



# AN AWARD WINNING, MUSIC FOCUSED POST 16 SPECIALIST PROVIDER

PROSPECTUS 2021/2022







SupaJam is a Specialist Post 16 Institution (SPI) and has been approved by the Secretary of State as a registered Section 41 provider. We offer carefully and individually tailored placements to students looking for an alternative educational provision.

Alongside Rockscool Music Diplomas (RSL), Maths and English and our increasing work experience opportunities, SupaJam has developed multiple programmes rich in pastoral care and life skills with an aim to meet every additional need.

**“SupaJam has been the best thing that has ever happened to me. I’ve made friends, I enjoy learning about everything and I feel I matter. It’s made me want to go to University.”**

**A current student at SupaJam.**



Co-founders David Court and Nick Stillwell with SupaJam prize winners



A teacher working with one of our NEET students

**“We’re not interested in the past, only the future for these young people, that’s where it gets exciting for them.”**

**Nick Stillwell - SupaJam Co-Founder**

## INTRODUCTION

Founded in 2013, SupaJam is an award winning unique educational provider set up by David Court and Nick Stillwell for students aged 16-18, and 19+ with an Educational Health Care Plan for learners with Special Educational Needs

At SupaJam, we pride ourselves on the opportunities that we are able to give every student, from working at festivals to meeting professional industry specialists - including famous artists! We work with every student to achieve at their own pace and with the support needed to gain Music, Maths and English qualifications throughout their course. Because of this environment, 50% of our leaving Level 3 students began music university courses in September 2020, 25% continued into employment and 25% are currently looking into supported internships while they continue with work experience.

## OUR MISSION

Is to help vulnerable young people who have previously fallen out of formal education to engage, achieve and progress in a unique, inclusive learning environment.

## OUR ETHOS

Is to be forward thinking, caring and encouraging whilst providing a structured, supportive and non-judgemental educational experience. One that puts the students at the heart of everything we do and allows them to thrive and achieve to their full potential.







Staff and students on career day

## ABOUT US

SupaJam has two bases, one in Swanley and one in Canterbury. Each base focuses on a different element of the music industry: Swanley gives students the ability to create live and recorded music with regular performances, practical musicianship, a specially tailored venue and a brand new recording studio. In Canterbury we focus on music broadcasting with our brand new podcast and Radio studio allowing students to run their own radio station. In addition, both bases work towards running our own stage at the award winning Black Deer festival.

SupaJam is exemplary because of its forward thinking and creative approach to education. We were recently the first new SPI in Kent to be awarded a 'Good' by Ofsted, with Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare being noted as having Outstanding features due to our care and commitment for our students.

Our programme helps to develop every student in all areas of their lives and we continue working with them even after they have achieved their final qualification with us.

**“Students benefit from a positive and harmonious environment that is warm and welcoming and provides a safe place for them to develop and grow in confidence.”**

Ofsted Report GOOD June 2019

We use music to engage our learners, offering:

- + **RSL Music Practitioners Diplomas at Levels 1, 2 and 3**
- + **Functional Skills**
- + **GCSE English & Maths**
- + **Music Festival Work Experience**
- + **Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural lessons (SMSC) and Life Skills sessions**
- + **Practical Musicianship**
- + **Genuine opportunities to work with guest speakers and professionals from within the music industry.**

A student completing his NVQ L2 Spectator Training





Nashville artist Sonia Leigh gives a songwriting masterclass with students

**“We wanted to create a learning environment that celebrated those that had previously struggled. At it’s heart we wanted it to be inspirational and nonjudgemental for all our young learners.”**

**David Court - SupaJam Co-Founder**

## HOW WE WORK

We support disadvantaged and vulnerable young people, many of whom have never achieved a qualification, and currently have a 97% achievement rate within our Music Diplomas. We help our young people to focus on the future rather than the past, with regular encouragement, support and positivity and a high level of staff support.

The environment we work in establishes itself not only as a place of learning, but as a safe haven for all of our young people. We encourage a less formal learning climate that tries to embrace the needs of all of our students, from quiet working areas, to communal break out spaces, to rooms designed specifically for those working on music software or wanting to play musical instruments. Every student is treated like an individual, celebrated for their differences and unique talents.



