

Work With Us



Our story

Team Domenica is a charity and Specialist Further Education College supporting people with learning disabilities to access meaningful employment. We do this through tailored training programmes, and by partnering with local businesses to provide accessible work placements.

There are 1.3 million people with learning disabilities in England, but just 4.8% are in employment (*NHS Digital, 2023*). Too many are missing out on the basic right to aspire to a career, along with the wider social networks, better emotional and physical health, and increased independence a job can provide. They can feel isolated from society, unable to experience the same employment aspirations as those around them.

Founder and Chairman Baroness Rosa Monckton MBE – whose youngest daughter, Domenica, has Down's Syndrome – set up Team Domenica in 2016. She created this community to help people with learning disabilities find and retain paid roles, giving them a sense of direction, purpose and belonging.



Our approach

Based in central Brighton & Hove, Team Domenica provide a range of bespoke education and employment programmes structured to prepare young people with learning disabilities – our candidates – for the workplace.

We operate through a unique three-tier setup...

1. Training Centre

In the classroom, candidates complete a registered qualification to develop new skills and workplace knowledge. They also attend RSHE and a variety of arts, sports and music-based activities at Enrichment.

2. Training Cafés (Café Domenica)

Around half of our young people's time is spent building their confidence through in-house work experience in our local, non-profit cafés.

3. Employment Centre

The final stage of our candidates' training comes in the form of accessible work placements. Our employment team establishes mutually-beneficial opportunities for candidates and employers alike. This experience is key to our young people's success and helps create a more vibrant and inclusive workplace for all.

“It's hard to describe how proud I am for getting a job at the i360. It's something I never thought I'd achieve, and now it just feels so amazing.”

Katie, Team Domenica candidate



Work with us

At Team Domenica, we believe that people with learning disabilities have the right to work, to thrive, and to feel included as valued members of the workplace. Partnered employers can support this vision by offering one, or more, of the following:



Work experience placements

Our external work experience take place in three blocks. These unpaid placements are two hours a week, for up to seven weeks. All candidates are accompanied by a one-to-one Team Domenica Training Mentor. This experience gives our young people a gentle introduction to different work environments. Candidates also get an idea of what type of job they enjoy, so they can consider their future career.



Supported internships

A candidate completes an extended, unpaid placement with a partnered employer for 12+ hours a week, over approximately 26 weeks. Each internship is chosen based on the young person's skills, interests and ambitions, as well as the needs of the business. Our candidates and employers are also supported by one of our Job Coaches. The ultimate aim is for our candidates to be offered paid work at the end of their placements.



Paid work

After an offer of employment, we make a commitment to our candidates and employers. We keep in regular contact and provide tailored support depending on each person's needs. Thanks to this programme, 95% of our young people remain in employment for over a year or more.



The benefits

There are multiple benefits to working with our candidates.



Pizza Pilgrims, Brighton has hosted two supported internships as well as numerous work experience placements. Sam, the restaurant manager, says...

“ Hospitality can often be about driving profits, but creating an opportunity for someone has been so rewarding. They've added so much to our team. Before working with the candidates, you might worry that you'll get things wrong, but there's nothing Team Domenica won't do. If you're a company thinking of closing the recruitment gap, all I can say is do it. It'll be one of the best things you'll ever do. ”

- Our candidates want to work and can work
- By working with us, you can build a diverse workforce that reflects the community it serves
- Supporting people with learning disabilities increases staff morale and has a positive impact on the team (*Beyer & Beyer, 2017*)
- A placement helps businesses better understand and cater to other neurodiverse employees
- 87% of UK customers would prefer to give their business to a company that hires people with learning disabilities (*Siperstein et al, 2006*)

Join our growing community and make a difference to the lives of people with learning disabilities. Find out more by contacting us at

supported-employment
@teamdomenica.com

Other ways to get involved

Charity partnerships

We offer tiered partnership opportunities to suit any business size, ranging from £1,500 to £10,000. These packages aim to achieve mutual impact, funding training for our young people whilst helping you meet your strategic or Corporate Social Responsibility business goals. Benefits include publicity and brand alignment, discounts in our cafés, catering, staff engagement and free Team Domenica event places.

