



As one of the leading colleges in the UK, with significant strengths in health and social care, engineering, creative industries, construction, catering and digital, Northampton College is an inspiring place to work.

Our students come from all walks of life and so do we. We hire great people from a wide variety of backgrounds, not just because it's the right thing to do, but because it makes our organisation stronger. Why not join our dedicated team as a **Teaching Assistant - Visual Support Needs?**

Job Title	Teaching Assistant - Visual Support Needs
Ref No.	ME2526038B
Department	School of Academic and Vocational Support
Reporting to	Learning Support Practitioner
Location	Northampton, Booth Lane Campus
Salary	In the range of £25,798 - £28,513 per annum pro-rata, actual salary in the range of £6,177 - £6,827 per annum Starting salaries will normally be aligned with the first point in the grade for the role. Only in exceptional circumstances, as determined by the College, will appointment to a higher point be considered. If you have any queries regarding the College's policy on this, please contact the recruitment team prior to submitting your application.
Hours	10 hours per week, 40 Weeks per year
Contract Type	Permanent, Part Year

We are committed to the safeguarding and welfare of all our students, we follow safer recruitment statutory guidance (Keeping Children Safe in Education).

If you are successful, you will be required to complete thorough pre-employment checks, including an enhanced DBS check and satisfactory references. All applicants must have the right to work in the UK at the time of application, as the College does not hold a sponsorship license.

REWARDS AND BENEFITS

As well as a great salary and friendly team you will also receive:

- ▶ 35 days pro rata annual leave, comprising 24 personal days, pro rata (1 September – 31 August), including 8 bank holidays and 3 closure days. The College reserves the right to designate up to 3 closure days per holiday year *****Holiday entitlement will be included in monthly pay to the value of 35 days per annum pro rata*****
- ▶ Discounts through membership of the NUS and Blue Light Card - ranging from Amazon Prime to eating out, fashion, beauty, entertainment and more.
- ▶ Eligible to join the Local Government Pension Scheme (a defined benefit scheme including an employer contribution rate of 22%)
- ▶ Access to continued professional development
- ▶ Free parking and access to electric vehicle charging
- ▶ Multi gym and sports hall
- ▶ Confidential Employee Assistance Programme, offering a confidential phone line, a website and a downloadable app
- ▶ Access to the College's Wellbeing Hub
- ▶ Enhanced family friendly policies
- ▶ Generous sick pay and compassionate leave scheme
- ▶ Discounted hairdressing and beauty therapy treatments in our training salons (The Salon NC).



Job Description

Role Purpose

To assist teachers, specialists and relevant colleagues in the provision and maintenance of high-quality support for students with visual support needs. To work under the direction of class teachers and specialist practitioners to ensure that students with visual support needs can access their classroom learning and benefit fully from their experience at College. To focus on enabling students to complete a course of study with a measurably greater degree of independence and autonomy than when they started. To assist in ensuring that the records of the support delivered to students are accurate and comply with funding regulations.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

1. To, under the supervision of the practitioner, help to provide advice on visual support needs and use of specialist equipment and resources to academic and support staff, ensuring they understand the differentiation/adjustments required to support their student(s).
2. To monitor relevant students' sensory functioning, noting any changes that might indicate deterioration or problems with the use of assistive technology and reporting these to the Learning Support Practitioner (Visual Needs Support).
3. To coach students with blindness and visual support needs to use College technology/learning platforms, developing their confidence in using assistive technology when appropriate.
4. To assist in the care and maintenance of specialist equipment.
5. To play a role in internal visual support needs awareness training, for example in staff meetings and during transition events.
6. To provide recommendations on any necessary adjustments to support plans to the Learning Support Practitioner (Visual Needs Support).
7. To adapt specialist resource materials, specific to the students' individual needs in a timely fashion, including the creation, conversion, re-formatting and transcribing of materials into braille or enlargements for the student and teacher.
8. To provide specific support during examinations to ensure students with blindness or visual support needs can access their assessments, ensuring that specific training is completed to be able to do this.
9. To support students with a range of additional learning needs (ALS) and/or physical disabilities and/or challenges, under the direction of the teacher in the classroom, workshop, or other education environment. To support students on a one-to-one basis and in small groups as directed by the teacher.
10. To understand and implement Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), in collaboration with teachers and relevant specialist practitioners, to ensure the support delivered to students is appropriate for their needs and is enabling their progress within lessons and towards their intended outcomes.
11. To support teachers in ensuring that all students are aware of the lesson objectives.
12. To encourage students to interact with others and engage in activities led by the teacher.