## OUTCOMES

SupaJam measures its success on an individual basis with every student. We look at academic achievement, personal achievement, positive outcomes into work, training or further education and targets met within EHC plans and student reviews. We also evaluate our student feedback questionnaires to ensure every student feels that their opinion is heard, matters and will be used to continue to improve our courses.

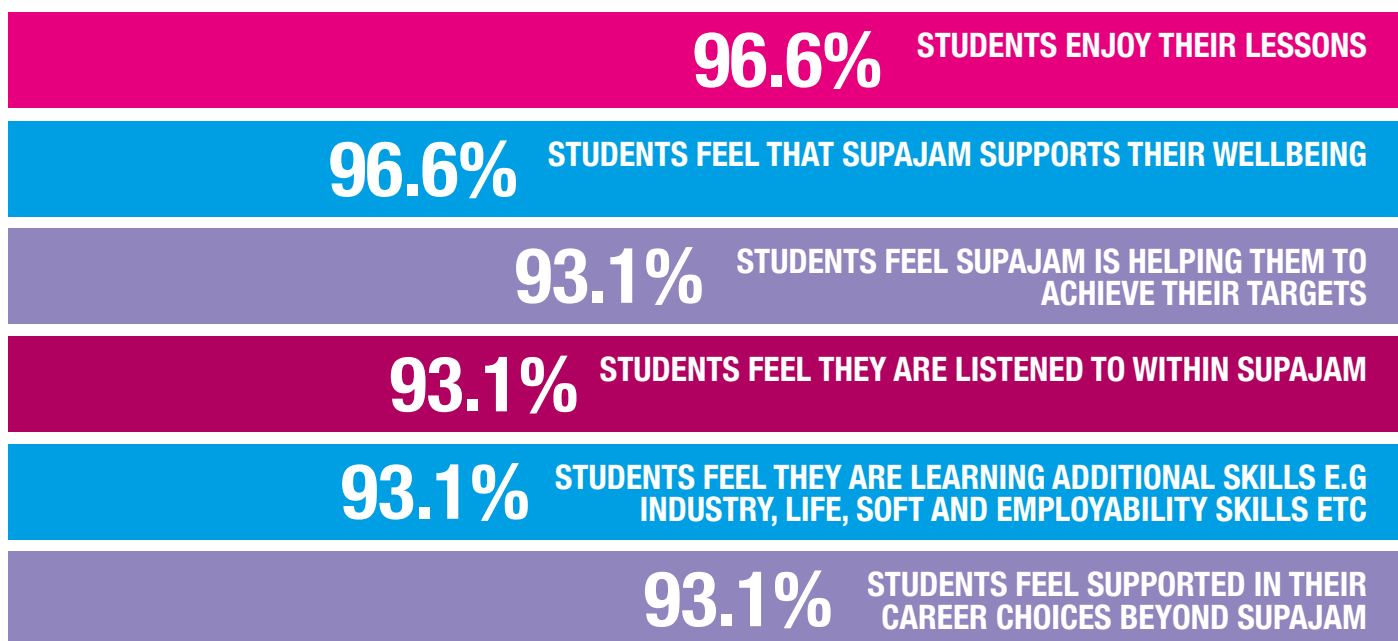


Leaving student Harry receives his MOAP (Mother Of All Prizes) award from Becca Walker and Dan Broad.

## SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEED STATISTICS



## STUDENT STATISTICS (NOV 2020)



## PARENT STATS (NOV 2020)

100%

OF PARENTS ARE CONFIDENT THAT THEIR CHILD IS SAFE WITHIN SUPAJAM

96%

OF PARENTS WOULD RECOMMEND SUPAJAM AS AN EDUCATION PROVIDER

91%

OF PARENTS SCORED 7-10 ON A 'COULDN'T BE HAPPIER' SCALE OF SUPAJAM AS AN EDUCATIONAL PROVIDER

86%

OF PARENTS HAVE SEEN SIGNIFICANT POSITIVE CHANGES IN THEIR CHILD SINCE ATTENDING SUPAJAM

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- + SupaJam achieved an overall achievement rate of 97% in 2019/2020.
- + 64% of students increased their attendance from the academic year 18/19 to 19/20.
- + Student attendance increased to 80.1%, (a 3.8% increase from the year before).
- + 67% of students felt that they made good to excellent progress in their maths and English lessons this year, with feedback such as, 'I'm happy with the progress I'm making because I want to be able to study at university' and 'my teacher always encourages me to improve my work, if I don't understand something then she's happy to help walk me through it as many times as I need...she's extremely patient.'

