

Sheffield social enterprise, Blend Kitchen, celebrates year anniversary on Ecclesall Road

[Blend Kitchen](#), a social enterprise employing out of work and disenfranchised work, has now been operating on Ecclesall Road for a year. Since opening their doors in 14th April 2021, Blend Kitchen has welcomed thousands of guests in its first year on the busy road.

The popularity of the restaurant has meant the organisation has been able to train over a hundred people who have struggled to find work. These include: young adults with difficult backgrounds, individuals with mental health conditions and people with learning disabilities. 20 of which, have now been permanently employed by Blend Kitchen.

Many people can struggle to find work for reasons out of their control. Vulnerable, and disenfranchised, adults could encounter many difficulties getting into employment, despite having the ambition to enter the world of work. Blend Kitchen was founded in 2016 as a way of addressing this situation, and to give opportunities to those who are regularly overlooked for employment.

Lewis, a Blend Kitchen employee who is Autistic, had never previously had a paid job until he joined the business as a volunteer trainee. He said, "I feel independent when working at Blend Kitchen, and love working as a bartender. It has really helped me to think about what job opportunities are open to me in the future".

Sandra joined the Blend Kitchen team in September 2021 after volunteering in the kitchen at the Cathedral Archer Project. She said, "Blend Kitchen has helped me move forward into paid work and build up my confidence. It's helped me meet new people and widen my social network".

Sheffield businesses, including Twinkl Educational Publishing, have provided support to help Blend Kitchen expand its community work during 2022. This includes delivering training programmes for young people out of education, work with ex-offenders and more.

David Angrave, Chief Operating Officer at Twinkl and Investment Director of TwinklHive said, "It's been an absolute joy to be able to support Blend Kitchen's mission. Not only is the enterprise championing an important cause, their food and hospitality skills are excellent, and well loved by Twinkl employees."

"Happy anniversary, Blend Kitchen, and here's to many more on Ecclesall Road."

The restaurant is open Wednesday to Saturday to the public for lunch and dinner, with profits from supporting the social activities Blend Kitchen operates. To make a booking, either call 0114 2721455 or email hello@blendkitchen.co.uk