13. To support students in gaining self-confidence through encouragement and reassurance. To use support strategies, as directed by the class teacher and/or specialist staff, that facilitate independence, enable access to learning and integration into the life of the College.
14. To enable students to develop their ability to learn by supporting their reading, writing, comprehension, and notetaking. To support students to process information using a range of strategies as directed by the teacher; this will include breaking down complex information into more manageable chunks and encouraging students to practice new information to strengthen memory connections.
15. To support students with the use of Information Technology (IT) and educational aids, including computers, video and communication devices, under supervision as required.
16. To ensure there are accurate records of the support delivered to students and that these are completed regularly on the appropriate College systems.
17. To act as a link between teachers and professional support services to ensure all relevant staff are aware of student support needs and the progress students are making.
18. To seek advice and guidance from teachers and specialist staff as and when required.
19. To be responsible for updating your timetable and ensuring the information held is correct.
20. To attend staff meetings and meetings about students for whom you provide support, as directed by the Head of Teaching Assistants.
21. To carry out examination invigilation duties as required.

Person Specification

	Essential	Desirable
Education	- English and maths GCSE grade C/4 or above/willingness to obtain, or equivalent skill level - Partners in Learning Qualification and/or other related qualification, for example Unified English Braille or willingness to work towards, at a minimum of a level 2	
Knowledge	- An awareness of the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice 2015 and Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) - A knowledge of health and safety in the workplace - Understanding of the need to promote independent living and learning - Understanding of, and commitment to, the principles of equity, inclusion and belonging - Understanding of the principles of safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults in an educational setting - Understanding of the principles of data protection	Understanding of the impact of visual impairment on learning and strategies to support students
Skills	- Ability to effectively communicate in writing, verbally, and through active listening with a diverse group of colleagues, students and stakeholders - Ability to use a range of Information Technology (IT)/Information Communication Technology (ICT) systems, including Microsoft Word, Excel, and Outlook - Ability to manage and prioritise multiple tasks through to completion within prescribed deadlines - High levels of attention to detail and accuracy - Ability to provide a responsive and professional level of customer service at all times	
Experience	- Experience of working with blind/visually impaired children/young people in an educational setting - Experience of delivering high quality customer service	
Attributes	- Strong work ethic: exhibits dedication and diligence in carrying out responsibilities with a commitment to excellence - Collegiate: works well within a team environment, cultivating a collaborative and cooperative approach - Enthusiastic and innovative: displays a positive attitude and creative mindset, contributing fresh ideas and solutions	

	Essential	Desirable
	• Adaptability and reliability: adapts easily to changing situations and is dependable in fulfilling commitments • Priorities the needs of the team, customer, and the organisation • High degree of integrity and honesty • Empathetic: demonstrates thoughtfulness towards others • Resilience: able to recover from setbacks quickly • Self-motivated: demonstrates initiative, positivity, and a proactive approach • Positive role model for students	

GENERAL

You will be required to undertake such other duties appropriate to the grade and nature of the work as may reasonably be required of you. Therefore, the list of duties in this job description should not be regarded as exclusive or exhaustive.

Your duties will be set out in this job description but please note that the College reserves the right to update your job description from time to time to reflect changes in, or to, your job.

Significant permanent changes in duties and responsibilities will require agreed revisions to be made to this job description. You will be consulted about any proposed changes via either collective or individual consultation.

You will be required to have a flexible approach to work, working outside your normal working pattern when reasonably required to do so, including, for example to support College open events. You will have the ability to travel effectively, for example to other College campuses.

You will be required to ensure all safeguarding and student welfare duties and responsibilities are fully met and that you adhere to the relevant College policies and procedures.

You will be required to adhere to, and promote, the College's values of respect for each other, dignity, diversity and equal opportunity, enabling the continual evolution of a culture of inclusion, where diversity and difference is embraced and open, positive discussion is genuinely valued.

You will be responsible for ensuring compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and for handling all personal data in accordance with applicable data protection laws and College policies and procedures.

You will be required to participate in the College's Employee Performance and Development process and to undertake any professional development activity/training required.

You will be required to fulfil your health and safety responsibilities for your own health and wellbeing and that of others within the College.