## OFSTED

SupaJam had its first Ofsted Inspection in June 2019 and was awarded a Good. Key findings included:

- + **"Tutors know their students well and use effective strategies to motivate them to engage with their learning"**
- + **"Students' behaviour is good. They develop good personal, social and work skills that enhance their independence"**
- + **"Students benefit from good careers advice and guidance and from extensive opportunities to undertake learning in high-quality real work environments"**





Legendary artist booker Bev Burton workshopping with the Black Deer booking team

## OUR CURRICULUM

### RSL

The RSL Music Diploma focuses on the fundamentals of the music industry, providing learners with a nationally recognised Business Diploma. This Diploma allows our students not only to pursue careers within music, but also to build on the skills needed within any working environment; confidence, organisation, time keeping and responsibility. Modules look at topics such as:

- + Putting On An Event
- + Setting Up A Music Business
- + Composing Music
- + Exploring A Career In Music
- + Music Production

Our curriculum works towards both written and practical modules; however, we welcome all students of any (or no) musical ability. All modules are coursework based, and the only entry requirement is an interest in music and the commitment to learn within every lesson.

**“SupaJam’s remarkable approach is turning lives around and helping young people to meet their potential. I am proud to support its work and look forward to continuing to do so.”**

**Sir Michael Fallon MP**

## MATHS AND ENGLISH

Functional skills and GCSE lessons are as important within our curriculum as our RSL lessons. We teach students in small groups of same-ability learners, allowing students to develop at their own pace. Lessons continue to be relaxed, appropriately challenging each learner to be able to achieve their full potential.

Learners are initially assessed at the beginning of the course to see what ability they are currently working at, taking into account any previous levels or qualifications. From here, individual learning plans are created for every student, recognising their ability as well as their desire to study GCSEs if they are ready.

### SMSC

SMSC (Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural) studies help to develop a broad knowledge of British Values, Equality & Diversity, Independent Life Skills, Charity & Community Work, Healthy Lifestyles and Career Development. These lessons aim to ensure that students leave SupaJam with the skills necessary for adult life, the working environment and independent living. SMSC lessons are once a week and incorporate project based learning and hands-on activities to embed the topic of each term. SMSC also provides learners with a safe space to discuss current affairs and explore who they are as individuals.



# PRACTICAL MUSICIANSHIP

Within Practical Musicianship, students have the opportunity to develop themselves as musicians focusing predominately on performance. This also includes (but is not limited to) production, song writing and instrumental lessons. Students will have the opportunity to work towards internal and external performances and develop practical skills that can be utilised within the music industry.

In Level 1 there is a big focus on each student's identity as a musician, looking at a variety of genres, performance techniques and themes over the course of the year.

In Level 2 & 3, students will have the opportunity to put together their own live music set, focusing on repertoire as they work towards a performance module.

## WORK READY PROGRAMME

Work Ready is SupaJam's career programme, designed to support students in developing essential skills needed for the world of work. It has also been developed to build confidence that will support a smooth transition into the workplace and allow students to progress successfully in their careers. In addition to career discussions, ongoing advice and guidance and mock interview support, SupaJam holds a successful Careers Day event each year that includes information on future career and study paths, workshops, guest speakers, and an exciting Q+A panel of some of the music industry's leading professionals.

**"We are hugely proud of our Work Ready Programme. There is nothing more important to us than the wellbeing of our students, and this includes giving them an excellent quality education and preparing them for life after SupaJam."**

**Becca Walker - Senior Leader /  
Director of Programmes**



**Students performing at Black Deer 2019**





# THE LAST 12 MONTHS

This year we have expanded in every way. Take a look at some of the new space and equipment we have installed in the last 12 months.

