

# SUPPORTED INTERNSHIP ARTICLE



3<sup>rd</sup> Edition - July 2021

## FINAL FAREWELL!



### DETERMINED - INSPIRATIONAL - MOTIVATED

Wishing all of our interns luck on their life journeys

# CELEBRATION OF SUCCESS

We couldn't let the year pass without a celebration to mark the end of the year and college life for our interns. To showcase all of our interns' achievements, we decided to put a bit of a 'do' on in our onsite fine dining restaurant, Refined.

Invited were: interns, parents/carers, staff, employers and the local authority. Together we devoured our afternoon tea whilst reflecting on our interns' inspirational journeys. Our Principal (Andrew Cropley) & Vice Principal (Louise Knott) also stopped by to congratulate our interns on their achievements.

Interns were presented with certificates of their achievements to build their personal portfolios which they have been working on throughout the year. Some of which were: Basic Health & Safety, Independent Travel and contributions to work placement.



Our employers Richard Fuller, Managing Director of County Battery Services & Claire Johnson, Catering & Hospitality Tutor from Portland College spoke about our interns' experiences and the impact they have had in placement and on their business. For our employers that couldn't attend we heard contributions through written statements. Interns presented certificates and gifts to our dedicated employers and thanked them for their support and providing them with such great opportunities.

Some of our interns were eager to stand up and talk about their experiences and I am sure that others that attended our event would agree that there wasn't a dry eye in the house!

To see them stand in front of a room with such confidence was truly inspirational. Some learners that didn't originally want to speak publicly appeared to feel somewhat inspired by their peers and motivated them to take the stand, leading to the majority of our 10 interns speaking.

## What a send-off!!!

For all those that could not attend due to availability or restrictions—keep an opening in your diary for next year's event.

**More interns, more employers and more success stories!!**



# REMEMBER BURBANKS? ..... HE SMASHED IT!

Nathan started his 6 month placement at County Battery in January 2021 as a Battery Refurbish Assistant. Nathan has progressed immensely throughout the year using a 'train to fade' system of support. Nathan



integrated well into the staff team and improved his communication skills to build professional working relationships. Nathan took part in daily morning meetings where he reviews his work practice with his work colleagues, focusing on 2 second LEAN improvements, he also communicates these through social media with narrated video evidence. Nathan has worked extremely hard to hit his targets to achieve his end goal, working closely with his employer (Isaac) and job coach, (Nikki). Nathan increased his days and took to revising the LEAN principles in his spare time to meet the

terms of a job offer. Well done Nathan you smashed it, the hard work certainly paid off!! Nathan is now employed by County Battery Services on a 30 hour contract in view to increase to full-time in the future.



**Nathan talking about his experience with Richard Fuller, Managing Director —County Battery Services**

## **Nathan says:**

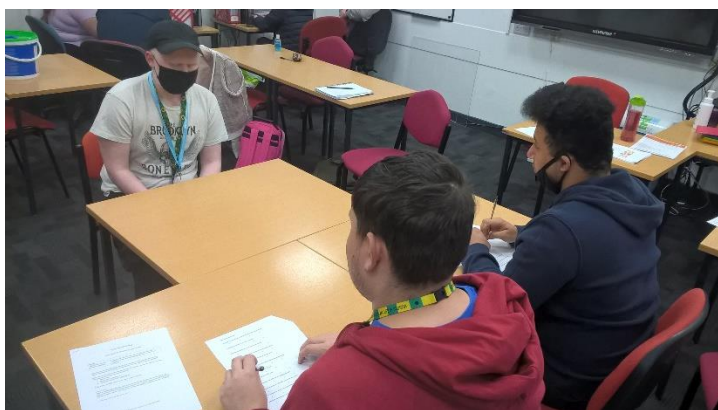
'I didn't think I would get a job straight out of college. The Supported Internship programme has helped me get a job by encouraging me to work hard and hit my targets to prove to employers that I want to work for them.'

'I feel part of the team at County Battery Services and have been offered a job. I am looking forward to getting my first pay.'

'I would recommend this course to people wanting to put the effort in to find employment.'

