



WE ARE OUTSTANDING

You can be too.

PROSPECTUS 2024

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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. Depending on your needs, you can choose to study at our main Mansfield campus or our brand new Nottingham City campus.

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 DalePrincipal and CEO

EXPLORE • LEARN • SHINE



WE ARE OUTSTANDING

Good
Care Quality
Commission

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



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 PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

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

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE
FOR AUTISM

National Autism Specialist Award Advanced 2022

Autism Specialist Award Advanced 2022

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

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

THINKING OF JOINING

 Main Campus near Mansfield

CHOOSE

 New Nottingham City Campus (see page 16)

GET TO KNOW US:

- In Person Campus Tour
- Virtual Open Day

LIKE WHAT YOU SEE?

Apply

CHOOSE

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

GETTING YOUR PLACE

If we can meet your needs we'll complete a 'Meet and Greet' and send an offer.

YOUR TAILORED PROGRAMME

CHOOSE YOUR STUDY PROGRAMME

See page 12

+ Maths & English

EMPLOYABILITY OPTIONS INCLUDE:

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

WORK **EXPERIENCE** TRAINEESHIP/ **SUPPORTED INTERNSHIP**

Leading to voluntary or paid employment

YOUR SPECIALIST SUPPORT • Information, Advice,

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

- 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

HEALTH & WELL-BEING

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

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

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



Land Based and Trade

- Horticulture M N
- Small Animal Care M
- Construction & Manufacturing M (



Design Technology and Retail

- Business Studies, Retail and Administration 🕦
- Art, Media and Marketing 🐠
- Performing Arts and Dance M
- Games Development and E-Sports N



Service and Leisure

- Sport and Leisure M
- Hospitality and Catering M
- Care Services **M**
- Salon Services M
- **Mansfield**
- Nottingham

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Bespoke Learner Journey

Our Bespoke Learner Journeys respond to the needs of our learners. We recognise this differs from a customised, traditional timetable. The emphasis is on creating a unique, personalised learning experience that caters to the specific needs, goals and preferences of the learner. This type of programme considers various factors, such as learning style, interests, skills and skills gaps. It involves close collaboration between therapy teams, family and Portland to ensure learners can achieve and transition into a full or partial customised programme.



ALL LEARNERS
WILL HAVE THE
OPPORTUNITY
TO PARTICIPATE
IN THE DUKE
OF EDINBURGH
AWARD UP TO
GOLD LEVEL.



LEARNERS CAN CHOOSE FROM THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS:

PERSONAL

Entry 1 to Level 2 in a range of personal and social development skills.

VOCATIONAL

Level	Qualification Title	Туре
Entry 3 - Level 2	Skills for Working in Animal Care Industries	Award, Certificate or Diploma
Entry 3 - Level 2	Skills for Working in Business, Administration and Customer Service Industries	Award, Certificate or Diploma
Entry 3 - Level 2	Skills for Working in Catering and Hospitality Industries	Award, Certificate or Diploma
Entry 3 - Level 2	Skills for Working in Construction and Building Industries	Award, Certificate or Diploma
Entry 3 - Level 2	Skills for Working in Creative and Design Industries	Award, Certificate or Diploma
Entry 3 - Level 2	Skills for Working in Hair and Beauty Industries	Award, Certificate or Diploma
Entry 3 - Level 2	Skills for Working in Land Based Studies	Award, Certificate or Diploma
Entry 1 - Level 2	Functional Skills in English	Award
Entry 1 - Level 2	Functional Skills in Maths	Award
Entry 3 - Level 1	Essential Digital Skills	Award
GCSE	Maths	Award
GCSE	English	Award QUALIFIC
Level 1 - Level 3	Sports Leadership	Award MAY BE AV
Bronze, Silver & Gold	Duke of Edinburgh	Award DEPENDE
* Subject to change		YOUR NE

OTHER
QUALIFICATIONS
MAY BE AVAILABLE
DEPENDENT ON
YOUR NEEDS

RESIDENTIAL **LEARNING**

If you would like to live at Portland while you're a learner, our Residential Learning Service at the Mansfield campus 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

PORTLAND COMES TO NOTTINGHAM!

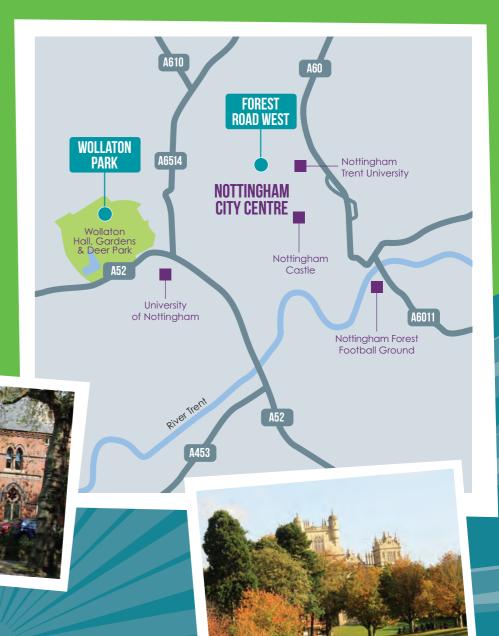
Great news! We've expanded our specialist Further Education provision into Nottingham, so even more people can benefit from the Portland experience.

So, if you live in or near Nottingham, our easily accessible Nottingham Campus programmes could be perfect for you.

WHERE WE ARE

Our new Nottingham Campus on Forest Road West is easily accessible from across the city.

Learners on the Land-based and Trades pathway will carry out the practical elements of their programme at Wollaton Park.



