

Department and Post Details

Department name:	Learning Support Department
Post Details	Learning Support Assistant (Mainstream) – 35.5 hours per week - term time (44.4 weeks) We are seeking to appoint a Learning Support Assistant to join our successful Learning Support Team. An understanding of SEND is required, and the post will involve working primarily with individual students with disabilities or learning difficulties to facilitate their learning and participation in college life. This support will be on courses at Level 2 and at A level/Level 3 BTEC. Core working hours are: 8.30am – 4pm (Mon, Wed, Thurs & Fri) 8.30am – 4.30pm Tues only.
Staffing structure and facilities	The Learning Support Team at Aquinas currently comprises a Head of Department, 3 full time Learning Support Teachers, an Admin Assistant and a number of Learning Support Assistants. The number of Learning Support Assistants varies from year to year, depending on the needs of the students. The team is located on the first floor of the Learning Centre, where the accommodation includes a small classroom, five smaller rooms for one-to-one support, a quiet study area and the team office.
Services provided	The Learning Support team supports students with an identified need: for example a physical disability, a mental or physical health problem, a sensory impairment, a specific learning difficulty, ADHD or autism, across all mainstream courses in the college. The majority of our students are on A Level or Level 3 BTEC courses. Some of these students have Education, Health and Care Plans. The type and level of support is set up following discussion with the student in response to individual needs. One-to-one support sessions and small group sessions are delivered by the Learning Support Teachers and Learning Support Assistants, and in-class support is provided by Learning Support Assistants. All members of the team are involved in supporting transition to college and progression from college, in providing special exam access arrangements and in meeting the support needs of students on a day-to-day basis, including support over lunch time and around college. Accurate record-keeping is a key aspect of the role of all team members, as is communication with other college staff, to ensure a whole college approach to ensuring the success of students with support needs. Feedback from focus groups and surveys is very positive and student satisfaction rates are consistently high. Students find the team approachable and helpful and say that the support they receive makes an enormous difference.