# INTERVIEW READY

Interns have been working incredibly hard to build their personal portfolios throughout the year. With a collation of their previous academic achievements, an up-to-date CV and this year's achievements our interns leave college well equipped to attend a job interview. Dressed to impress; our interns also took part in peer to peer interviews, giving each other constructive feedback on their interview techniques.



# TRAVEL TRAINING

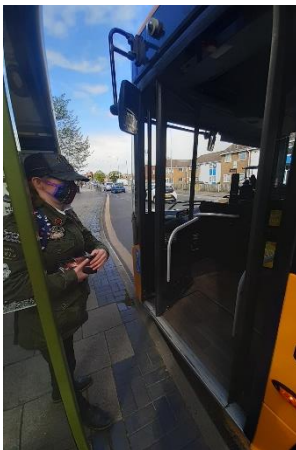


## Nathan

Nathan has been at college for 5 years and always travelled to college via specialist transport. Nathan was eager to become more independent in this area. Initially Nathan was supported to get to college and home, getting 2 buses. When Nathan started work placement he travelled to Kirkby with support from Mansfield bus station but quickly progressed and once he was familiar with his routes Nathan would stop off in town centres and do some shopping. Nathan enjoyed going to his favourite shops such as CEX. Now, also meets with friends in his spare time. Nathan displayed resilience and problem solving skills when on occasion got on the wrong bus. Nathan is now an independent traveller.

## Jordan

Jordan started travel training last academic year, he made fantastic progress being able to get to work placement independently after just a few weeks. Due to COVID this stopped, which meant Jordan lost confidence to use public transport. At the start of the year Jordan would get his mum to drop him off and pick him up, sometimes would use a taxi. With encouragement Jordan started to get on the bus again, re-build his confidence and reduce his anxieties around travelling in a pandemic. Jordan now meets his peers in his spare time and takes part in community activities, he enjoys meeting his friends to go bowling and goes to a basketball club on a Saturday.



## Beth

Beth has used specialist transport for the previous 3 years at college. Due to a long journey from Calverton Beth has taken small steps since January to achieve her goal. Beth would use transport to get to college and then take the Pronto to work placement, once restrictions were lifted Beth started travelling home independently using two buses. Before the end of the year, she did it.....travelling independently for both journeys!! With her new found confidence Beth now meets up with friends outside her local area and will get the bus to SPACE instead of paying for a taxi. Beth recently travelled to Mansfield on her own to attend a job interview. Well done Beth!

## Coree

Coree made positive steps towards independent travel. He was able to use a bus pass and started to recognise the 2 buses he needed to get on to get to his placement & remember his stops. Coree displayed great confidence in using pedestrian crossings & being aware of his surroundings. Coree will continue to progress with this when he leaves college.



## Bradley

Bradley was supported to 2 different work placements. Bradley would remember the route to walk to get the bus for each placement. Bradley was able to communicate with the driver and tell him where he was going & use his bus pass. Bradley displayed a good level of road awareness when accessing the community.

# PLACEMENT PROGRESS



Following in Nathan Burbank's footsteps, Nathan Imms and Bradley joined the team in April. Undertaking work on the Lazarus project, refurbishing batteries. Both undertook tasks such as steam cleaning, checking the batteries to see if they would charge and steam cleaning. Nathan B also got to undertake some guidance & mentoring of Nathan I to help him learn the processes.

County Battery strongly promotes recycling and safe disposal of batteries. For more information about how they do this visit:

<https://www.countybattery.co.uk/battery-recycling/>



## NO 'I' IN TEAM!

Both Nathan's worked together to develop & reorganise the Lazarus Project in the warehouse. Starting with clearing out, cleaning & painting the walls and ceilings.



# PLACEMENT PROGRESS



**Portland  
College**



**Below:** Beth demonstrated initiative when offering to go to the local shop to pick up ingredients for a recipe.



## What a day to run a 'pop-up' shop!

Due to Woodland Café being closed interns took to the sunny outdoors to provide sweet & savoury snacks for staff and learners at Portland College. Interns further developed their customer service & money management skills.



