



Portland  
Charity

# IMPACT REPORT 2021-22



# WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRMAN & CEO

The learners and citizens of Portland College have enjoyed a year of progress, achievement and celebration.

Perhaps the highlight of celebrations that will linger longest in our minds was the Charity playing a prominent role in countywide Platinum Jubilee celebrations for our beloved late Patron, Her Majesty The Queen. Elsewhere in this report, we look back on 73 years of Her involvement with our Charity. Just one of thousands of stories that arise from Her life of remarkable public service.

The College, Portland Freedom and Pollyteach School all emerged strongly from the final Covid lockdown in summer 2021, as we launched an ambitious new 5-year plan, under the banner 'A Lifetime of Opportunity'.

In the College we finally were able to open the Newstart Theatre and sports hall, with its sparkling new coffee shop. These state-of-the-art spaces have since been very well-used for arts, sports and community events, enacting our pledge to create a lifetime of opportunities for disabled people. We swiftly converted the old sports hall into a building trades training facility and we continue to prioritise investment (in facilities and staff) to promote employability skills for young people.

In Portland Freedom we completed a refurbishment of an old residential block to open a dedicated short breaks/respite care facility. We also finished initial design work on our ambitious plan to repurpose a tired, 1990 residential care block in to 36 independent living flats with beautiful communal gardens and social rooms.

Creating accessible homes for disabled people is a significant challenge for the UK. We were delighted to enter into partnership with ADS Independent Living Solutions to open the UK's first Smile Home™ on our main campus. This pioneering factory-built home can be customised very precisely to the needs of an individual and enables the use of a wide range of assistive technology. Alongside the Smile Home™, we upgraded a bungalow with a retro-fit of assistive technology thanks to the continuing support of the Karten Trust. The bungalow will be used to teach independent living skills.

Pollyteach School opened a new provision in Worksop and also created a brand new Key Stage 2 provision in a re-purposed residential block on the main College campus. We have committed to use this growth to support Nottinghamshire County Council's efforts to increase the number of SEND school places in the County.

Taking all these achievements together, we believe the Charity has made a very strong start on the Lifetime of Opportunity 5-year plan. We have good financial health and we are able to continue investing in our staff, facilities and programmes to extend that opportunity to more disabled people every year.

Although we recognise there are many difficulties and challenges to be overcome in these uncertain times we are still very confident about the future. We are excited about the opportunities that a local Devolution Deal can bring to our heartland in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. We are determined to reach out nationally to inform future policy toward disabled people, who remain at a significant disadvantage compared with many others in society.

We want to recognise and thank the following individuals and organisations for helping us to make an impact. Firstly, to the skilled, persistent and patient work of our wonderful staff team and volunteers, including the Board of Governors. Our main funding partners including Nottinghamshire County Council and Education & Skills Funding Agency and others who contract for our services. To the many trusts, grant making bodies and individual donors who back the Charity's bold vision for the future of disabled people in our society.



**Tim Richmond**  
Chairman



**Mark Dale**  
Principal & CEO

# LEARNER AND CITIZEN AWARDS CELEBRATION

Early July saw our annual Awards Ceremony which honoured achievements by our learners and citizens over the last academic year.

Finalists were shortlisted and invited to the ceremony where the winners were announced by our guest of honour, Councillor Roger Jackson, Chairman of Nottinghamshire County Council in our Newstart Theatre.

As always, the ceremony was a joyous celebration of the achievements of our learners and citizens!



## 'YOU CAN'T STOP THE BEAT' IN THE NEWSTART THEATRE!

**A celebration event took place in Portland Charity's brand-new state-of-the-art theatre in April featuring performances from West End star and Olivier Award winner, Leanne Jones and young disabled people from Nottinghamshire.**

The Charity's vision was to transform our Newstart Hall from the tired 1950's recreation hall into the region's Centre of Excellence for Health and Well-being for people with disabilities. The innovative project was made possible following a huge fundraising campaign which generated £1.2million in donations and grants, matched by £500,000 investment from the College.

The College was able to invite their very generous supporters to the celebration event to see the theatre in action. Hosted by Portland's Principal and CEO, Mark Dale, the event featured a number of performances from the college's Performing Arts learners, ex-college learner, Jess Fisher representing Inspire Youth Arts' Able Orchestra, and Ryan McDade who duetted with musical theatre star Leanne Jones.

Portland Resident and college ambassador, Ryan McDade invited his friend Leanne to perform at the event and the pair were interviewed by former East Midlands Today news presenter, Quentin Rayner. The interview highlighted the need and importance for accessible theatre spaces such as the Newstart Theatre.

