

SUPPORTED INTERNSHIP ARTICLE

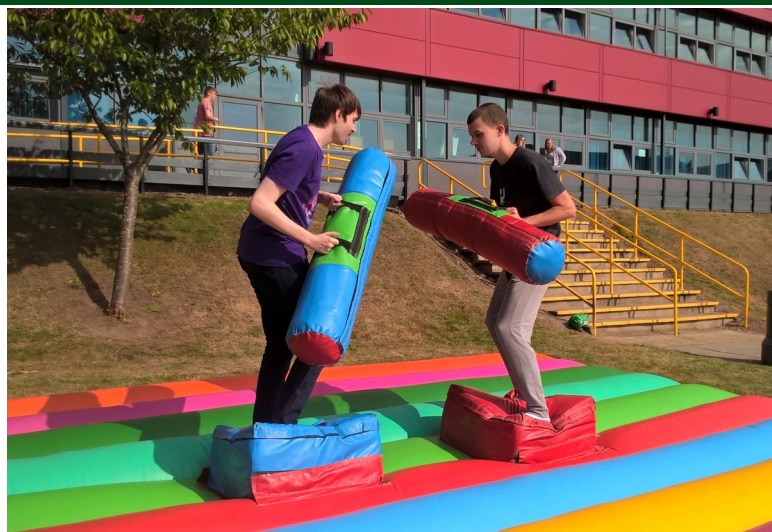


4th Edition April 2022

FUN IN THE SUN



Interns working together. There's no 'I' in team



Gladiators ready! Alex and Joe do battle on the podiums



Luke and Jonathan challenge each other to a bungee run



Joseph catching the waves on the wave simulator

Back in September our learners embarked on their Supported Internship journey with a two day induction. The whole campus was buzzing with excitement for the new academic year. The college put on a fun week of activities including food stalls, entertainment and more. Our learners loved every second, whether it was challenging each other to the bungee run, the surf board challenge or having their hair styled by our hairdressing students. All of our learners relished the opportunity and had copious amounts of fun.

IN THE PRESS—‘NCS’

Learning how to be model citizens

GROUPS of students at Vision West Nottinghamshire College celebrated their efforts at becoming active and responsible citizens through the National Citizen Service (NCS) scheme.

More than 30 learners who study on the Supported Internship Programme, Pathways to Employment Entry 3, and the Animal Care Entry 3 courses, received certificates signed by Prime Minister Boris Johnson at a presentation event at Portland College, Mansfield.

The teenagers were involved in the NCS scheme throughout



SOME of the students who completed the National Citizen Service scheme.

the autumn. It is designed to support young people in their transition to adulthood through residential projects and community-based activities.

The students took part in adrenaline-filled activities at Portland College-based Woodland Adventure zone, creative workshops designed to build lifeskills, and a social

project to improve animal care facilities at Portland.

West Nottinghamshire College supported internship team leader **Louise Pilter** said: “Everyone engaged so well. The project gave them a taste of different work activities, which enabled them to make informed choices of their future aspirations.”



WOODLAND ADVENTURE



Up for a challenge, the majority opted to push themselves outside of their comfort zones and try the 'leap of faith', abseiling & rock climbing. Bushcraft activities were also available.



SOCIAL ACTION PROJECT



All groups and individuals got involved in a range of job roles at Portland College, including animal care & maintenance to help improve the college site. All worked incredibly hard to complete physically demanding tasks whilst learning new transferable skills to take into upcoming work placements.



Nice to see Nathan B



It was lovely to see Nathan B attending West Nott's again! However, this time—not as a student but as an employee of County Battery. Nathan & Isaac Fuller (Operations Manager) were invited to the college to share their experiences of the Supported Internship programme with our new 2021/22 cohort, from an employer and intern perspective.

Nathan showed off his new found confidence of being able to speak publicly, led by Nathan he and Isaac presented to the class. Increased confidence and being able to communicate with others were just a few of Nathan's skills which he developed during his time on the programme last academic year, supported and encouraged by the team at County Battery.

The visit was a great experience for the new interns as they got to hear - first hand that the Supported Internship programme can lead to paid employment.

Nathan talked about how he had progressed and his personal journey from being a shy and unconfident young person to a mature, confident, humorous public speaker with a wealth of employability skills. Nathan stressed that this was not without dedication and hard work or.... "blood, sweat and tears", which Nathan made reference to! Nathan had to work incredibly hard and be driven to achieve all targets set by Isaac to enable him to gain employment with the company by the end of his placement.

Without the support from employers like County Battery, that are willing to take the time to invest in our programme, our interns would not be able to gain the valuable skills and experience required to gain paid employment.

Thank you to Nathan for your time and sharing your journey with us.



Mr.Barista

JAKE MAKES TOFFEE HUT FACEBOOK NEWS WITH HIS NEW FOUND BARISTA SKILLS!

