

SUPPORTED INTERNSHIP ARTICLE



1st Edition February 2021

No.1 in the Christmas chart are Santa's Little Helpers!

Their incredible efforts helped raised over £200 in just two days!



Christmas 2020 was saved thanks to an amazing team of students who are currently taking part in the Supported Internship course. The entire project took five weeks of preparation with the students creating various items such as Christmas cards, Christmas tree decorations and pin badges. Support staff Amanda kindly donated a large collection of 3D glasses which were very popular with consumers who were just browsing the shop. These glasses worked like magic because when you look at various lights with them on, different figures appeared.

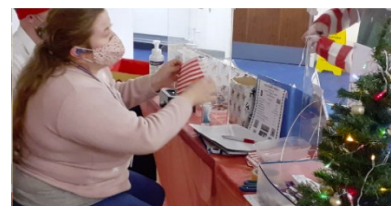
On 7th and 10th December 2020, Supported Internship learners opened their shop in foundation studies with the name "Santa's Little Helpers", however due to COVID guidelines, only three students could work at any one time with one support staff helping. The rules were made and followed by our "elf and safety" team to ensure the shop ran smoothly and that included customer's sanitising their hands before handling any goods and giving the cashier the money. Project Manager Daniel helped make sure all the rules stayed in place throughout and monitored the shop at various times throughout the day.

The top selling item during the two days was the Olaf pin badges based on the film "Frozen". The pin badges were made and painted by Beth. She made these from clay and explained that "It was amazing, I had hand/ eye co-ordination, it was difficult to use all the small pieces, but I was really careful, and I was the only person who didn't break the arms off".

The Christmas tree decorations were extremely popular as well which were mostly made by Nathan B and hand painted by Jordan.

The students worked very well in the shop, Georgie loved putting the stock in the customer's bag, she made sure she sanitised her hands before handling the goods to the customers.

In the two days and eight hours' worth of work, Santa's Little Helpers raised an incredible £205.90 for the Supported Internship program.



Georgie handling the goods inside the bag to the customer

Fact File

- Did you know there are more disabled women than there are men? Surprisingly, boys are more likely to be diagnosed with a disability before the age of 15 (data from 2018/2019).
- Did you know disabled people are 28.6% less likely to be in employment than non-disabled people? That's equal to around 4 million people (in 2018).
- Did you know there are around 700,000 people in the UK with autism? Out of these, only 16% (or around 112,000 people) are in full time paid employment.

By Daniel Mullins



Once the clay set, they were hand painted by students, here's Jordan



The posters were made by Coree, seen producing it before it got printed



Some of the items produced and sold by Santa's Little Helpers



Beth's hand painted Olaf's, these were sold out during day two!



Santa Little Helper's pop-up shop which was situated at Foundation Studies

MEET THE TEAM

WHEN ONE BECAME FOUR!!!

We started our Supported Internship journey back in September 2019 with just one member of staff and two students. This year I am proud to announce we have ten students. This meant more job coaches! Our three job coaches joined us in October 2020.

'Together we share a vision and see a bright future for our current and future students. We are focused on building relationships with employers and new businesses to provide future employment opportunities for our students'.

Keep on reading to find out more about us job coaches!

Louise Pilter

Louise Pilter
Team Leader



Amanda Sloan
Job Coach



Luke Alvey
Job Coach



Nikki Pendery
Job Coach



We asked our staff team a few questions to find out more about them:

1) What did you do before joining the Supported Internship team?

Nikki: “I was a teaching and learning support assistant within a special needs school for 2 years and previously to this I have over 20 years' experience working in the print and direct mail/marketing industry as a project manager.”

2) What made you apply to become a job coach?

Louise: “To change lives of others by supporting them to learn new skills and experience to gain paid employment. As much as I loved my job in ALS, I wanted to make a bigger impact on our learners and this role allows me to do that. When I started, I was the only member of the team, it has been both challenging and exciting developing something from new that will benefit so many of our learners.”

Nikki: “I was looking for a job where I could combine my love of helping and supporting students to reach their goals with my skills of managing projects and..... I was so nervous on the first day meeting the supported internship team.”

3) What was it like meeting the learners?

Luke: “Nerve-racking but exciting. Once I was in the classroom the students made me feel totally at ease.”