Mark Dale commented, "The Newstart Theatre Celebration Event was the perfect way to thank our many generous supporters and showcase our vision for the new Theatre. We were privileged to be able to welcome Leanne Jones and Quentin Rayner to the stage and are very proud of our young people who delivered inspirational performances at the event. A wonderful time was had by all involved."

Newstart Theatre is now a hive of activities, events and education programmes for not only our own learners, but local groups and our wider communities. Available for hire, the space can transform quickly from an accessible, ultra-modern theatre into a contemporary sports hall with retractable seating and LED floor lighting, enabling users to choose different sport layouts at the click of a button.

Newstart Theatre and sports hall is open for bookings during the evenings and weekends for sports and performance groups, competitions, theatre or musical productions, dance or exercise groups, conferences and much more. For more information, contact our Newstart Programme Lead on **01623 499111** or email [newstart@portland.ac.uk](mailto:newstart@portland.ac.uk)



# PORTLAND FREEDOM

## SHORT BREAKS

**77 citizens have accessed 1,382 overnight stays on the Short Breaks service.**

During 2021 - 2022, the unit had been running at reduced capacity and was closed completely for 3 months to allow staff to support other residential care during the end period of the pandemic.

Also, during this time, the Beeches building was renovated to allow Short Breaks citizens to be all together rather than spread across two flats in another accommodation building. Both citizens and staff love their new home!

## INDEPENDENT LIVING

**29 citizens were supported by the Independent Living service.**

Independent Living citizen, Chris got his glad-rags on when he was asked to present an award at Mansfield & Ashfield 2020's Business Award Ceremony.

Chris presented a trophy to Richard Fuller, MD of County Battery where Chris has been undertaking some work experience alongside his Independent Living Programme. Richard received the Lifetime Achievement Award to honour his commitment to the local community, including his fundraising efforts raising over £30,000 for Portland over the years.

## DAY SERVICE

**90 citizens have accessed the Day Service between the main location on Portland campus and the Hubs within the community.**

Over the last year, the Day Service Hubs in the community have gone from strength to strength with 5 hubs now open and running alongside the main campus.

The team have developed and established working relationships with some local community schemes such as Mansfield Rotary Club's 'Just Bin It' litter picking campaign, and the Gardening Group have been working with Mencap in their community gardens.



# STAR AWARDS 2022

Each year, Portland staff are asked to nominate their peers for a number of awards to honour their work throughout the year. Award winners are chosen by a panel of cross-college members of staff having considered all nominations. This year's ceremony was held on Thursday 1st September, outside in the glorious sunshine!

Each of the eight awards were presented by college Principal Mark Dale in an outdoor ceremony to the award-winning members of staff, accompanied by heart-warming sentiments provided by the colleagues, managers and learners who nominated them, reflecting the hard work and dedication of staff.

A fabulous picnic lunch was provided by the college catering team and a visit from an ice cream van really finished off the event nicely!

We also celebrated the staff members who achieved their 10 and 20 year service recognition this year and each received a wonderful hamper.



# FIRST EVER SMILE HOMES INDEPENDENT LIVING UNIT LAUNCHED AT PORTLAND COLLEGE

Portland College is excited to be working in partnership with ADS Independent Living Solutions (ADS) to launch their first Smile Homes™ installation on campus.

This innovative installation delivers a new standard in sustainable, intelligent buildings for independent living for people with complex needs from learning to physical disabilities across the age spectrum. Smile Homes™ are constructed off-site and delivered as a fully completed personalised home. The building comes pre-fitted with a technology backbone to make the home clever enough to help look after the health and well-being of the person living in it, with the flexibility to support people with different needs in being as independent as they can.

The first unit installed at Portland College, co-funded by Innovate UK, the UK's research and innovation agency, will be used as a living lab and to demonstrate its flexible technology infrastructure, which can support a range of systems for integrated building, environment and personal management.

Portland learners and citizens will have the opportunity to test this innovative new way of independent living and provide feedback on their experience to help shape future developments of the Smile Homes™. Smile Homes™ have the capacity to add personalised assistive technology driven by the needs of the person who will live in the home. It can be programmed to function as the user needs, creating a person-centred system to support routines and sensory needs with multi-sensors to constantly assess environment, physical and behavioural aspects whilst keeping data in the home for privacy and security.



# NEW PORTLAND COFFEE SHOP AWARDED 5 STARS IN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH INSPECTION

Portland College's brand-new Coffee Shop received a glowing report and 5-star Food Hygiene rating following its first Environmental Health Inspection.

The Coffee Shop opened earlier this year as part of the Newstart Theatre and Sports Hall development on campus and has already become a busy social hub for our local communities, learners and staff.