## RECORDING STUDIO

Situated out of our Swanley base and launched in October 2020, SupaJam's brand new professional studio Swan Studios takes over 3 rooms in the Hub space and comprises a Vocal Booth, Live Room and state of the art Recording Room.

Swan Studios is currently open to the students of SupaJam and invited recording artists and will be opening up to the local community in 2021. The studio features:-

- + 32 Channel Analog mixing desk with built in EQ and FX
- + Pro Tools (PT) 2020 DAW
- + PT Comping / editing methods
- + Basic PT plug in application
- + Focusrite 18:20 16 channel AD/DA





## SUPAJAM RADIO

Launching in our Canterbury base in 2021, The Machine Room is SupaJam's brand new Radio and Podcast service featuring 2 dedicated radio stations for the students and SupaJam

Using state of the art professional hardware, students will be able to practise their Podcasts before moving up to creating radio playlists and putting together their own radio shows. The studio package includes:

- + SRMv2 9 Channel Broadcast Mixer
- + 4 Condenser Mics, arms and Lines
- + AutoTrack Software License
- + Myriad Autoplayer 5 Payout Software



## MORE SPACE

This year SupaJam opened up 2 new buildings and 2 large outdoor spaces at our Swanley campus. Comprising of 2 new buildings and 2 large outdoor spaces the new areas will feature the following:-

- + 3 new teaching rooms
- + Sensory garden (opening 2021)
- + Large garden area featuring outdoor acoustic stage (opening 2021)
- + 3 pastoral, wellbeing and counselling rooms
- + 1 new Logic Pro suite (3 in total on campus)
- + Vocal Booth / Recording Studio and Live Room
- + Common Room with 75" TV and heritage Jukebox
- + 4 berth breakout space for quiet learning





JUNE 21<sup>ST</sup> – 23<sup>RD</sup> 2019  
**BLACK  
DEER**  
ERIDGE  
PARK,  
KENT  
FESTIVAL of AMERICANA and COUNTRY MUSIC





SupaJam students working (and playing!) at last years' Black Deer Festival







## STAFF

The staff of SupaJam are supportive, creative and work hard to ensure that every student feels inspired and motivated to learn. Within the classroom, Teachers and Learning Support Providers work with students to meet their needs and ensure each learner is appropriately challenged. Outside of the classroom, Pastoral Support Practitioners work with students on their EHCP and behaviour targets, whilst a trained counsellor is available to offer mental health support.

Our safeguarding team is highly trained and committed to the continued safety and wellbeing of every student, along with all staff. The Managers and Senior Leadership Team oversee the running of all programmes and avenues of learning, supported by the expertise and daily operations of the Administration Team. Together, the staff of SupaJam form a family of caring professionals who are committed to offering the best opportunities to every student.

**“Joining SupaJam was the best decision. I’m so lucky to be part of a wonderfully caring, creative and talented team who go above and beyond for every single student!”**

**Sarah Lucas - Operations Manager**





## COVID-19

Last year impacted the landscape of education like never before, with COVID-19 forcing the nation into lockdown.

SupaJam had planned ahead and was able to rally and respond positively to the pandemic as a community, with students and staff feeling supported and successfully engaging with online learning throughout.

Each learner was hand delivered a laptop to enable them to work from home, and the home learning programme was put into place from day 1 of Lockdown ensuring that the students' education did not suffer. The students' RSL and Functional Skills work was kept up to date each day with one to one and small group lessons.

Additional pastoral and welfare support was immediately put in place, offering two zoom meetings per day for every student to socialise and enjoy debates, games and films. Welfare phone calls and home visits were made when needed and the response rate for a member of staff raising a concern about a student's well being to them being contacted was consistently less than 2 hours; the safety and wellbeing of students remained paramount.

With an 85%+ attendance rate during the previous Lockdown, we feel confident that should the country face another, the students will be able to continue with quality online education once again.

**“The transition from college attendance to online support was, to an outsider, almost seamless. I imagine it took a Herculean effort to give this appearance. The calm manner of the transition ensured that William did not feel panicked by the situation and, much to my surprise and delight, took to virtual learning far better than I expected”**

**Student Parent**



## ENRICHMENT AND EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

### ENRICHMENT

RSL Enrichment has been implemented during lesson 5 to allow for students to work on a practical element of their studies. Each student has the opportunity to take part in a targeted group such as Choir, Band, Sound & Lighting, Music Production and Art Projects, led by our amazingly talented staff. Students are encouraged to try something new and develop skills that they have covered in their modules. Enrichment has a big focus on collaboration, bringing students together from each year to work together towards an end goal.

