

# PROSPECTUS 2023



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# PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME



Welcome to Portland College, an outstanding place where we believe all people with disabilities should have a lifetime of opportunity.

Our key focus is that everyone who comes to Portland will feel safe and have the right support to enhance their mental and physical health.

Everyone at Portland has different goals. Yours may be around learning new things, making friends and developing social skills, gaining work experience and employability skills or improving your independence so you can get a home of your own.

We tailor our education and care programmes to help you achieve your goals, your way.

The Portland experience provides a new dimension for so many of our young people. You can try out abseiling in our wheelchair accessible Woodland Adventure Zone, you might dream of performing on stage in our brand-new theatre, or you could go all the way, playing a sport to represent your country.

It's all here at Portland and did I mention we have donkeys (and much more besides)?

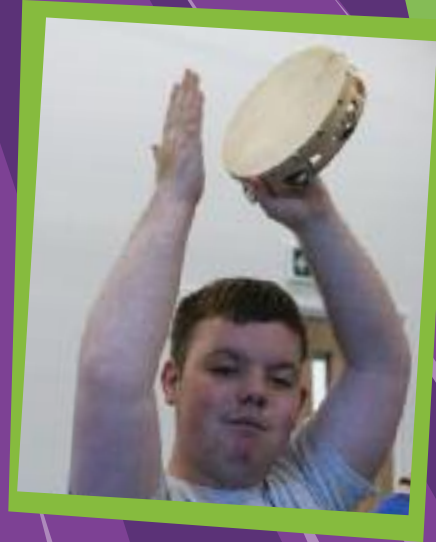
Portland is a very special, happy place where truly wonderful things happen every day, and I and the rest of the team love working here. But, don't just take my word for it, come and see for yourself.

**Dr Mark Dale**  
Principal and CEO





# WE ARE OUTSTANDING



**“FROM THE MOMENT LEARNERS ARRIVE ON THE EXPANSIVE COLLEGE GROUNDS, THEY ARE GREETED BY KIND AND CARING STAFF, WHO WELCOME THEM EACH DAY.”**

Portland was graded Outstanding in every category in our Ofsted Inspection in January 2023. We have a long history of supporting people with disabilities to develop their communication, independence and employability skills. If you join Portland, we will help you to be Outstanding too.

**“IT IS AMAZING THE PROGRESS HARRISON HAS MADE AT PORTLAND. EVERY SINGLE MEMBER OF STAFF HAS BEEN BRILLIANT AND WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE TO HELP HARRISON ON HIS PORTLAND JOURNEY.”**

Parent of learner



# CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR AUTISM



“LEARNERS BENEFIT FROM A HIGHLY PERSONALISED AND AMBITIOUS CURRICULUM AND MAKE EXCELLENT PROGRESS TO ACHIEVE THEIR LEARNING GOALS.”

“THERE IS AN UNWAVERING COMMITMENT DEMONSTRATED BY STAFF TO PROMOTE AND FACILITATE LEARNER’S PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT.”

“THE MAJORITY OF LEARNERS MOVE ONTO MEANINGFUL DESTINATIONS AFTER COLLEGE SUCH AS ADULT DAY SERVICES, SUPPORTED LIVING, EMPLOYMENT OR FURTHER STUDY.”



As a Centre of Excellence for Autism, we are proud to hold Advanced Accreditation from the National Autistic Society, their highest accolade possible.

We get to know each one of our learners individually, we understand and support their specific needs and help them work towards their goals.

In partnership with learners and their families, we create a fully tailored programme and wraparound support, giving everyone the chance to really shine.

“THE COLLEGE PROVIDES AUTISTIC LEARNERS WITH A WEALTH OF OPPORTUNITIES TO CONSOLIDATE AND DEVELOP DAILY FUNCTIONAL SKILLS.”

National Autistic Society





# OUTSTANDING LEARNING AT PORTLAND

Portland is a happy and safe place where you will make lots of friends and really fit in.

All our learners have different needs and interests. Your education and support programme will be designed especially for you, and will normally last for at least one year.

**“THE CORE THEMES OF WELL-BEING, INDEPENDENCE, EMPLOYABILITY AND THE ASPIRATION TO GIVE LEARNERS A ‘LIFETIME OF OPPORTUNITY AND EMPOWER PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES’ IS AT THE HEART OF THE COLLEGE.”**

National Autistic Society

**“I LIKE THAT I GET TREATED LIKE AN ADULT. IT’S A CALM ENVIRONMENT AND CLASS SIZES ARE SMALL.”**

Portland learner



**“THE STAFF AT PORTLAND ARE AMAZING.”**

Parent of learner

# YOUR PORTLAND JOURNEY STARTS HERE

**GO**

## GETTING STARTED

### THINKING OF JOINING?

- Campus Tour
- Virtual Open Day

### LIKE WHAT YOU SEE?

- Apply

## CHOOSE

- Residential Learning or
- Day Learning (depending on where you live)

### GETTING YOUR PLACE

If we can meet your needs we'll complete an assessment and send an offer.