Amanda: “I was extremely nervous but excited at the same time. I wasn't sure what questions all the learners were going to ask me, when they put me in the 'hot seat' on my first day and wanted to know a little bit about me. But it was great fun, as I started to learn so much about them at the same time. I feel like I have known everyone much longer than I have, and everyone has been so kind and welcoming.”

4) What do you enjoy the most about your job?

Louise: “Changing people's lives and supporting them to reach their goals & aspirations. The development of something truly amazing.”

5) What is your future vision?

Louise : “To continue to provide and develop employment opportunities for individuals with SEN to enable them to showcase their talents and abilities. Watch this space, we have a fantastic team - who knows where we will be in a few years. We are aiming for the stars!!”

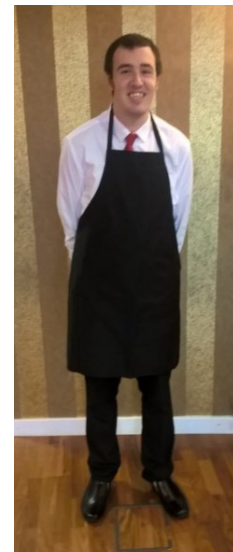
He got knocked down.....but he got up again!!

Jordan is a returning student from last year's programme. Jordan started his placement at Woodland Café in January last year but due to the pandemic was unable to fulfil his placement. Jordan was given the opportunity to come back and complete his placement this year. COVID knocked Jordan's confidence back in March 2020, with support and reassurance he was able to positively transition back into college in September. To develop his confidence even further Jordan worked in our onsite restaurant Refined, where he worked Front of House alongside other catering learners. Jordan even volunteered his time in the afternoon to help staff with cleaning duties and food preparation in the kitchen.

I am pleased to say that Jordan is now back at Woodland Café and embracing the opportunity with great enthusiasm and motivation. He is very supportive of the new interns he is working alongside, providing guidance and passing on his knowledge that he has learnt from his short time at the café last year. Last year he impressed customers with his attentive customer service skills and homemade curries and doubt will continue to impress this year. In the words of Jordan, 'JUST FABULOUS!' Keep up the great work Jordan!!!

Here's what Jordan had to say about his experience:

'It has been a huge opportunity to come back for a fifth year and continue the course. This has helped me to go back to work placement at Woodland Café. Last year the COVID-19 lockdown knocked down my confidence but this year I can continue building up my confidence and skills. Overall, by the end of the year I hope to find a part-time or full-time job in the catering industry. Throughout my years at college it has been, let's just say absolutely 'fabulous'.



Written by Louise Pilter

Students Shine in Employer talk



On the 19th November 2020 everyone on the Supported Internship programme took part in an employer talk on Microsoft Teams with Gedling Borough Council so that they could go through the three job roles they are offering to the college. It gave the employers and the learners a chance to meet each other prior to work placement starting. The employers explained the roles in detail and what would be expected during work placement. The roles available were Administration Assistant and two Park Rangers.

The learners stood in front of the camera so the employers could see them. This gave the learners an interview experience as well as helping us to build our confidence with face-to-face communication.

The students prepared questions they could ask the employers such as: What time would we be starting? and What we would have to wear while we were out on work placement?

Coree said "I felt confident enough to talk to the employers to ask them what we would be doing during work placement".

The plan was to start all work placements on the 4th January 2021, but due to lockdown the placements have been postponed until the restrictions lifted. This is to ensure everyone stays safe, including their own staff which is their top priority.

When I asked the employers questions, "I felt very nervous about talking to them because I am very nervous around new people but, in the end, I managed it and built up my confidence to see it through".

"I am very excited to start my work placement and to gain experience in this industry so that I can get a job once I have completed my work placement and my course".



Students fight back against Covid-19

The Supported Internship students defied COVID-19 to continue their education at West Notts College

Some of us are still attending college but some of us choose to work remotely. We have abided by the rules set out by the government and the college; we are wearing facemasks, keeping our social distance and we are following good hand hygiene. Wiping our tables and computer desks before and after using them and sitting from other students at our tables have now become normal.

To reduce contact with others, we have stayed in our own bubble. We continue to make sure that we take care of ourselves by following the rules and stop the spread of the virus. Back in October, we had to self-isolate at home to keep ourselves safe and reduce the spread of the virus. Some of us have been brave enough to go for a COVID test onsite even, though it is uncomfortable we must make sure that we are safe.