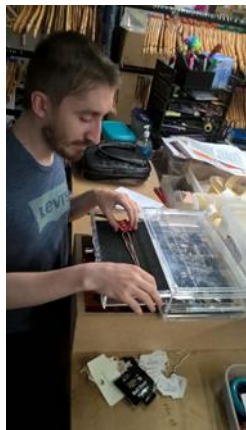
In May, three of our interns started their placements at Sense, Mansfield. Georgie, Bradley & Nathan undertook a range of tasks through their time at Sense. Working in the stock room, organising stock to replenish stock levels in the shop, involving tagging clothes, steam cleaning & checking DVD's and books on an online system, then pricing.



Through his passion of DVD's Nathan has been offered some hours at Sense as a volunteer.



Georgie took the staff by storm with how quickly she got to grips with her customer facing role on the shop floor, she had a pin to use the till within 2 weeks. Georgie proved to be flexible in her role, offering to do additional hours when other staff were unavailable. Georgie has been offered a voluntary position at Sense to commence mid-July.



**Left:** Bradley poses in one of the donations. Good advertisement Bradley!

# PLACEMENT PROGRESS

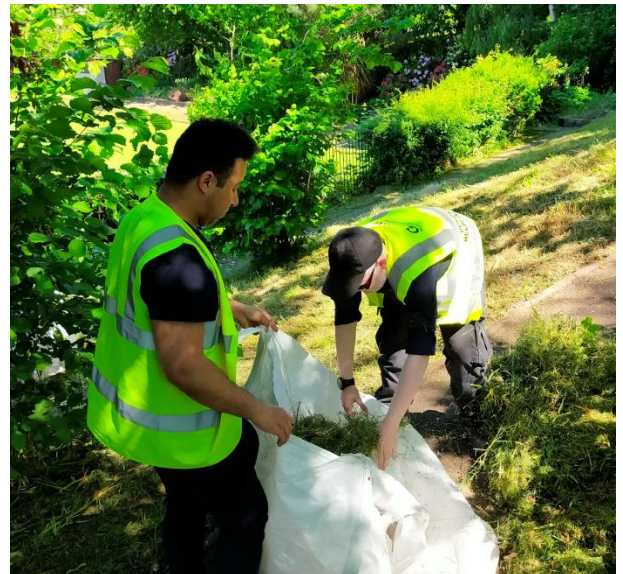


**In the office.....**Daniel learned an incredible amount during his short time working in the Environmental Services admin team. Putting his IT skills to good use he spent his time inputting data, shredding documents adhering GDPR guidelines and producing mail ready for distribution. Daniel even got a ride in a refuse lorry!



**Sprucing up the park.....**Coree & Liam displayed great team work skills out in the parks supporting the Park Rangers. Whether rain or shine both were out weeding, planting, pruning and even chatting to members of the public as they passed by on their daily walks. Both demonstrated safe working practices throughout their roles and were able to use a range of different tools to complete tasks.

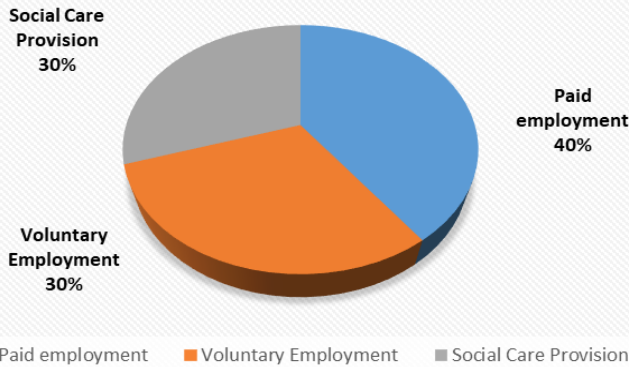
Liam enjoyed his role so much he has applied to be a volunteer to help maintain the parks in his spare time.