There is a tasty menu of hot and cold food, snacks and drinks, including a wide selection of barista style coffees using hand-roasted beans from 200 Degrees, as well as delicious pre-booked Afternoon Teas.

There is free parking on site and customers can enjoy the contemporary indoor café area or our outside decked seating area which has lovely views over Sherwood Forest. Dogs are welcome in the outside seating area and dog treats and fresh water is available.

Mark Dale, Principal and CEO commented, "Thanks to support from our customers and expert staff, our new Coffee Shop provides an industry standard, real-life working environment for our young people to develop crucial employability skills to help prepare them for fulfilling futures.

We're very proud of the fantastic standards, service and menu that our learners and staff provide and the 5-star rating demonstrates what a great job they have done in launching and growing this new business."



 @theportlandcoffeeshop

# PORTLAND PATHWAYS OPEN NEW HUB IN WORKSOP

Following the huge success of our centres in Sutton-in-Ashfield and Mansfield, Portland Pathways are thrilled to have opened a new hub on Newcastle Street, Worksop. It will allow the team to reach a whole new customer base in the North Nottinghamshire area.

Pathways delivers courses to help customers develop their skills and prepare for employment. The Recovery College courses, in partnership with the NHS, are delivered at each of the 3 hub locations and support people to improve their mental health. The 1:1 counselling service also enables people to overcome barriers to employment.

We also work with local businesses to help them become more accessible and to recruit the right staff for their roles.

Since opening in 2017, we have had 1,217 referrals to the service, 240 people starting work, 446 enrolments onto Recovery College courses and delivered 593 1:1 Counselling hours.

Nikki Amirsaeedi, Employment Projects Manager at Pathways commented, "The Pathways team and I are very excited to be able to reach a whole new community with our Pathways service. Over the last 4 years we have helped hundreds of people and are very thankful to all who have supported us to do so." If you are interested in talking to the Pathways team to see how they could help, call **01623 499193** or email **pathways@portland.ac.uk**



## WELL DONE TEAM PORTLAND!

**We are absolutely delighted and very proud to have maintained our Autism Accreditation Certificate and Advanced Status!**

This is a massive achievement and testament to the hard work and persistence of all our staff who create an amazing, safe, empowering and enriching experience for our beneficiaries.

Portland is a special place and the assessor made reference to this verbally on several occasions.

This was a fantastic Portland Team effort and we are one of the very few colleges that have achieved advanced status.



# WORK EXPERIENCE LEARNERS OF THE MONTH!

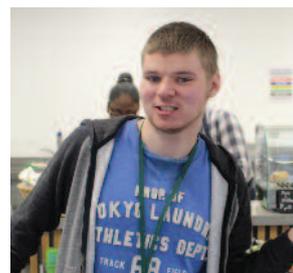
In early 2022, the Work Experience team launched a new award scheme for learners taking part in placements as part of their studies. Tutors and employers are asked to nominate a learner in their department each month and one is chosen to receive a certificate.



## ABBIE STORER

Abbie undertook work experience on the college reception; as a Reception Assistant and was nominated by reception staff, Carol and Jordan.

She has shown great communication skills, has been a team player and maintained the reception area to a professional standard.



## ETHAN WHITE

Ethan himself said he "Feels more confident and has improved working as part of a team" from completing work experience in the coffee shop.

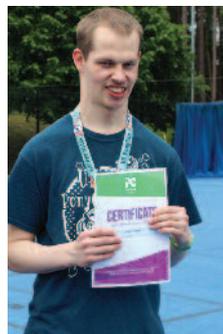
## MEGAN MCFARLANE

Meg completed her placement with Lammas Leisure Centre once a week since March using her own experience and knowledge of ice skating. Meg previously competed for Great Britain in ice dancing at the Special Olympics.



## ROB 'FLETCH' FLETCHER

Rob's work-placement supervisor said the following: "Rob has been doing his work experience placement in Assistive Technology for the past month and he has been a perfect candidate since day one!"



## NEIL MCCARTHY-WILKINSON

Neil undertook work experience as a Learning Support Assistant and his tutor nominated him.

Neil said that he "enjoyed helping people."

## GOVERNOR SPOTLIGHT



**Portland College benefits from a governing body of volunteer trustees and senior management team with a wide range of skills and experience. Vice Chair of Governors is Dr Dawn Green who has been on the Board since 2015.**

"I worked at Portland for 10 years from 2000 to 2010, leaving to become Principal of another Specialist College. Portland holds a special place in my heart and it is good to be able to give something back to an organisation that was so influential in my career development. Ultimately, I am motivated to make a positive difference to the lives and opportunities of the people we support at Portland.