Some of the work placements have continued, Nathan began his placement at County Battery and three students Bethany, Jordan & Ashley have begun their placement at Portland College. The placement at Gedling Borough Council for myself, Liam and Daniel have been postponed due to COVID-19 but will go ahead when it is safe to do so. Liam says, "I am very excited to start at Gedling Borough Council to work as part of the Parks Team" and Daniel says, "I am very excited, I'm just disappointed that we didn't get to start in January".

The resilience me and my classmates have shown is great, we have overcome many challenges and continued to stay positive throughout the pandemic.

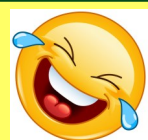


The winners are:

Georgie
Coree
Nathan B
Jordan

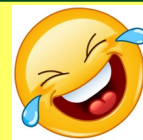
Well done
for coming
into college
everyday!

Written by learner — Coree Williams



Jokes to brighten up your day

Written by learner — Bradley Hovell



Why do witches lose every baseball game?

Their bats flew away!

What do you call a man with a seagull on his head?

Cliff!

My dog has no nose! How does he smell?

Awful!

On the 5th January 2021 Nathan B, one of our dedicated Supported Internship students was fully charged and ready to commence with his 6-month work placement at County Battery. It was looking like a non-starter with the dreaded COVID-19 government announcements on the evening of Monday 4th January, which raised a few questions: Will the placement go flat overnight? Would we have to put halt in the movement of Nathan starting his placement? Luckily after a few conversations with all parties involved, everyone decided it was best to get all charged up and continue with the placement, providing that stricter Covid-19 measures were put in to place to keep everyone safe.



Nathan had a great first week learning about the company, LEAN Manufacturing and how to charge batteries, which he was dab hand at! Nathan showed a keen interest and picked up the processes well, they were so impressed they decided that he could help to set up a new product production line and look at ways to make improvements to save time and money!

Unfortunately, Nathan suffered a minor setback as he had to self-isolate for 10 days. He re-charged his battery and showed great resilience when he returned. 6 weeks on he's now completed the production line and has built the first new product that was sold to a customer last week.... WHAT AN ACHIEVEMENT!!

Burbanks' says Thanks!

Nathan aka: Mr Burbanks would like to say a huge thank you to County Battery, he says "Thank you for making me feel so welcome in the company (or work family) and for giving me the chance to work with you and for all of your support and time."

Isaac who manages operations at County Battery has said "Nathan is doing a brilliant job! He has been putting his problem-solving abilities to use by helping us develop a production line and improve the quality of a brand-new product. He has developed our products and our production lines, developed himself in the process. Learning new skills such as soldering, drilling, crimping and stripping cables. His confidence has grown massively, and we are excited for the future."



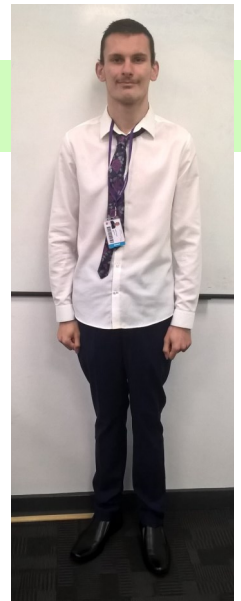
Nikki the job coach says "the County Battery vision statement is very true: To make a world a better place by developing people, they certainly do just that. Well done County Battery, keep on developing people, this is a super company vision and one of the things you excel at!"

Sharp dress, Sharp minds

DRESS FOR WORK DAY

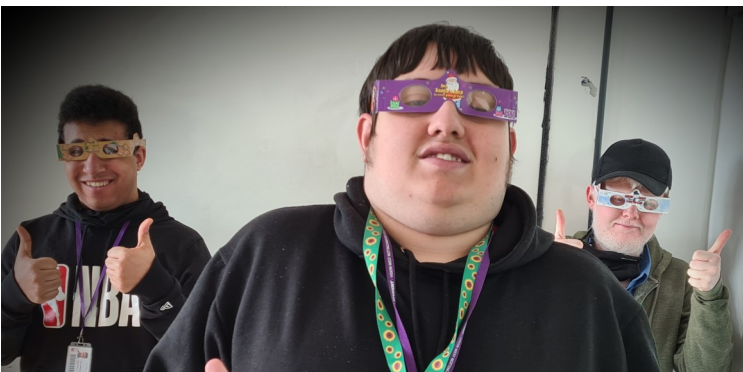


Every Monday before Christmas, our tutor group dressed for work. We dressed smart, ready in preparation for when we go on work placements. We ensured that our smart clothes were clean, ironed and shoes were polished. Some of us even wore ties. Nathan said, “I preferred wearing my smart clothes to my normal clothes”. When I was wearing my smart clothes, it made me feel proud and confident. We ensured we had good personal hygiene, ensuring we showered, brushed our teeth and hair. To present ourselves in a professional manner as we want to make a good impression on our employers. Looking smart and presentable, shows that we are mentally ready for the day of work.



