



**Microlink** is Europe's largest supplier of assistive technology, training and support solutions. A Gold Member of Employers' Forum on Disability and a founding, acting board member of BATA, Microlink consults and delivers accessibility solutions within corporate, education and retail markets. Our mission is to empower individuals, institutions and companies to reach their full potential. We are the market leader in the provision of equipment and training for the DSA sector and we work closely with special needs co-ordinators in schools and local authority support teams.

Microlink welcomes this opportunity to demonstrate its support of the awards programme through joint sponsorship of this important award. It is imperative to recognise the exemplary work Colleges are doing in promoting inclusive learning and this award helps to highlight how Colleges are making a difference in their local communities.

**National Grid** is an electricity and gas company that connects consumers to energy sources through its networks. The company is at the heart of one of the greatest challenges facing our society - to create new, sustainable energy solutions for the future and developing an energy system that underpins economic prosperity in the 21st century. National Grid holds a vital position at the centre of the energy system - we 'join everything up'.

In Britain, we run the gas and electricity systems that our society is built on, delivering gas and electricity across the country. In the North Eastern US, we connect more than seven million gas and electric customers to vital energy sources, essential for our modern lifestyles.

National Grid is proud to support this award and to recognise the work that many Colleges are undertaking to help promote an inclusive approach to lifelong learning. Developing the skills and expertise of the future workforce is a vital undertaking. This award helps to recognise the great work of many Colleges in helping their students to fulfil their potential and we are delighted to be associated with it.



## The Microlink and National Grid Inclusive Learning Award for Students with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities

The Inclusive Learning Award, supported by Microlink and National Grid, will celebrate exemplary practice in further and continuing education for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Assessors would be particularly interested to receive applications from further education institutions which have developed exemplary practice in inclusive learning in relation to the curriculum for learners with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.

The award supports the aims set out in the Green Paper, “Support and Aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability”, to improve the quality and choice in Further Education for Learners with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities, and improve their transition to adulthood.

The assessors will look for provision that exemplifies the principles of inclusive learning as described in the seminal report, Inclusive Learning (HMSO, 1996), and which demonstrates all or some of the following:

- Innovative use of resources, including IT, to support the development of the skills and attributes that employers want, and sustained work with employers to help them know how to make use of these skills in their workforce
- Effective multi agency partnerships making a practical contribution to supporting learner achievement and progression
- An inclusive curriculum which includes teaching and learning activities well matched to learner’s different needs, enabling individuals to develop their skills and experiences through a personalised approach
- Equipping and empowering learners to have a voice, to solve their own challenges, make their own choices and to make a contribution to community or society
- Comprehensive transition planning for each individual, including processes that fully support learners into College, employment or adult life, and which enable them to achieve success and helps them to transform their lives
- Effective encouragement of greater participation in learning through a curriculum that enables the sustained involvement of learners with their local communities enhancing the College experience