change hasn't happened by chance... it's come from building trusting relationships, offering personalised support, and creating an environment that feels safe, engaging, and full of purpose.

Academic Confidence Through Creativity and Support

We've combined structured academic learning with fun, project-based experiences to help learners re-engage with reading, writing, and communication. For some, this has been their first experience of being able to read confidently, express themselves clearly, or enjoy writing. Our speech and language support has played a vital role in helping students communicate effectively, both in the classroom and beyond.

Real-World Learning for Life

We believe learning should prepare young people not just for exams, but for life.



That's why we've woven essential life skills into every week. We've been: *Baking, cooking and budgeting; Crafting, sewing and printing; Problem-solving and learning about staying safe; how to debate, build friendships and overcome adversity; we've covered Personal hygiene and household chores and enjoyed forest skills and nature walks. We've even done carpentry and mosaics.*

...our students are learning new skills, how to care for themselves and the world around them. And they are having fun while doing so.

Learning Beyond the Classroom Walls

Some of the highlights have been our trips — to the Otter and Butterfly

Sanctuary, the local museum, and releasing butterflies into the wild. These experiences have sparked wonder built friendships and given students the experiences have sparked wonder, built friendships, and given students the chance to discover learning in new and joyful ways.



A Community of Laughter and Learning

The laughter, the growth, the quiet victories...every moment has reminded us why this work matters. We've seen students build confidence, focus for longer, believe in themselves, and take pride in their achievements. At Beacon, we don't just teach — we listen, we nurture, and we grow together.

Thank you for being part of our journey.



We are committed to preparing our learners for life beyond school — whether that means continuing into college, entering the workplace, or gaining the skills to live independently. We will focus on employability, life skills, and personal development alongside academic achievement, giving every student the tools they need to support themselves, contribute meaningfully to their communities, and feel proud of who they are and what they can do.

Student voice:

"Before Beacon, when I went to school it was rubbish. I used to get suspended all the time and get put in isolation for walking around to regulate myself. As a person with learning difficulties and Autism this is hard and so I was never really at school. Ever since joining Beacon Alternative Provision, my school life has completely changed. I get help with things and breaks when I need it. I've even managed to do things I didn't know I could do. It's kinda like school but much more quiet as there are less people and a small setting. This is the best place for people who don't get help at school or who don't do well in big groups." -

R (pupil at Beacon)

"Before I started at Beacon my life was going downhill. I wasn't sleeping, eating and my mental health got really bad. I ended up leaving school and was doing nothing at home for about a year and things were just going round in circles. I wasn't getting the help or support that I needed. Until the school that I'm still enrolled with found the right place for me: Beacon.

I met my lovely, kind, caring and amazing tutor, Fi, in June a year ago. She came round my house for tutoring 3h a week and that all went incredibly well. Fi has helped me massively in so many ways. My handwriting is neat and tidy now. I never thought I could do Maths until she showed me in special ways and now I'm so much better in Maths and every other subject because of her. I am now going to her house to work and I'm always offered a cup of tea to help me put my brain in focus mode. One of my favourite days at Beacon is 'Life skills' on a Wednesday because we get to do really fun things like baking and other things. Then after a while she announced to me that someone new was joining us. At first I was nervous but now the 'new girl' is one of my best friends and I'm super happy.

I'm now super proud of all the successes and progress I have made and I hope to stay at Beacon because I love being here. Thank you for reading. I'm doing so much better now. ;-)" -

O (pupil at Beacon)