Written by learner — Coree Williams

Christmas donations



To say **“thank you”** for an opportunity for learners to begin work placements, we donated thirty pairs of 3D glasses to The Riley Foundation. Student Georgie is eager to start her placement once lockdown has lifted.

The Riley Foundation is a charity who offers a state-of-the-art sensory room as well as many sensory buses. It is there for the benefit and therapy of children with all kinds of SEN.



Students prepare for the start of work

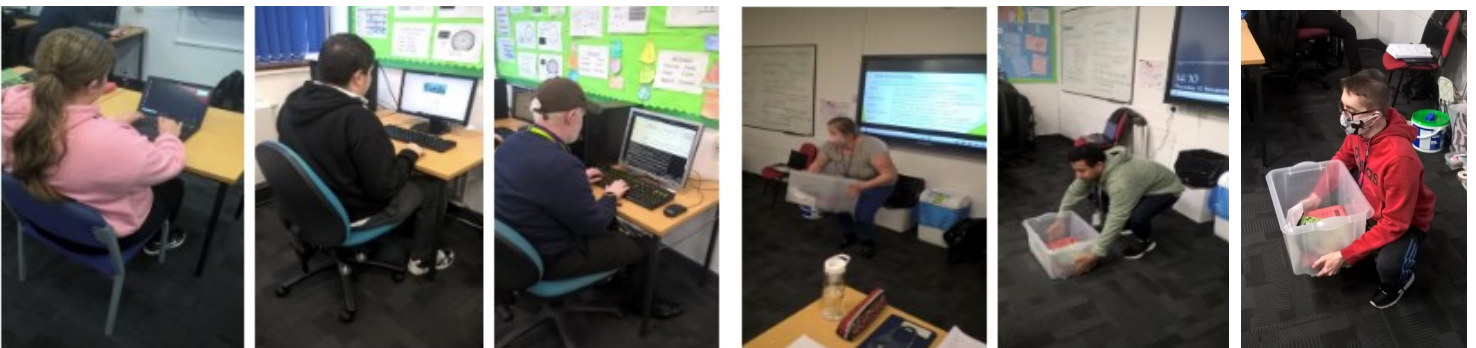
In preparation for work placements the students on the Supported Internship Programme have covered aspects of Health and Safety. Giving them the knowledge to work safely in the work placement.

Topics covered:

- **Hazards and risks in the workplace**
 - **Fire Safety**
 - **DSE - Display Screen Equipment**
 - **Food Safety**
- **RIDDOR- Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations**
 - **COSHH - Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations**
 - **Manual Handling**
- **PPE - Personal Protective Equipment**

Our students will be accessing work placements in several industries, those industries include **Childcare, Horticulture, Administration, Retail and Mechanics**. *All these sectors will require us to follow what we have learnt about health and safety in the workplace. Doing what we have learnt, will enable us to identify, report and stay safe in our work environment.*

“I feel confident going into my work placement with the knowledge I have learnt from the Health and Safety sessions”.



DSE
Left to right: Georgie, Daniel and Liam

Manual Handling
Left to right: Georgie, Coree and Bradley

Look out for our next edition where we will check on the progression of our Woodland Café placements



Watch out for lots of other success stories from upcoming placements!! Its going to be epic!!

THANK YOU
TO ALL OF OUR EMPLOYERS
THAT ARE CONTINUING TO SUPPORT US ON
OUR JOURNEY!



West Notts is asking for your support!

We are one of the leading colleges in the East Midlands and we require your help, do you have any friends or relatives that can provide opportunities for an extended work placement/supported internship?



Parents and Carers

Do you have a story or a quote about the college, we will be happy to have it and share it in the next edition of our newsletter

Contact the team

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