### CHARITY DAYS

SupaJam recognises the importance of raising awareness for current issues, supporting charities and celebrating a variety of culture days throughout the year. We therefore implement activities including fundraising, workshops, discussions and events (such as gigs), to bring these to the forefront of our delivery for a focused period of time.

### LUNCH ACTIVITIES

Every lunch time we have at least one lunchtime club to allow students to explore something new as well as socialise with the staff and other students.

Current lunchtime clubs include:

- + **Jamming**
- + **Singing**
- + **Music Theory**
- + **Logic**
- + **Support with students' personal projects**

### ADDITIONAL DAY FOR SEN / EHCP LEARNERS

In line with targets identified within their EHCP/ Provision plan learners are invited for an additional, relaxed day at SupaJam. Here, each learner is invited to take part in a number of specially curated activities in preparation for adulthood such as :-

- + **Specific interventions as identified within the EHCP**
- + **Team building activities and projects**
- + **Cooking and other creative outlets**
- + **Discussions and debates**
- + **Career searching and development**
- + **Instrumental lessons and access to music software and equipment**
- + **Additional support from staff and students to achieve their qualification**



## TRIPS AND PROJECTS

SupaJam students have been involved in a huge variety of trips and projects over the last few years. From designing a graffiti wall for local businesses in Swanley, to travelling to London to visit the Natural History Museum and photography exhibition, students have opportunities to expand their knowledge and learn about the wider world outside of SupaJam. These trips are planned and budgeted for by the students themselves, supporting independent travel skills, social and communication skills. Other trips have included projects at the local park in Swanley, bowling, Bluewater, visiting alternative recording studios and venues such as Air Edel in London and the Forum in Tunbridge Wells and attending the Britain's Got Talent and the X Factor semi-finals. Future projects will include set building in music venues as well as developing partnerships and gaining work experience within more festivals across the country.

## STUDENT UNION - HAVE YOUR SAY!

Our Student Union includes students from every year group representing their peers. Meeting once a month, the students are able to voice their ideas and opinions and get involved with the ongoing development of SupaJam. The Student Union have been responsible for fundraising and events days, coordinating and hosting the yearly Prize Giving and Awards Ceremony, and have even been involved in the hiring of new staff.

## MUSIC FESTIVALS AND BLACK DEER

Some of our most exciting partners are music festivals! These allow our students the opportunity to gain genuine work experience as stewards, sound engineers, health and safety officers, artist liaison and bookers, journalists, photographers and artists themselves. Students are also able to gain an additional NVQ L2 Spectator Safety Award that can lead to paid roles within the industry.



Student work experience at  
Neverworld Festival 2019

**“Having worked closely with SupaJam for the last few years through mentoring programs, delivering workshops and providing them with employment opportunities, we’ve experienced first-hand, the true magic of SupaJam.”**

Gill Tee and Debs Shilling - Black Deer Co-founders



A student completing  
journalism work  
experience at Black  
Deer 2019

Since June 2018, SupaJam students have run a stage at the Black Deer festival. This is an amazing experience for everyone involved and is a highlight of the academic year for both staff, students and indeed parents. Leading up to the festival, students are involved in Black Deer lessons and are visited by artists and other professionals related to the festival.



Abi Doyle, Andy Garland, Ric Salmon and David and Nick during Careers Day



Emma Reynolds holding a workshop



Matt Biffa visits the base

**“SupaJam is an incredibly uplifting and inspiring place. The kids are all great, and clearly being encouraged and motivated to achieve in a way few of them could probably even imagine. It deserves all the support it can get”**

**Guy Pratt - Pink Floyd**

## GUEST SPEAKERS

A vital part of SupaJam is the opportunity to meet professional guest speakers from the music industry. This allows our students to network, gain valuable insights into the working world of the music industry, and enjoy personal anecdotes and performances. Regular guest speakers include:

### ANDY GARLAND

**BBC RADIO KENT  
BROADCASTER AND  
RADIO PRODUCER**

### ABI DOYLE

**OVERSEES X FACTOR  
AND BRITAIN’S GOT  
TALENT ACROSS THE  
GLOBE**

### BEV BURTON

**WORLD FAMOUS  
ARTIST BOOKER FOR  
PRESTIGIOUS ARTISTS  
SUCH AS GUNS N’ ROSES,  
EAGLES AND PRINCE.  
BEV ALSO IS THE LEAD  
ARTIST BOOKER FOR THE  
BLACK DEER FESTIVAL  
THAT OUR STUDENTS ARE  
INTEGRATED WITH**

### EMMA REYNOLDS

**STAGE MANAGER OF THE  
ICONIC PYRAMID STAGE  
AT GLASTONBURY**

### GILL TEE

**AWARD WINNING MUSIC  
PROMOTER INCLUDING  
BLACK DEER**

### RIC SALMON

**LEADING ARTIST  
MANAGER AND PARTNER  
AT ATC MANAGEMENT  
WHOSE ROSTA INCLUDES  
RADIOHEAD**

### SONIA LEIGH

**HUGELY TALENTED SINGER/  
SONGWRITER AND COUNTRY  
MUSIC ARTIST**

### PLUS

**GUEST VISITS FROM  
BOTH ESTABLISHED AND  
EMERGING ARTISTS IN A  
VARIETY OF GENRES**





The Black Deer Booking crew with their mentor, Bev Burton

## TESTIMONIALS

**“My daughter absolutely loves coming into SupaJam, her panic attacks have stopped and her attendance levels are the best they have ever been. She tells me that for the first time ever she feels totally accepted by both staff and students and her self esteem and confidence seem to be increasing day by day. We are both so very grateful to you all for the amazing support that you give and for the caring environment that you create at SupaJam. As far as I am concerned you have given me my daughter back and my daughter says that you have saved her life.”**

SupaJam parent

**“ You will never feel left out of this college. Whether you’re mentally or physically disabled, whether you’re of a different colour or if you’ve come from a different background, SupaJam will always be there to give you a warm hug. They’re almost like a family. A family that I’m proud to be a part of.”**

SupaJam student

**“The main area of strength is viewed to be the leadership and management of the setting, which promotes high standards, whilst balancing against the individual needs of students. SupaJam promotes positive values and a culture where each person, whether professional or student, are valued and supported. The positive ethos permeates across the whole setting and supports positive engagement.”**

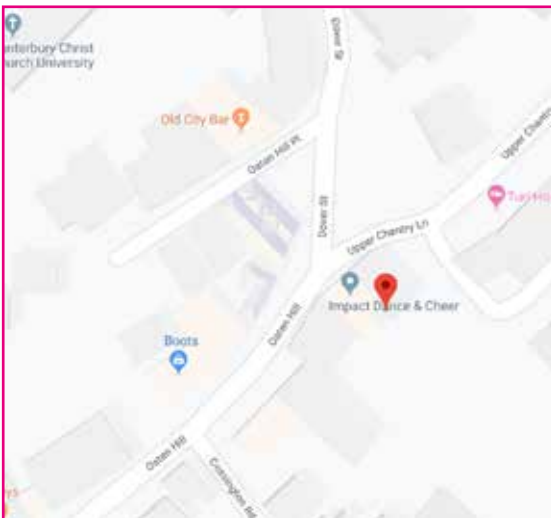
Pearl Barnes - SEND specialist

# OUR BASES AND WHERE TO FIND US



**SupaJam Swanley,  
St Mary's Road,  
Swanley, Kent,  
BR8 7TE**

**Tel 01322 660 845**



**SupaJam Canterbury,  
8-9 Oaten Hill,  
Canterbury, Kent  
CT1 3HP**

**Tel 01227 697976**



**For more information,  
please contact**

**Dan Broad (Centre Manager)**  
[dan.broad@supajam-education.org](mailto:dan.broad@supajam-education.org)  
**Tel 0750 833 5109**

**Hannah Goslett (SEN Manager)**  
[hannah.goslett@supajam-education.org](mailto:hannah.goslett@supajam-education.org)  
**07376 903 131**