# 20-21 FACTS & FIGURES

## Supported Internship Destinations 20-21

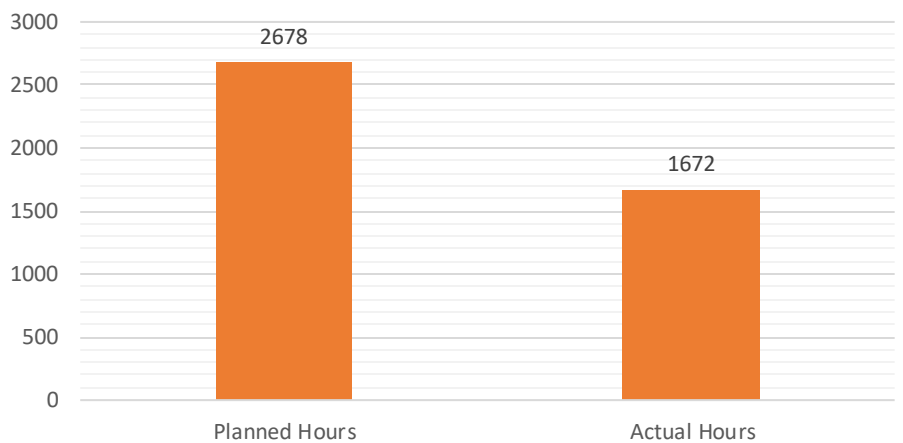


Considering that 20-21 was our first full cohort of interns and the difficult year we have all experienced and ever changing restrictions surrounding the pandemic, we have to celebrate our first year's statistics. Our interns have worked incredibly hard to reach their goals. As we move into the next academic year let's hope we can reflect and achieve bigger and better outcomes. Thank you to all interns, parents/carers & employers that have offered feedback in order for us to improve our service.

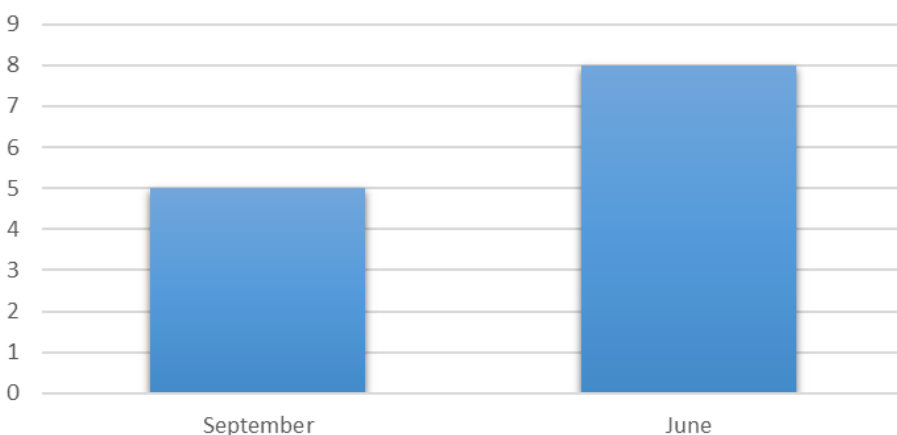
With support of our committed employers we were able to undertake more than half of our planned hours with an average of 167 hours per intern. Some were fortunate enough to start in January but the majority in May.

As you have seen in our previous articles, some of our interns undertook some work experience onsite to compensate for their late starts.

## Work Experience Hours



## No. of Independent Travellers



Only half of our interns were independent travellers at the start of the academic year, with our job coaches providing travel training we have supported 3 more interns to become independent in using public transport. An additional 2 interns made positive steps towards independent travel and will continue to progress towards this with the support of a personal independent worker through social care provision.

## LOOKING FORWARD.....



### RECRUITMENT.....A bigger group of interns means.....more staff!

I am pleased to announce that our intern Ashley will be joining the team as a Supported Internship Mentor for academic year 21-22 on a part-time/fixed term contract. Ashley was one of 3 interns that applied for the role. Ashley is super excited about the opportunity to come back to college as a member of staff and support our next cohort of interns, he is looking forward to talking about his own experiences to encourage and motivate interns on programme. Ashley will also support the team by carrying out some administration duties and managing our intern job shop.

Also, we will be appointing a Senior Job Coach and an additional Job Coach to meet intern need for next academic year & further develop our service.



**Do you know an employer that could offer one of our interns an opportunity?**

**If so contact the team:**

Louise Pilter

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