"I am an animal lover, horses, ponies and dogs have been an important part of my life for as long as I can remember. Animals can have such a positive impact on our lives, they are living creatures that depend on us for their needs and in return give us unconditional love. Animals don't judge you, if you deserve it, they are loyal, loving, trusting and great to confide in.

"The farm was developed at Portland back in 2007 when I was Vice Principal and very quickly the farm became an important and popular resource for teaching and learning, the animals, and in particular, the donkeys, were also a great hit with staff and visitors.

"For some people contact with animals may be a sensory experience, a way to self-regulate before getting on with the day, for others looking after the animals is a responsibility and gives the sense of a job well done. There are clear benefits of being outside in the fresh air and the impact on health and well-being. From a learning perspective, animal care is a fabulous vehicle for developing a range of personal and transferable skills as well as vocationally specific skills.

"Being a very small part of a large community that is all working to the same end goal is very satisfying! Seeing Portland continue to develop, diversify and improve is really rewarding."

# HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

## Portland College Patron 1974 - 2022

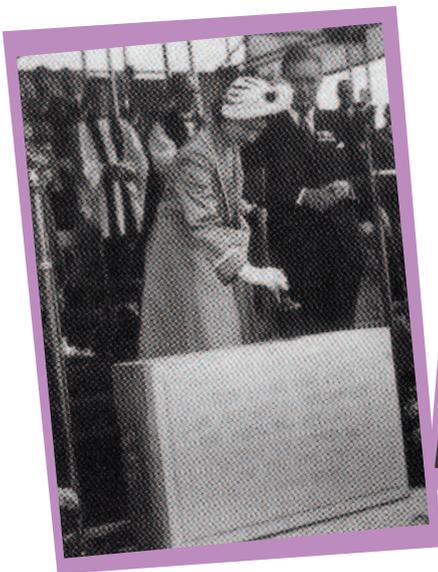
**Portland Charity were deeply saddened by the death of their Patron, Her Majesty The Queen.**

Since its beginning as Portland Training College, the Charity has had strong links with The Queen, starting in 1949 when a young Princess Elizabeth laid the foundation stone, with the College officially being opened by her mother the Queen a year later.

From her first visit in 1949 and throughout her reign, The Queen took a special interest in the progress of the College. In 1974 she became Patron of the College and on its 40th anniversary in 1990 Her Majesty and the Duke of Edinburgh visited Portland again to present trophies at the Awards Ceremony and to lay the foundation stone for the newly built Laurels building.

At the Awards Ceremony, Her Majesty said, "Ever since I laid the foundation stone of this college in 1949, I have taken a special interest in your record of achievement in your field of training for disabled people. Six thousand men and women trained here over the last forty years can testify to the way in which the College and its staff have looked after them, trained them and launched them on their chosen careers. During that time, the name of the College has become synonymous with innovation and excellence at every level of training. The facilities provided here are among the best and the most progressive available."

In commemoration of the death of Her Majesty, a dedicated space in reception was created where staff, learners and citizens could write and hang a message of tribute on a decorative tree.



Learners across college took part in a memorial service for HM The Queen to express their feelings and honour her majesty in a variety of ways.

Their hard work was then presented to their peers in a service of celebration of her majesty's life.

**Scan the QR code to watch the memorial service video.**





## EARLIER IN THE YEAR WE CELEBRATED OUR PATRON'S PLATINUM JUBILEE WITH A NUMBER OF EVENTS

### IN JUNE...

Portland proudly hosted a Jubilee Games competition in our brand new, wheelchair accessible Newstart Sports Hall.

The event was an incredible day, that was named in honour of Portland College's Patron, Her Majesty the Queen, and was full of celebration and activity with young people from around the region who competed in a range of inclusive sports.

Five teams from visiting specialist schools and colleges from Nottinghamshire and South Yorkshire joined teams from Portland College and Portland Day Service in a football and Boccia competition. They were two very closely fought competitions, but in the end the Portland Day Service team came away with the Boccia trophy, and the Portland College Purple team won the football tournament!

Nottinghamshire Badminton Association, Badminton England, Notts County Cricket Super 1's supported the event through skills challenges and have a go activities outside on Portland's fully accessible multi-use games area.

### ALSO IN JUNE...

Our Independent Living citizens enjoyed a fabulous Jubilee party thanks to an amazing grant from the Arts Council England and their Let's Create Jubilee Fund!

An afternoon tea, and a fantastic party with live band and some very patriotic t-shirts helped our citizens to celebrate our Patron's 70 years on the throne.