## YOUR TAILORED PROGRAMME

### CHOOSE YOUR STUDY PROGRAMME

- Land-based & Trades or
- Design, Technology & Retail or
- Service & Leisure
- + Maths & English

## EMPLOYABILITY OPTIONS INCLUDE:

**EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS**

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

**TRAINEESHIP/ SUPPORTED INTERNSHIP**

Leading to voluntary or paid employment

## YOUR SPECIALIST SUPPORT

### YOU MIGHT ALSO NEED SUPPORT FROM THESE TEAMS:

- Information, Advice, Guidance & Transition
- Speech & Language Therapy
- Assistive & Communication Technology
- Occupational Therapy
- Positive Behaviour Support
- Physiotherapy

**YOUR PROGRESSION TUTOR WILL HELP YOU ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS**

**YOU'LL WORK TOWARDS QUALIFICATIONS AND TARGETS TO ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS**

## LEARN INDEPENDENCE SKILLS

**COMPLETE YOUR PROGRAMME (1 or 2 years)**

**NEXT STEPS**

## CHOOSE

- Day Service
- Progress with Portland
- Further Education
- Portland Pathways
- Independent Living
- Employment

**YOUR EXCITING FUTURE!**

## HEALTH & WELL-BEING

Is built into all our programmes. You might choose to get involved in:

- Enrichment
- Duke of Edinburgh
- National Citizen Service
- Woodland Adventure Zone

**OR READ ABOUT OUR NEW PORTLAND @ WOLLATON PARK PROGRAMME ON PAGE 16**



# STUDY PROGRAMMES & QUALIFICATIONS

Our Study Programmes can give you the skills, confidence and experience to find a job in your chosen industry.

You can work towards an accredited qualification and will have the chance to do work experience to help you decide what you want to do in the future. Your Study Programme will also include Functional Skills Maths, English and ICT.

## STUDY PROGRAMMES

### 1 Land Based and Trade

- Horticulture
- Small Animal Care
- Construction Trades



### 2 Design Technology and Retail

- Business Studies, Retail and Administration
- Art, Media and Marketing
- Performing Arts and Dance
- Customer Service



### 3 Service and Leisure

- Sport and Leisure
- Hospitality and Catering
- Care Services
- Salon Services



## LEARNERS CAN CHOOSE FROM THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS:

### PERSONAL

Level	Qualification Title	Type
Entry 1 - Entry 2	AIM Qualifications in Personal Progress	Award, Certificate or Diploma
Entry 1 - Entry 2	AIM Qualifications in Personal and Social Development Skills	Award, Extended Award, Certificate or Diploma
Entry 2	AIM Qualifications in Personal Potential	Award
Entry 3 - Level 2	AIM Qualifications in Employability Skills	Award, Extended Award, Certificate or Diploma

### VOCATIONAL

Level	Qualification Title	Type
Entry 3 - Level 2	AIM Qualifications in Skills for Working in Animal Care Industries	Award, Certificate or Diploma
Entry 3 - Level 2	AIM Qualifications in Skills for Working in Business, Administration and Customer Service Industries	Award, Certificate or Diploma
Entry 3 - Level 2	AIM Qualifications in Skills for Working in Catering and Hospitality Industries	Award, Certificate or Diploma
Entry 3 - Level 2	AIM Qualifications in Skills for Working in Construction and Building Industries	Award, Certificate or Diploma
Entry 3 - Level 2	AIM Qualifications in Skills for Working in Creative and Design Industries	Award, Certificate or Diploma
Entry 3 - Level 2	AIM Qualifications in Skills for Working in Hair and Beauty Industries	Award, Certificate or Diploma
Entry 3 - Level 2	AIM Qualifications in Skills for Working in Horticulture Industries	Award, Certificate or Diploma
Entry 1 - Level 2	City and Guilds Functional Skills in English	Award
Entry 1 - Level 2	City and Guilds Functional Skills in Maths	Award
Entry 1 - Level 2	City and Guilds Functional Skills in ICT	Award
GCSE	Maths	Award
GCSE	English	Award
Level 1 - Level 3	Sports Leadership	Award
Bronze - Silver	Duke of Edinburgh	Award

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS MAY BE AVAILABLE DEPENDENT ON YOUR NEEDS

\* Subject to change

# RESIDENTIAL LEARNING

If you would like to live at Portland while you're a learner, our Residential Learning Service is a great option. You'll make lots of friends and can develop your independence and social skills.