STUDY PROGRAMMES AT NOTTINGHAM

GAMES DEVELOPMENT AND E-SPORTS

If you love gaming then this exciting new course will be right up vour street.

Players, designers and other roles are in high demand to support the fast-growing industry of competitive gaming and e-sports and this is a sector where neuro-diverse people really excel.



Based at our Nottingham Campus, you will learn about working and competing in the e-sports industry, game design, improving your skills and reaction times, developing communication and staying healthy and safe online.

We have excellent onsite facilities and links with local employers and work experience will be built into your programme.

LAND-BASED AND TRADE INDUSTRIES

Be part of restoring the amazing secret garden at Wollaton Park. Improve your health and well-being by learning outdoors, while gaining lots of independence skills and practical experience.

WHAT WILL I BE DOING?

Based at our Nottingham Campus on Forest Road West, you'll learn a wide range of practical skills in your chosen subject:

- Horticulture how to plant, look after and harvest a range of produce.
- Basic Trades grounds maintenance and entry level trade skills such as brickwork, carpentry and basic DIY.

All practical elements of the programme will take place at Wollaton Park.

You will have the opportunity to undertake work experience in your chosen subject to help you gain the valuable skills to progress into employment.



HOSPITALITY, RETAIL AND ADMIN

Starting in 2025, this programme is perfect if you want to work or volunteer in a restaurant, café, shop or office environment.

WHAT WILL I BE DOING?

Based at our Nottingham Campus, our excellent facilities include a bar, kitchen, live office areas and commercial enterprises, so you will have lots of opportunities to develop your practical skills.

As you progress through your course, you can choose which sector you want to focus more on.

Work experience will be built into your programme to help you gain the valuable skills to progress into employment.

WHEN WILL I BE AT COLLEGE?

These programmes start in September. You'll spend 3 days a week at our Nottingham Campus. A typical week could be:

Day 1 - Tutorials covering Preparation for Adulthood skills.

Day 2 - Improving your English and Maths (if appropriate, you could do GCSE or Functional Skills).

Day 3 - Vocation Day - developing your practical skills in your chosen subject. (At Wollaton Park for Land-Based learners).

Your programme will usually last between 1-2 years. It will be tailored around the outcomes in your Education, Health and Care Plan. This means, we might help you focus on developing your personal skills, or you might choose to study a related qualification up to Level 2.

WHAT'S NEXT?

When you've finished your programme, you might progress into a second year, undertake a Supported Internship, move into mainstream education or choose to look for paid or voluntary employment.

Your Tutor and our Information, Advice. Guidance and Transition Team (IAGT) will help you make your decision.

WHO CAN APPLY?

You will need to be aged 18-24 and have an Education Health and Care Plan to apply. These courses are suitable for people who do not need















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 up to four days per 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

After a year of studying at Portland College, Daniel was looking forward to a future in retail. Following a work experience placement, Daniel started a Supported Internship placement at Mantic Games, the home of exciting tabletop gaming items in Bulwell, Nottingham.



Daniel spent time each week at Mantic Games, whilst also having a day each week at Portland completing his maths and English studies.

Daniel really thrived in his placement, he spent time across areas within the warehouse where online orders are processed, packaged and sent to customers. He was able to develop a huge range of skills during his Supported Internship such as; communication, time keeping and attention to detail.

After 10 months on a Supported Internship, which coincided with the end of his time at Portland College, Daniel was offered a paid position at Mantic Games.

"I like being here at Mantic, it is a safe environment for me. I am made to feel welcome and gain valuable experience every day."

Daniel's mentor at Mantic Games said: "Throughout the work experience Daniel was fully supported and our hand was held every step of the way - and I am pleased to say Daniel is now a permanent and productive member of team Mantic. Thanks Portland College for allowing us to be part of Daniel's development - and getting Mantic a great member of the team."

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.

WE CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR ALL THE SUPPORT YOU HAVE PROVIDED RAUSHAN THIS ACADEMIC YEAR

Parent 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 are 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.

89%

...of learners completed the programme

88%

...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**

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

Independent Living Resident

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

Inspected and rated

Care Quality Commission

Good

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 and 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 PROGRAMMI 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.

DONKEY THERAPY

Our herd of donkeys support individuals or small groups to improve their health and well-being. This type of therapy is becoming more mainstream as it has yielded positive benefits for many different people from very diverse backgrounds and situations. One of the fascinating benefits is that you are working on so many different aspects at once. Sometimes, only the donkey and the learner know what has truly changed through developing their partnership. The donkeys at Portland have been very successful in helping to improve the behaviour of individuals, provided support with learning and improving confidence and given comfort to those in distress.

NEW FOR

We have lots of exciting developments planned for 2024.

Find out more on page 32.

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 DEVELOPMENTS!

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

CONSTRUCTION & MANUFACTURING 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

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.

We are opening a new campus in Forest Road West, Nottingham so more people can benefit from the Portland experience. See page 16.

FARM EXPANSION

Our exciting plans to expand the farm include a new outdoor learning space where we can deliver additional animal care programmes. We have recently installed a new donkey paddock with new accommodation, enabling us to deliver 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

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

W: www.woodlandadventurezone.com

Follow us on **@woodlandadventurezone**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



















- Abseiling
- Leap of Faith
- Bushcraft
- Gravity Trail
- Play AreasWoodland 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 celebrate equality, 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 either the Mansfield or Nottingham campus (or both). You can contact our Admissions Team who will answer any questions you may have.

Once we receive your application, we will look at arranging a meet and greet 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

Whether you want to study at our main campus in Mansfield, or our new Nottingham campus, 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.

MEET AND GREET

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

4 OFFER

Following an initial meet and greet, 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