One citizen said that the party "Was amazing, loved the band and songs they were singing, being with other people was brill!"

The citizens and staff in the Day Service held a celebration day for the Platinum Jubilee. A range of activities took place during the morning, such as sporting activities on the MUGA and a treasure hunt around the campus where teams of citizens had to track down pictures of 8 members of the Royal Family.

After lunch everyone enjoyed a disco and party in Limes. A special jubilee photograph area was set up in the day centre as well with a variety of flags and masks so citizens could have a keepsake photograph. It was a really fantastic day that everyone enjoyed!



### IN MAY...

The College hosted a very popular stand at the Nottinghamshire County Show at Newark Showground in a special area celebrating Her Majesty's Jubilee!

A wonderfully sunny and warm day saw thousands of people visit our stand which showcased everything that Portland has to offer! From crafts with Independent Living citizens, technology from AAT, a very popular Have a Go sports area, sunflower planting, wooden coaster making, a sample wedding set up, Have a Go climbing on a portable climbing wall and areas from college partners ATTFE and Smile Homes!

Performing Arts learners took to the stage to rapturous applause from a large audience and were stars of the college's Facebook livestream throughout the morning!

### IN APRIL...

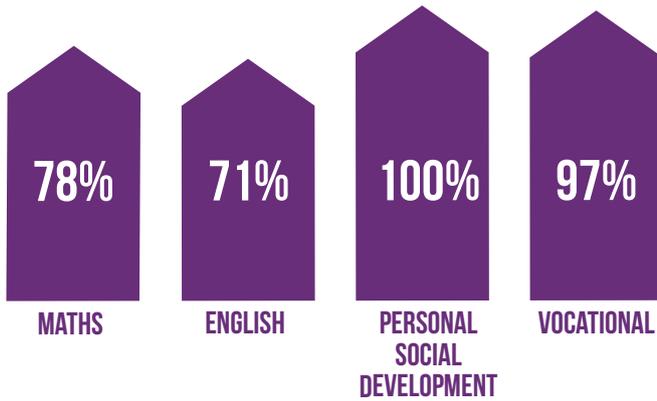
The whole college community, including learners, citizens, staff, volunteers and governors gathered in the Quad to have a commemorative photo taken by a drone.

A framed copy of the photo was sent to The Queen as a gift on her Jubilee.



# COLLEGE STATISTICS FURTHER EDUCATION STUDENTS

## ACHIEVEMENT RATES FOR ACCREDITED QUALIFICATIONS



## LEARNER PARTICIPATION IN WORK EXPERIENCE



**33%** OF ALL LEARNERS ON PROGRAMME TOOK PART IN SOME KIND OF WORK EXPERIENCE PLACEMENT.

**96%** OF LEARNERS WHO PLANNED TO TAKE PART IN WORK EXPERIENCE ENGAGED IN THE PLACEMENT.

## OTHER STATISTICS

**100%** OF LEARNERS WHO TOOK GCSE MATHS PASSED WITH GRADE 9 - 4

**100%** OF LEARNERS WHO TOOK GCSE ENGLISH PASSED WITH GRADE 9 - 4



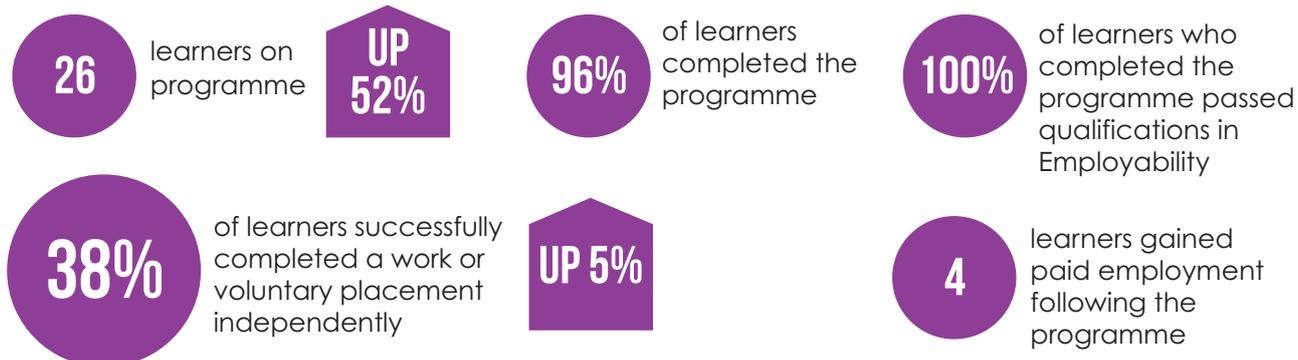
**LEARNER NUMBERS 201**  
1 MORE THAN THE PREVIOUS YEAR

