

# Together Academy Café

**The Together Academy (TA), an initiative of the Down Syndrome Centre, is partnering with local Dublin community to open a café in the Ballsbridge neighborhood of Dublin. This café will open in February 2022, expanding job and life skills training offered by TA and servicing its community.**

**Ireland**

## CONTEXT

Ninety percent of people with Down Syndrome are unemployed in Ireland. TA already offers countless resources to address this issue, including practical and certified training, a qualification at QQI Level 3, as well as social and communication skills and confidence building. The Wanderer's Rugby Club has both space and need for a café.



## CAUSE FOR COLLABORATION

The TA Café is the next evolution of their services, wedding two needs seamlessly: a space for students to work and earn more job skills and a café for the Wanderers Rugby Club and community to enjoy. A soft opening in February of this year will utilize TA's QQI accredited training, pathways programme, and further tailored supports to improve the employment prospects of their young adults.

## SUCCESSFUL RESULT

The success of TA Café has already begun. Students learning job skills that they will employ at the café are ready to cement both their employability and their connections with the Ballsbridge community. The Wanderers Rugby Club will be able to offer café services and more Irish young adults with Down Syndrome will find stable jobs.