Our full-time residential option provides high quality support up to 7 days a week, 38 weeks or 52 weeks of the year.

You will have your own modern, fully-furnished en-suite bedroom and can access shared social spaces in our accommodation hub.

We have a great enrichment programme so you can take part in activities on and off campus too.



“ I LIKE MY TUTOR AND MAKING NEW FRIENDS ”

Residential learner



# EXCITING NEWS

# PORTLAND @ WOLLATON PARK

We have expanded our specialist Further Education provision into a completely safe site in Nottingham so that even more people can benefit from the Portland experience.

So, if you live in or near Nottingham, our Portland @ Wollaton Park programme could be perfect for you.



# WHERE WE ARE





# PORTLAND @ WOLLATON PARK



On this land-based industries programme you can be part of restoring the amazing secret garden at Wollaton Park!

Based at the park in our new training centre, you'll learn a wide range of practical skills over 3 days a week, including:

- **Horticulture** - how to plant, look after and harvest a range of produce.
- **Vocational skills** - grounds maintenance and entry level trade skills.

This means we might help you with any communication difficulties, focus on developing your personal skills, and you might choose to study a related qualification up to Level 2.

## WHO CAN APPLY?

You can apply if you:

- Are aged between 18-24 and have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
- Want to find a job or volunteering role after your programme.
- Can access your programme without a Positive Behaviour Support plan. If not, a place at Portland's main campus may be more suitable for you where additional support is available.

To find out more about these exciting programmes, contact our **Admissions Team** on **01623 499114** or **01623 499186**.





# EMPLOYABILITY

If you want to find a job after Portland, we will help you develop lots of skills and experiences to help you prepare for the world of work.

Our Information, Advice, Guidance and Transition (IAGT) team deliver events throughout the year, including 'Meet the Employer', 'Application Day' and 'Interview Day'.

# WORK EXPERIENCE

Work experience is a great way to learn what it's like to work in different industries.

We will talk to you about your work interests and goals and help you to find suitable work experience placements close to your home. You can do up to three work experience placements over the year, each lasting up to six weeks.

We also offer work experience opportunities at Portland College, including reception and administration, the Coffee Shop and other areas across the campus.

# SUPPORTED INTERNSHIPS

You might choose a Supported Internship instead of Work Experience. This option allows you to develop your employability skills in a work-based setting over the course of the College year.

During your Supported Internship, you will complete two or three days a week working within a company, and a day at college learning new skills and developing your English and maths.

Supported Internships can often lead to paid employment at the end of your placement.



## CASE STUDY



Will joined Portland in 2019. A customer service placement was built into his programme due to his enjoyment of helping people, his excellent manners and wonderfully smart dress code.

Will's original Supported Internship (SI) was delayed due to Covid, this meant that he could increase his skills and confidence with an extra work experience placement at Portland's own Main Reception where he answered phones, delivered post and dealt with a variety of people.

With the support of Portland staff, in Spring 2021, Will applied for a Supported Internship within the Admissions department at Vision West Nottinghamshire College.

Will's line manager, Kate said: "Will has such a good attitude to work, and is always on time or even early!"

Using the essential skills he learned during Travel Training at Portland, Will independently travelled to his SI placement, catching two buses from his home to the College.

Will's hard work led to him being recommended to the Employer Engagement team and his placement increased to two days a week and soon after another day in the IT department was offered to him.

In September 2022, Will was offered a paid role at Vision West Nottinghamshire College, securing his three day position across the three departments.

### SOME OF OUR EMPLOYERS:



# YOUR INDEPENDENCE

We want you to leave Portland College with as much independence as you possibly can. As part of your programme, your Progression Tutor will help you develop your skills in areas such as:

- **Personal Safety** - Teaching you what to do if you need help
- **Road Safety** - Helping you stay safe at the roadside
- **Travel Training** - Giving you the confidence to access public transport yourself
- **Money Skills** - So you can manage financial activities such as making payments, receiving change and budgeting
- **Social Skills** - Helping you feel more comfortable and involved in social situations
- **Concept of Time** - Teaching you how to understand the time and to manage your schedule
- **Independent Living Skills** - Teaching you how to carry out domestic tasks such as cooking, cleaning and managing bills so you can live more independently

Our specialist team will work with you to focus on the key areas that you need the most support with.