## WHERE OUR FURTHER EDUCATION STUDENTS COME FROM 2021-22



1	Nottinghamshire County Council	150
2	Derby City Council	12
3	Derbyshire County Council	12
4	Nottingham City Council	11
5	Leicestershire County Council	5
6	Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	3
7	Lincolnshire County Council	2
8	Leicester City Council	1
9	North Yorkshire	1
10	Peterborough City Council	1
11	Rutland County Council	1
12	Staffordshire County Council	1
13	Warwickshire	1

# COLLEGE STATISTICS PORTLAND PROGRESS



# COLLEGE STATISTICS PORTLAND PATHWAYS



304 referrals to the service - **up 280%** on last year

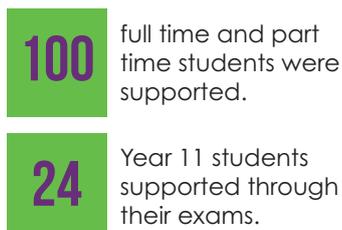


# COLLEGE STATISTICS POLLYTEACH

Pollyteach, part of the Portland Charity group, are primarily a Special Educational Needs School who work closely with schools and local authorities. They work with children in care, as well as those with Education Health & Care Plans that require extra layers of support.

2021-2022 was their busiest year following the development of 2 new sites on the Portland College campus, and Worksop to complement the main school site at Kirkby.

Many students have been impacted by the Covid pandemic, resulting in detachment from their education as schools struggled to keep their SEN students connected. We have been able to reengage many students who were out of routines or had varying levels of anxiety developing. Consequently, they now attend again either full time or on a regular basis.



## SUCCESS STORY

**Reece Barnes** is a new Learning Mentor this year, a previous student who successfully passed Maths, English and Combined Science with support from Pollyteach. He has since achieved L2 Teaching Assistant award and is on the verge of completing his L3 Award in Education and Training as part of a recognised apprenticeship with Pollyteach.

# WOODLAND ADVENTURE ZONE



Our Woodland Adventure Zone is an accessible forest adventure which supports the health and well-being of our learners and citizens, whilst also open to local schools, community groups and the general public.

The facility includes a zipline, climbing and abseiling tower, gravity drop, bushcraft area, wheelchair swing, woodland walks and sensory play equipment. All activities are fully accessible to people with disabilities, so everyone can experience a fun, forest adventure.



TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE THROUGH THE WOODS:

**3,366 UP 123%**

NUMBER OF PORTLAND LEARNERS/ CITIZENS WHO TOOK PART IN SESSIONS:

Portland Further Education learners: **496 up 106%\***

Portland Day Service Citizens: **215 up 6%\***

Portland Short Breaks Citizens: **23 up 92%**

National Citizen Service young people (both mainstream and inclusive programmes): **541 down 6%**

Mainstream and special school children: **238**

\* Some learners and citizens took part more than once.

Over the Summer, we were once again visited by community group 'Spectrum Wasp' who support parents with children and young people on the autistic spectrum.

**"We started on the climbing wall where everyone made it to the top... it was so great to see our group cheer each other on and give support where needed to get them up there. Then we moved onto the zipline which is a firm favourite and to help our Children/Young People cool down a little our Parents/Carers/Support Workers were armed with a Water Gun to try and get them as they rode down... we're not sure who had more fun!!"**



Two groups of colleagues from the Co-operative visited the forest this year for two separate team building mornings. The first group enjoyed it so much that another group just had to make a visit!

They took part in some really fun activities in the woods, all of which used their communication and collaboration skills! Our team created a completely bespoke programme of challenges depending on the organiser's needs and requests. A team building day is also a great chance to just get outside and enjoy the forest!"

**“ WE ABSOLUTELY LOVE IT THANK YOU, THE TEAM WHO LOOKED AFTER US WERE BRILLIANT. ”**

# CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY & VOLUNTEERING UPDATE

The College has had a huge amount of invaluable support from a number of local, and national businesses over the last year. The full list of supporters can be found at the back of this report.

## VOLUNTEERS

30

CURRENT  
VOLUNTEERS

4,000

4,000 HOURS OF  
VOLUNTEERING HOURS  
BANKED 2021/22

### VOLUNTEER KIMBERLEY HIGGINSON

Kimberley has been volunteering at Portland since November 2021 as a Learning Support Assistant, and has gradually increased her time volunteering.

