

**GMLPN 25**  
Greater Manchester  
Learning Provider Network  
25 YEARS OF COLLABORATION & IMPACT

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

**EVOLVE**  
ACADEMY

## WHO ARE EVOLVE ACADEMY?

Evolve Academy is an Independent Training Provider located in Manchester City Centre, delivering high-quality hairdressing and barbering apprenticeships to over 185 learners (as of February 2026). The Academy also offers a range of fast-track and commercial courses, available through either the Advanced Learner Loan or a commercial route, designed to support aspiring professionals at every stage of their journey.

The Academy is committed to empowering individuals by helping them develop the skills, knowledge, and confidence needed to build successful careers within the industry. Their team of highly experienced industry educators brings a wealth of professional expertise and a strong dedication to training excellence. Learners benefit from current technical knowledge, insight into emerging trends, and the practical, real-world skills required to thrive in a modern salon environment.



## HOW EVOLVE ACADEMY BENEFITS FROM GMLPN MEMBERSHIP?

"Through this partnership, Evolve Academy strengthens its collaboration with local training providers, employers, and key stakeholders across the region. The membership supports the Academy in upholding its core values of high-quality teaching and assessment, while also providing access to relevant professional development and up-to-date policy information."

Martin Harkness, CEO/Owner

## WHAT'S GOING WELL?

Evolve Academy is proud of their achievement rate of over 90% across its Barbering Apprenticeships, Advanced and Creative Apprenticeships, and Adult Fast Track programmes.

Each summer, Evolve delivers a highly successful Summer Academy designed for aspiring apprentices. The 10-week programme, delivered two days per week (throughout July), gives applicants the opportunity to gain real insight into the industry. Importantly, the programme also equips learners with the skills and knowledge needed to secure an apprenticeship – with all participants who attended at least 75% of the academy successfully progressing onto an apprenticeship with Evolve.

Evolve is also proud of its comprehensive enrichment and wider education curriculum, which includes collaborations with industry brands, participation in fashion shoots and runway events, as well as specialist masterclasses in Afro-Caribbean hair and cutting techniques.

This year, Evolve Academy is celebrating its 10th anniversary. Follow them on social media at @evolveacad to stay updated on their plans and celebrations.

## ASK TO THE NETWORK

Places at Evolve Academy are highly sought after and therefore limited. However, the Academy warmly welcomes new applicants with an interest in hairdressing and barbering and regularly hosts open days for those considering a career in the industry.

Finally, for those seeking a professional hair or barbering service at an affordable price, Evolve offers significantly discounted appointments at its 40-seat training academy in Manchester's Northern Quarter. For availability and bookings, please visit their website.



To find out more about everything Evolve Academy has to offer, including open events, course information or to get involved in partnership working, please email:

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Or visit [www.evolveacademy.org](http://www.evolveacademy.org)