“I'M VERY HAPPY WITH THE WAY MY RELATIVE IS SUPPORTED AND UNDERSTOOD, AND WITH THE OPPORTUNITIES THEY HAVE AT PORTLAND.”

Relative of learner



# LIFE AFTER PORTLAND

Our Study Programmes are designed to provide you with the skills, experience and confidence to build an exciting future.

Our Information, Advice, Guidance and Transition (IAGT) team will work with you to plan the next step of your journey, ensuring you're aware of every opportunity open to you.

If you're not quite ready to enter the world of work, you can apply to join our Progress with Portland learner journey.



# PROGRESS WITH PORTLAND

Our Progress with Portland learner journey can support you to develop your confidence, skills and experience further to help you transition smoothly into the workplace.

The programme will last for a minimum of one academic year and will focus on core independence skills and work experience in your chosen industry.

Maths and English is also embedded into your programme.

To apply to join the programme, you will need to cease your Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and be prepared to make your own transport arrangements to and from college as transport support cannot be provided for this option.



...of learners completed the programme



...of learners who completed the programme passed Employability qualifications



# PORTLAND FREEDOM

We provide a variety of accommodation based support programmes for individuals with a range of needs including: physical disabilities, learning disabilities and autism.

For more information call **01623 499111** or email [college@portland.ac.uk](mailto:college@portland.ac.uk)

“I WANT TO BE ABLE TO LIVE IN MY OWN HOME IN THE FUTURE”

Independent Living Resident

Inspected and rated

Good



## INDEPENDENT LIVING

This residential service is for people aged 16-65 who need to develop independence skills before they can move into community or supported living.



## DAY SERVICE

Based on campus and in community hubs locally, Day Service is available from Monday to Friday for people aged 16+.



## SHORT BREAKS

Short breaks provide a residential respite service for people aged 16-65. A typical stay ranges from three nights to two weeks.





# SPECIALIST SUPPORT

These departments work closely together to support learners with their education programme and provide wraparound support in line with their Education Health Care Plan (EHCP).

## SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPY (SLT)

Our Speech and Language Therapy team support learners with communication needs, including:

- Improving understanding of spoken language.
- Providing an effective means of communication to express their needs and make choices through speech, signing, symbols or use of communication aid devices.
- Understanding and learning about social communication skills.

## ASSISTIVE AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY TEAM (ACT)

The ACT team supports learners to be as independent as possible and achieve their outcomes using a range of technology, ensuring learners can take an active role in their sessions and the wider community.





# SPECIALIST SUPPORT

## OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY (OT)

The Occupational Therapy team focus on increasing learners' independence skills and engagement with education. We provide individual and group sessions, equipment, and specialist advice and support to the education teams relating to:

- Fine motor skills
- Activities of daily living
- Travel training
- Sensory processing and self-regulation

“THE SILVER TRAVEL TRAINING PROGRAMME HAS MADE ME HAVE MORE CONFIDENCE IN MYSELF”

Learner



## POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT (PBS)

We take a positive and person-centred approach to understanding and supporting the behaviours of our learners.

Each learner has a PBS plan in place where needed, which allows us to provide supportive environments and techniques to enhance learners' experience and opportunities.

## PHYSIOTHERAPY

Some learners have 1:1 physiotherapy to enable them to fully access their education programmes. Learner physiotherapy programmes are based around their individual needs and are developed to help achieve their education, health and well-being goals.

## NURSING ADVICE SUPPORT

We provide a non-clinical nursing advice service which supports learners with medical needs to access or receive support from community health services.



# OUR FACILITIES

Set in the heart of Sherwood Forest, our 32-acre campus provides first-class facilities so you can thrive in a safe and inspiring environment.

Designed to industry standards, our facilities aim to give you the best learning experience.

You can develop your creative flair in our Art Zone, learn a range of land-based skills on our farm, or prepare for a future in hospitality and catering in our brand-new Coffee Shop.

You might want to build on your construction skills in our new Construction Trades Centre, or learn hair and beauty techniques in the salon. You can become an experienced sportsperson or develop your confidence on stage in our newly developed Newstart Theatre and Sports Hall.

Whichever path you choose, our facilities will help you gain the skills and experience to progress into employment in your chosen area.



## NEW FOR 2023!

We have lots of exciting developments planned for 2023, find out more on page 32.