Kimberley was a learner at Portland a number of years ago, but after finishing and finding an external work placement, Kim wanted to build her work experience up with working with young adults in an educational setting. Kimberley works with two different groups and tutors on her volunteering days, so she is witnessing different teaching styles and gaining new skills.

Kimberley has been a positive member of the volunteering team and made a huge impact since November. This has led to her being nominated for Volunteer of the Year at the 2022 Star Awards.

"Kim is so helpful and supportive to both learners and staff. Kim never stops smiling and remains positive and works hard with all the learners. She shows great empathy towards the learners and enables them to reach their full potential."

Volunteering is beneficial not just to the College but to the individual too. Aside from developing and learning new skills, they are helping the local community and making a difference to the lives of our learners and citizens.

### VOLUNTEERS FROM UNIVERSITIES

We have started working with Nottingham University and Nottingham Trent University, two new partnerships this year. We will work with current university students to link a placement with their degree outcomes and those who are wanting to do additional volunteering to develop skills and knowledge. We also have access to an online portal that the university students can access and view volunteering vacancies at Portland.

We are still working closely with DNLR Probation Service. They have been providing much needed support to the ground maintenance of the campus. This volunteering partnership over the last 6 months has saved the College over £9,600 in staffing hours!

## CHARITY OF THE YEAR

We have developed a new relationship with a local engineering business, Mansfield Anodisers, and they have chosen Portland as their Charity of the Year. They will be sending a financial donation every quarter, which will be used to buy learning equipment for the Newstart Theatre & sports hall.



# AWARDS SUCCESS!

## October 2021: Portland Crowned Charity of the Year at Business Awards

Portland College won the title of Charity of the Year in the Mansfield and Ashfield 2020 Business Awards.

This wonderful recognition celebrates the huge impact the College has had on people with disabilities throughout Mansfield and Ashfield and beyond.

Dr Mark Dale, Principal & CEO commented; "As a college we are thrilled to be recognised by Mansfield & Ashfield 2020 again this year. This category is really special as we celebrate the college's 70th anniversary and how far we have developed and grown to become a vibrant national college and leading specialist provider for disabled people.

Many local businesses have supported us throughout our 70+ years - we wouldn't be where we are without their support, so to have their recognition in this award feels incredible."

## November 2021: Pathways wins East Midlands Equality Trailblazer Award

We're extremely proud that Portland Pathways won the British Chamber of Commerce Equality Trailblazer Diversity and Inclusion Awards in the East Midlands regional finals.

As regional winners, we were entered into the National Awards where unfortunately Pathways was not successful.

This success positions Pathways as a quadruple award-winning community focused initiative which aims to improve employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

Portland Charity Principal & CEO Dr Mark Dale said, "I am absolutely over the moon for our Portland Pathways initiative to be recognised by this award. As a charity which has benefitted so much from local support, I was determined to put something back into our local communities and over the last 4 years we have helped hundreds of people.

We couldn't have done it without the support of local businesses who are committed to employing people with disabilities and in the case of Linney in Mansfield, provide generous financial support to Pathways."



## Portland Principal wins Lifetime Achievement Award

A group of Portland staff were in attendance and absolutely delighted to see Dr Mark Dale, Principal and CEO of Portland College presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his long service to specialist education and adult social care at the prestigious Chad Business Excellence Awards.

Mark has committed over 35 years of his life and career to educating and empowering young people to strive for positive futures, and helped shape the landscape to increase opportunities for people with disabilities.

Tim Richmond, Chair of Governors at Portland College commented, "This recognition is truly deserved. We're all very proud of Mark's achievements over the last 15 years as the College's Principal and Chief Executive, and of the impact he continues to have on people with disabilities, making the College the very happy and purposeful place it is. Mark is an innovative leader and inspirational mentor who spends a great deal of time celebrating others' achievements."

Mark Dale commented, "I am honoured to have been presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award. Portland Charity has worked with people from all over the UK, but at its heart it is a local organisation, employing mostly local people who, along with all the other winners and finalists, are achieving extraordinary things every day of the week.

Thank you to the Chad for continuing to support our mission and many other local organisations and businesses."

# SUPPORTERS 1 SEPTEMBER 2021 - 31 AUGUST 2022

The following individuals, companies and trusts have generously supported the College over the last year.