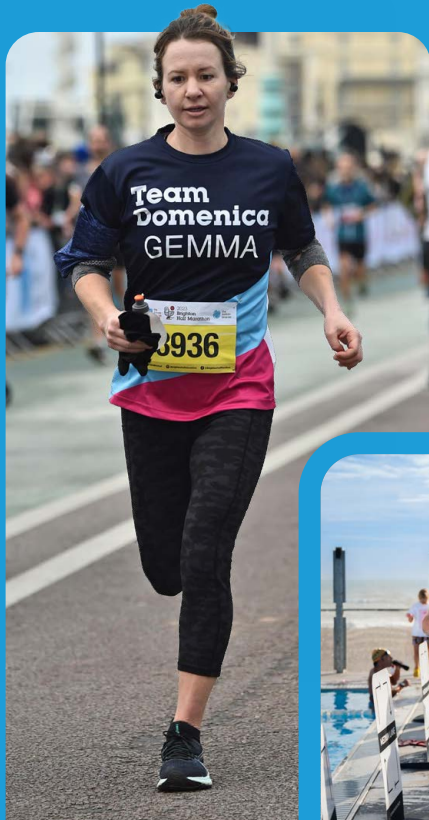
Sponsorship opportunities

We have some amazing brand-boosting sponsorship opportunities, from our community-based Great Lengths swim challenge, running-shirt sponsorship, or our range of employer networking events.

However you choose to work with us, we can promise benefits to your business, and a professional but fun relationship. Get in touch at theteam@teamdomenica.com to have a chat about what could work for you and your business.

“Team Domenica truly are a pleasure to work with, and the value of our partnership goes both ways.”

Gemma Bellamy, Senior Marketing Executive at Team Domenica partner, OneFamily



Make a difference... Kieren's story

Kieren's always been passionate about people. His journey started in 2021, as he tried to navigate the seemingly inaccessible world of work as well as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The training he received at Team Domenica allowed him to develop the skills, confidence and independence needed to thrive in the workplace, and beyond.

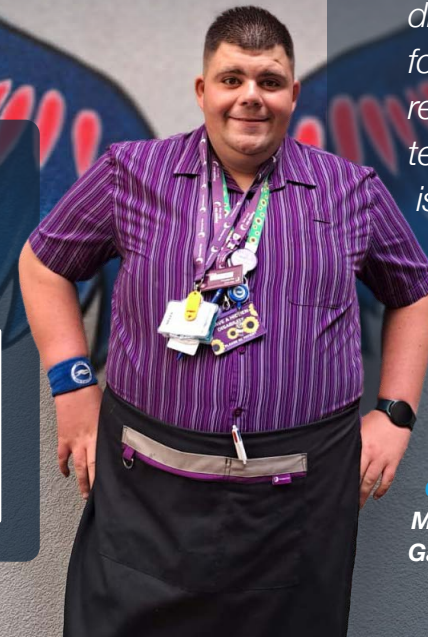
After completing three, seven-week placements in his first-year, Kieren then moved onto a supported internship at Premier Inn, Gatwick North. Despite working in the largest Premier Inn in the country, he quickly became an integral part of the team. In fact, Kieren was offered a paid position in record time and continues to bring his passion and energy each and every shift.

Scan this code to see Kieren in action and watch him discuss his journey to success



“When Kieren comes to work, he always brings his A-game. He's really passionate about what he's doing and he's driven to really deliver for the guests. The relationship that the team have with Kieren is unique and strong too; he brings so much energy to the workplace, I feel like it naturally brings everyone together.”

Ollie, Restaurant General Manager at Premier Inn, Gatwick North



Creating futures for young people with learning disabilities

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Team Domenica is a company limited
by guarantee and a charity registered
in England and Wales.
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