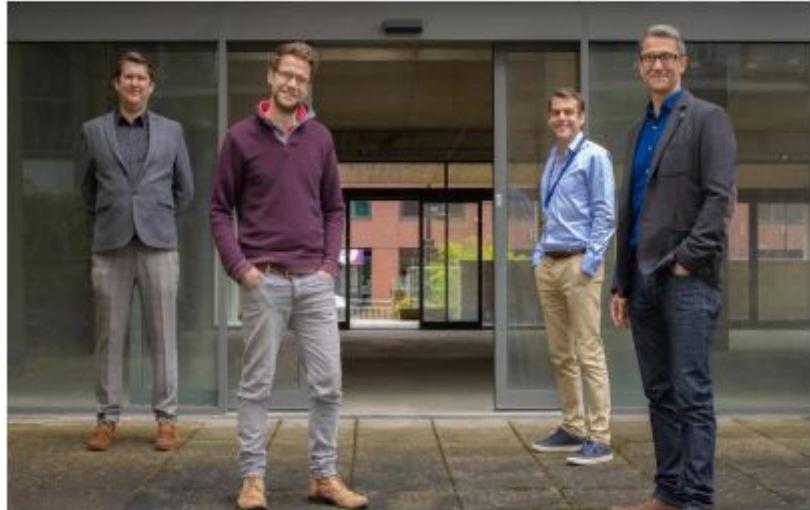


Global Publisher and Local Businesses Come Together To Save Sheffield Social Enterprise Restaurant

The Sheffield social enterprise and not-for-profit restaurant, Blend Kitchen has announced expansion and their move to a new prime location.

The ambitious plans of the successful social enterprise Blend Kitchen faced disaster from a 'perfect storm' of COVID-19, economic downturn, reduced funding and the scheduled demolition of its city centre premises.

The organisation, which creates life-changing opportunities for the cities most disenfranchised, faced permanent closure, but now its work has been recognised and backed by a growing army of support. This means Blend Kitchen still has ambitious plans to expand, against the grain of the hospitality industry's current crisis.



Thanks to a significant cash injection from online educational publishing house Twinkl and the offer of a new prime location at their Sheffield HQ on Ecclesall Road, the September opening of a new restaurant, events space and training facility for Blend Kitchen is back on track.

Twinkl will be supporting Blend Kitchen through TwinklHive, the company's business accelerator which provides investment, space, mentorship and support services to organisations to jointly push forward a wider mission of helping people globally. Although

Twinkl has contributed significantly to the project and the majority of the funding has been secured, the social enterprise needs further critical financial support to transform the empty space.

Jonathan Seaton, CEO at Twinkl says: "At Twinkl, we are, and always will be, a mission driven business that puts people at the core of what we do - our customers, team members and the local community. Therefore, it goes without saying that we were delighted with the prospect of supporting Blend Kitchen with their new premises and working with an organisation that shares our values and mission to help others.

"The whole team at Twinkl is really looking forward to having Blend Kitchen located underneath our Sheffield headquarters. It will be a great place for our team to go, especially knowing that by popping in for a mid-morning coffee or grabbing something for lunch will be supporting Blend Kitchen too. It is going to make a wonderful addition to Ecclesall Road and we're delighted to be a part of making it happen."

Blend's Project Manager and Fundraiser Justin Rountree, has now launched a crowdfunding campaign and an invitation for sponsors to support the enterprise. Visit <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/blend-kitchen-sheffield> for more information on crowdfunding. And email justin@sweetspot.life for sponsorship packages.

Founded by Chris Hanson, local chef turned social entrepreneur, Blend Kitchen provides structured hospitality training and paid work experience to individuals marginalised by a lack of access to rights, resources, and opportunities. For many trainees, Blend Kitchen is their first ever experience of paid employment and it aims to give them back their dignity, pride, and a future whilst challenging existing societal misconceptions and prejudices. They also have an outreach programme delivering culinary training and improving family health in Sheffield's most deprived communities. This work has been recognised and supported by Children In Need and the National Lottery for over 2 years.

But with the support of Twinkl and other local businesses, the not for profit restaurant and events space will now occupy a prime position in the ground-floor unit of Twinkl's head office at Ward's Exchange.

Blend Kitchen is set to open in September 2020 and will support people from across Sheffield as an employer of those furthest from the jobs market, and as a welcoming, fully accessible space for all to enjoy AA rosette standard food and hospitality.

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**For more information, please contact Justin Rowntree, Blend Kitchen Project Manager
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