



1st February, 2016

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#### Special points of interest:-

- The Orb is a unique service that provides young people and adults on the Autistic Spectrum with work experience.
- The Orb is owned and funded by the company Orbis Education and Care.

## Welcome to 'The Orb'

Welcome to our first Newsletter! We will be creating a monthly newsletters for you to keep up to date with what is happening at The Orb. The Orb opened it's doors to the public on the 14th of September, 2015 and we have had a really positive response about what we are achieving here. In our monthly newsletter you can find stories, interviews, facts and up to date information about the Orb written by our very own service users.

## So, what is The Orb?

The Orb is a center for young people and adults with a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Condition gain work experience and as an alternative to a formal education provision. We've asked two of our young people who access the Orb to describe in their own words what the Orb is.

### The Orb– by Adam

The Orb is a café and a second hand shop. They sell DVD's , clothes, games and books. When I come here I work with my staff. I help run the shop by serving people, making drinks, washing clothes and labelling the stock. I like coming to the Orb.

### The Orb– by David.H

The Orb is a place where you can get lots of stuff from. You can help people in the orb. You can do laundry. You can sort out good and broken toys for children. The orb is a centre for education and personal development. It has been especially designed to cater for young people and adults with autistic spectrum conditions. I do a bit of work and buy some things.

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## Autism Facts– by David.H

- Autism is a life-long learning disability.
- It affects 1 in 100 people in the UK.
- A person with autism may have problems with language, social, physical, learning, or behavioural skills.
- Some people challenge the idea of autism as a disability and see it as no more than a different way of viewing and experiencing the world.
- Autism now affects 1 in 68 children and 1 in 42 boys.
- Autism is a 'spectrum condition' which means it can differ a lot from person to person.
- Only 10% of autistic adults receive employment support but 53% say they want it.
- Only 15% of autistic adults in the UK are in full-time paid employment.
- Autism doesn't just affect children. Autistic children grow up to be autistic adults.

*“Autism now*

*affects 1 in 68*

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*42 boys”*

## Interview with the Lead activities coordinator.

We asked our very own Ryan to interview Becky James our lead activities coordinator to find out more about her role within The Orb.

**Ryan: “What do you do in the Orb?”**

Becky: “I am the lead activities co-ordinator and I set up all the activities for the young people.”

**Ryan: “What can young people do in the Orb?”**

Becky: “The young people can help working in the shop, café, laundrette, the office and can also take part in cooking lessons.”

**Ryan: “What drinks do you sell in the Orb?”**

Becky: “At the Orb we sell tea, coffee and a selection of fruit shoots. Drinks can be enjoyed at the Orb in our café or taken away.”

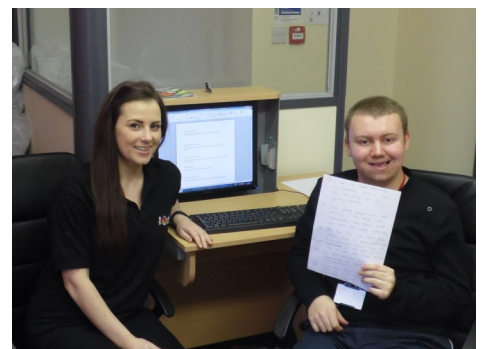
**Ryan: “What does the Orb do?”**

Becky: “The orb provides work experience for young adults with Autistic Spectrum Condition.”

**Ryan: “How did the Orb get its name?”**

Becky: “Lucy our head of education came up with the name by shortening our companies name Orbis.”

**Picture: Becky (left) and Ryan (right) during the interview at The Orb.**



Here at the Orb we welcome donations from the public to sell in our second hand shop. David has made a simple check list of all of the items we are able to sell and items we cannot sell.

## “We take donations”– by David.S

Items we can accept and sell:	Items we cannot accept or sell:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Books	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Damaged items
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clothes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Electrical Goods
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shoes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Copy DVD's/CD's
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Games	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Underwear
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toys	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Safety Headgear (Helmets)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DVD's/Videos	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Large Furniture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CD's	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pictures/Wall art	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ornaments	

## Where does the money go?

All monies raised in our second hand shop and the café goes into an Orb account at our head office branch.

This then pays for the overall running of the Orb which allows us to continue to provide

this service. We also have a volunteer of the month scheme where we award one of our service users with an activity of their choice for their continued hard work at The Orb. So far we

have awarded 4 individuals with the volunteer of the month award and they have all enjoyed participating in a fun activity.

*“Autism doesn’t just affect children.*

*Autistic children*

*grow up to be*

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## Volunteer of the month

My name is Claire and I was volunteer of the month for December. At the orb I help in the shop, café, launderette and office. I have an important job of counting the takings at the end of the week and taking them to the head office branch in Cardiff. I also really enjoy cooking at the Orb. For my reward I chose to go for food in Cardiff bay in Weatherspoons and I had chicken and chips and a coke. We also went for walk around the bay which I really enjoyed.

## Loyalty Cards

The Orb

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Porth  
CF39 9RA

**Telephone:**  
01443 686367

**Enquiries:**  
enquiries@orbis-  
group.co.uk

Here at the Orb you can enjoy Costa coffee, tea, and hot chocolate in our café or to take away. We have recently introduced a customer loyalty card for all of our hot drinks. Present your card each time you purchase a hot drink and collect a stamp. After purchasing 4 hot drinks and collecting 4 stamps, you get your 5th hot drink FREE!

Don't forget to ask in store for your very own loyalty Card.



## Social Media

You can find more information about the Orb and the programme we deliver on our website:-

- [www.academyliving.co.uk](http://www.academyliving.co.uk)

Orbis education and Care also have a website, Facebook page and Twitter account.

- [www.orbis-group.co.uk](http://www.orbis-group.co.uk)
- [www.facebook.com/Orbis-Education-and-Care](https://www.facebook.com/Orbis-Education-and-Care)
- @orbisgroupLtd for twitter

