



NATIONAL SUPPORTED INTERNSHIP DAY 2026

INFORMATION PACK

27 MARCH **2026**

www.dfnprojectsearch.org

Founded by:



**SAVE THE DATE
FOR #NSID2026**

About NSID

DFN Project SEARCH is a national charity, and we are proud founders of National Supported Internship Day (NSID), which was established in 2022 and takes place annually on March 27th. NSID was created to raise national awareness of supported internships as a proven and effective transition-to-work pathway for young people with learning disabilities and/or autism.

The primary objectives of National Supported Internship Day are to increase understanding of supported internships among young people, families, employers, educators, and policymakers; to encourage growth in programme uptake across the country; and to act as a clear national signpost, ensuring that young people are aware that high-quality, inclusive employment pathways are available to them.

Since its inception in 2022, NSID has delivered measurable national impact. There have been year-on-year increases in online searches for supported internships, indicating growing public awareness and interest. Thousands of case studies have been shared across the UK, showcasing the achievements of interns, employers, and delivery partners.

In addition, NSID has prompted the development of national movements, including Youth Parliament. Each March, NSID-related content reaches millions of people, significantly amplifying the visibility and understanding of supported internships across the UK.

For more information, please reach out to Roberta.

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Overview of Events

Below is an overview of the activity taking place for National Supported Internship Day. The range of activity will help us raise awareness of supported internships and help young people to share their stories.

Activity	Date/Time	Notes
Youth Parliament	March 23rd 14:00-16:00	Young people will be given the chance to share their stories and advocate for wider supported internship provision.
National Supported Internship Day Drop-in	March 24th 15:30-17:30	An event for MPs to learn about NSID and meet interns and graduates.
National Supported Internship Day Debate	TBC	This is a debate where MPs will raise awareness of SI's.
Business Leaders Roundtable	25th March 10:30-14:00	This is a roundtable for business leaders to discuss challenges and opportunities in the sector.
Webinar Parents and Carers	26 th March T9:00	

This is a list of official NSID activity taking place. However we are actively encouraging programmes across the UK to host their own celebrations.

How can I get involved?

Below are a number of ways you can encourage sites and organisations to get involved with National Supported Internship Day 2026.

Attend an event

We are hosting a variety of events from our flagship youth parliament to an impactful webinar! Nominate a young person or register to attend one of our events.

Host an Event

Whether you are a business or an educator, we want you to unleash your creativity and host your own NSID celebratory event.



Write to your MP

We have created a template letter that you can use to share your thoughts on supported internships with your MP. Let them know why high-quality supported internship provision is important!

Social Media

Spread the word! We will be releasing social media resources on our website soon but in the meantime use the hashtags #NSID2026 and #NationalSupportedInternshipDay to share case studies & more!

Wear Orange on March 27th

As part of National Supported Internship Day, we are encouraging individuals, organisations, schools, employers, and communities across the country to take part in wearing orange for NSID on 27 March.

Nominate a Young Person to attend the Youth Parliament

For the second year running, supported interns and graduates from across the country will come together in Parliament for a unique event led by and for young adults with learning disabilities.

This exclusive opportunity is open to young people aged 18+ who have completed, or are currently on, a supported internship.

What will the day involve?

Interns and graduates will take part in a session held in a Parliamentary Committee Room, where they will hear from senior politicians and national leaders. The focus of the day is “what matters to you” and young people will be at the heart of the conversation.

Participants will be invited to stand up, share their experiences, and take part in a forum-style discussion, raising key issues around employment, education, and opportunities for the future.

You should apply if you want your voice heard and are keen to speak about your own experiences.

[Click here to apply.](#)
Deadline is 5pm on 27th Feb 2026



Wear Orange

For National Supported Internship Day

As part of National Supported Internship Day, we are encouraging individuals, organisations, schools, employers, and communities across the country to take part in wearing orange for NSID on 27 March.

By wearing NSID orange, participants help create a visible and united show of support for supported internships and the life-changing opportunities they provide for young people with learning disabilities and/or autism. Whether it's a splash of orange, a full outfit, or team-wide participation in workplaces and schools, every contribution helps raise awareness and start meaningful conversations.

Wearing orange on National Supported Internship Day is a simple but powerful way to show commitment to inclusive employment and to help ensure more young people know that supported internships are a viable and aspirational route into work.

We encourage participants to share photos and messages on social media wearing orange with the hashtag #NSID2026

Light up a Monument

As part of National Supported Internship Day, we are inviting landmarks and monuments across the country to take part in our Light Up Campaign by illuminating their buildings in orange. This national show of support helps raise awareness of supported internships and highlights their importance as a pathway into meaningful employment for young people with learning disabilities and/or autism.

By lighting up iconic landmarks, we aim to create a visible, nationwide statement of inclusion, opportunity, and ambition. Each illuminated building helps spark conversations locally and nationally, encouraging young people, families and employers to learn more about supported internships.

You can support the campaign by contacting a local landmark, monument, or public building and inviting them to light up orange on 27 March.

For further information, guidance, or campaign materials, please contact info@dfnprojectsearch.org with the subject *"Light up campaign"*

Write to your Member of Parliament (MP)

This activity is open to all. Everyone could and should write to their local MP to share why supported internships are important to them and also raise concerns or challenges that are facing your sector at a local or national level. Feel free to use the below template.

STEP 1: FIND YOUR LOCAL MP

Enter your post code [here](#) to find out who your local MP is and their contact details.

STEP 2: DRAFT YOUR EMAIL

You can write your own email or use the template on the next page. .

STEP 3: SEND YOUR EMAIL



Write to your MP

Template

Dear X,

I am writing as a [Parent/Carer/Tutor/Intern] regarding the urgent need to protect and sustain funding for supported internships in [constituency].

Our area already benefits from supported internship provision, and we have seen first-hand the life-changing impact these programmes have on young people with learning disabilities and autism. However, without continued Government support and long-term commitment, these opportunities are now at risk.

There are 1.5 million people with a learning disability in the UK. Disabled people face a stark employment gap: the employment rate for disabled people aged 16–64 is 31 percentage points lower than for non-disabled people (2023–24).

Supported internships are one of the few interventions with a strong evidence base to close that gap. Through DFN Project SEARCH, up to 70% of young disabled people move into paid employment after completing the programme. In [constituency], these programmes are already delivering results – but without sustained funding beyond March 2026, their future is uncertain.

It would be devastating to see provision reduced or withdrawn just as it is proving its value. Young people in [constituency] deserve continuity, stability, and a clear pathway into employment – not another cliff edge in support.

Write to your MP

Template

As my elected representative, I ask you to:

- Publicly set out your position on continued funding for supported internships.
- Visit the DFN Project SEARCH programme in [constituency] to meet interns, families and staff and see the impact first-hand (info@dfnprojectsearch.org).
- Raise the importance of sustained supported internship funding in the Chamber ahead of National Supported Internship Day on 27 March 2026.
- Table a written question on the Government's plans to guarantee funding for supported internships beyond March 2026.

I look forward to your response and to hearing how you will act to protect these vital opportunities for young disabled people.

Yours sincerely,