## NEWSTART THEATRE & SPORTS HALL

- The Lynn Foundation
- Foyle Foundation
- The Hamer Foundation
- Charles Littlewood Hill Trust
- Jessie Spencer Trust
- Garfield Weston Foundation
- Sport England
- Arts Council England
- Ralph King Legacy
- Kirby Laing Foundation
- The Sackler Trust
- Pierpoint Estates Management Ltd.
- The Towns Fund
- Betty Williamson Legacy
- Caunton Engineering
- GT Littlefair Trust Fund
- Peter Harrison Foundation
- The Fifty Fund
- Thomas Farr Charity
- The Privy Purse Charitable Trust
- The Jones 1986 Charitable Trust
- Provincial Grand Lodge of Nottingham
- Awworth Primary & Nursery School
- The Elizabeth Heath Charity
- Mansfield Masonic Lodge
- Mansfield Town FC
- Forest Street Baptist Church
- Arnold Clark Community Fund
- Soroptimists International
- Huthwaite Tandoori
- BHC Ltd

### Seat Sponsors (organisations only)

- Premier 247 Surveillance UK Ltd
- Premier 247 Security UK Ltd
- Broxtowe Masonic Lodge
- Red2Design Ltd
- Mansfield Rotary Club
- Mansfield Coral Society
- DEG Consulting Ltd
- North Midland Construction
- Paragon Law

We would also like to say a big thank you to the generous donations or seat sponsorships from any individual, of whom we have not listed.

## PORTLAND PATHWAYS

- National Lottery Community Fund - Reaching Communities
- Severn Trent Water
- Ashfield District Council
- Linney
- Baily Thomas Charitable Fund
- BUPA
- ACT Foundation
- Waterfield Legacy

## TRADE CENTRE

- The Towns Fund
- The Clothworkers' Foundation
- Mr Penny Legacy
- Sir John Eastwood Foundation
- Pulse Property Network

## DONKEY THERAPY (FARM PHASE 1)

- Nottinghamshire Community Foundation
- Freemasons

## WOODLAND ADVENTURE ZONE

- Ella Kirk Charitable Foundation
- BBC Children in Need
- Nottinghamshire County Council
- Sport England
- Rural Development Programme for England - LEADER Funding
- Michael Cornish Charitable Trust
- Felicity Wilde Charitable Trust
- St James Place Charitable Foundation
- Lord's Taverners
- Bruce Wake Charitable Trust
- Provincial Grand Lodge of Nottinghamshire
- Masonic Charitable Trust
- Rathbones Group
- The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Foundation
- The Gordon Trust
- The Co-Op Community Fund
- Mansfield Building Society
- Cory Environmental Trust
- The Elizabeth Heath Charity

## MINIBUS APPEAL

- Arnold Clark Community Fund
- H. Critchlow Legacy
- Clifton Masonic Lodge
- The Paphitis Charitable Trust
- Ron Brooks - Mansfield
- The Percy Bilton Charity
- The Co-op Community Fund
- Groundwork
- The Fifty Fund
- The Privy Purse Charitable Trust
- The Robin Hood Lottery

# HOW YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT PORTLAND CHARITY

Portland College is a registered charity for people with disabilities and we want to shout about the work that we do here with our partners, both for learners, citizens and outreach in the community. We look for support to help all people with disabilities have a lifetime of opportunity.

Support from the business community, organisations, societies and individuals are all key to the existence and growth of the College.



## FUNDRAISING

- After a successful first two years of operation at the Woodland Adventure Zone which was supported by a number of vital funders, the next phase of planning is underway to develop the site further. Enabling the facility to reach as much of the community as possible.
- Portland Pathways has been supported by a number of local businesses providing work experience and work placements for many Pathways customers. The support of local businesses and funders is key to the programme's growth, development and scale of impact on the local community.
- Since the Trades Hub opened in September 2021, the next step is to develop this area with a Manufacturing Centre. Support is needed from our community, both businesses and funders, to enable us to allow learners to be ready for external employment in this area.

## PARTNERSHIPS

- **Corporate Social Responsibility**  
There are many ways in which your work place can get involved with supporting Portland, and our local community projects. Employee fundraising is a great way to motivate your staff and can provide the opportunity for team building whilst raising much needed funds at the same time.
- **Employment**  
Placements/Work Experience/Volunteers. Volunteering staff hours is a great way to experience the College and the learners for yourself. Perhaps your staff could donate a day of their time to help with a particular project. As a registered charity with so much room for development, we are always grateful for donations of skilled labour too.  
The focus of many of our learners is getting prepared for employment when they leave Portland. The best way to do this is to have experience within a real business. If you feel your business could offer a day a week, or maybe more, our job coaches can provide a range of support and training.
- **Community fundraising**  
There are many ways that you can help to fundraise within the local community, whether it is a sponsored activity such as a swimathon, organising an annual book sale, or hosting a seasonal party with a fancy-dress competition. Portland can offer ideas, and promotional material to assist you in raising funds, whilst having fun at the same time!



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