# NEW DEVELOPMENTS!

After lots of successful developments last year, our Fundraising Team are busy raising funds for some exciting new projects:

## CONSTRUCTION TRADES CENTRE

Following the move of our Construction Centre into its own dedicated workshop space last year, this year we plan to further expand the Centre to include a brand-new Manufacturing Hub to provide more opportunities that meet local labour needs.



## WOODLAND ADVENTURE ZONE - PHASE 2

We are planning to expand our triple-award-winning Woodland Adventure Zone to include more activities including an archery range, hand bike trail, high-ropes course, parallel assault course and an outdoor classroom to support environment education sessions and mindfulness activities.



## FARM EXPANSION

Our exciting plans to expand the farm include a new outdoor learning space where we can deliver additional animal care programmes. We will also install a larger donkey paddock with new accommodation and introduce a Donkey Assisted Therapy service to help improve the mental health and well-being for our learners and wider communities.







# YOUR FULLY ACCESSIBLE FOREST ADVENTURE

TRIPLE AWARD WINNING



Did you know, as a Portland learner, you'll have free access to our very own Woodland Adventure Zone?

This forest adventure is the perfect place for you to take part in a range of exciting outdoor activities.

Purpose-built within the grounds of Portland College, the Woodland Adventure Zone is accessible to wheelchair users and people with disabilities, ensuring everyone has the opportunity to experience their own woodland adventure.

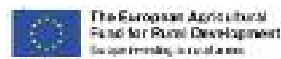
**We're open for public bookings too!  
Book your adventure...**

T: 01623 499159 E: [contact@woodlandadventurezone.com](mailto:contact@woodlandadventurezone.com)

W: [www.woodlandadventurezone.com](http://www.woodlandadventurezone.com)

Follow us on [@woodlandadventurezone](https://www.facebook.com/woodlandadventurezone)

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH...



- Climbing Wall
- Abseiling
- Leap of Faith
- Bushcraft
- Gravity Trail
- Play Areas
- Woodland Walk
- Zipline



**“ LEARNERS WERE OBSERVED ENJOYING USING THE ZIPLINE, IT WAS EVIDENT THAT LEARNERS PARTICIPATING IN THIS ACTIVITY CLEARLY EXPERIENCED A SENSE OF ACHIEVEMENT AND ENJOYED THE EXPERIENCE ”**

National Autistic Society



# SAFE & EQUAL

## KEEPING OUR LEARNERS SAFE

Living a life that is free from harm and abuse is a fundamental right for every person.

Here at Portland, all staff, Governors and volunteers are committed to improving the safety and well-being of our learners and citizens.

We also ensure learners and citizens are kept safe online through a range of protective measures.

Our dedicated Safeguarding Team provide support across all areas of the College and are available at any time to deal with safeguarding concerns. We promote a clear process which makes it easy for learners, citizens and staff to raise any safeguarding concerns with the team.



## PREVENT DUTY

Prevent is a strand of the Government's Counter Terrorism Strategy. As a college, we help prevent young people from being exposed to radicalisation by upholding and promoting the Fundamental British Values:

- **Democracy**
- **The rule of law**
- **Individual liberty**
- **Mutual respect**
- **Tolerance of those of different faiths and beliefs**

Our partnership arrangement with the East Midlands Regional Prevent Network provides us with the opportunity to be informed on national and regional updates which defines and makes our safeguarding practice more effective.



## EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

We support equality of opportunity, promotion and celebration of diversity and inclusion. We provide a welcoming and inclusive environment where everyone is respected and valued.





# START YOUR PORTLAND JOURNEY

Once you've decided that Portland College is the perfect place for you, your next step is to fill out an application form and send it to our Admissions Team with a copy of your most recent Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and supporting information.

To help you make your decision you can attend a Virtual Open Day or arrange for a personal tour of the campus.

You can contact our Admissions Team who will answer any questions you may have.

Once we receive your application, we will look at arranging an assessment where we will assess your requirements to make sure we can meet your needs and then we'll tailor a programme to suit you and your interests.



# APPLY TODAY

Join us in four easy steps:

## 1 VISIT US

You can book an individual tour or attend a virtual open day.

## 2 APPLY

Fill in your application and send it to us with a copy of your most recent Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and other relevant documentation in support of your application.

## 3 ASSESSMENT

Once you've applied, we will arrange for an assessment to take place at Portland College. We can arrange external assessments first if this is appropriate.

## 4 OFFER

Following initial assessment, if we are able to offer a placement, we will send a conditional offer. All placements are subject to funding being agreed from the applicant's Local Authority.

For more information contact our Admissions Team on  
**01623 499114 / 499186**







WE  
ARE  
HERE



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Nottinghamshire, NG18 4TJ

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