Jake started his internship at Toffee Hut back in November. Since then Jake has learnt how to prepare a range of coffees, homemade milkshakes and hot chocolates. He also spends time in the kitchen making cakes & other sweet treats. Jake has also developed and demonstrated a high level of customer service, taking care and attention whilst working front of house. If you are planning a visit to Toffee Hut, speak to Jake before you go, he is keen to give recommendations for potential customers.



Remembrance Day



Above: Thomas wearing The Chelsea Guard Uniform.

Dressed impeccably for the occasion, Thomas showed great respect by wearing his Chelsea Guard Uniform. In honour of his grandad.

As the clock struck 11:00am on the 11th November 2021, the world fell silent to remember the fallen heroes of war. Learners and staff at WNC gathered in the Atrium to remember and pay tribute to the those that died in the line of duty.

In Flanders Fields

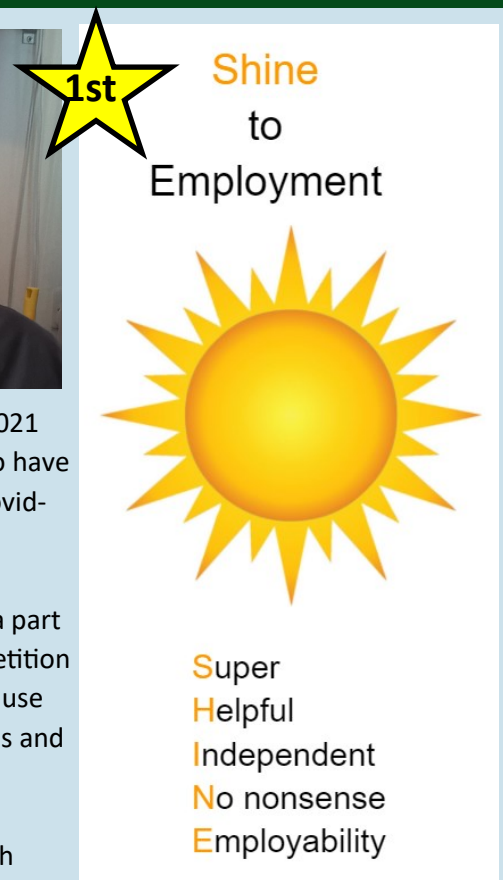
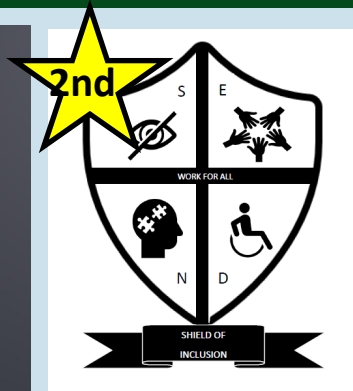
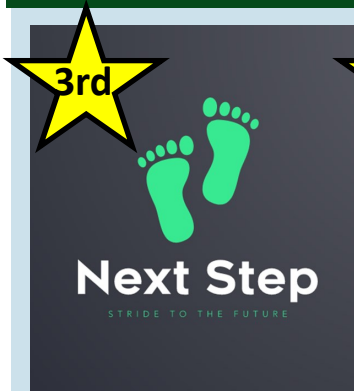
The poem by John McCrae

In Flanders' fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place: and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders' fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe;
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high,
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders' Fields.

Jess wins NCC Employability Branding Competition



Nottinghamshire County Council began our SEND Employability Project in April 2021 and as the project progressed it became increasingly apparent that we needed to have literature and information available to promote our work with young people, providers, employers and other partner services.

As our young people are at the heart of the work we do, we wanted them to be a part of the project, so we asked Vision West Nottinghamshire College to hold a competition for their learners to devise a SEND Employability brand for NCC, which we could use on Newsletters, information leaflets for routes into employment, email signatures and on Preparing For Adulthood Event literature and information.

We wanted the branding to reflect a positive aspiration for our young people with SEND to gain paid employment. There were some great entries and there are definitely some budding artists and creative designers within the college.

In December 2021 we were pleased to announce that Jessica Powell was the winner with her SHINE design. We are currently working with the NCC Communications and Marketing Team to complete the branding process before being able to use the design on our literature and promotional material.

It was great to work with the learners on this and wonderful to see the enthusiasm, effort and attention to detail that they put into their entries. A great demonstration of some of the skills needed to gain employment and a sign of bright futures ahead.

Julie Grummett— ICDS Senior Practitioner SEND Employability , NCC

Keep your eyes peeled for the new SEND Employability branding coming soon.

Fact File

- ◆ The disability employment rate was 52.7% in 2021, compared to 81.0% for non-disabled people.
- ◆ On average around 340,000 disabled workers move out of work each year and 380,000 workless disabled people move into work
- ◆ 1 in 5 of the working-age population are classed as disabled

.....OH YES THEY DID!!!

Mansfield
Palace
Theatre

SUPPORTING MANSFIELD PALACE THEATRE

You know Winter is upon us &

Christmas is fast approaching when it's Panto time at Mansfield Palace Theatre! This year it was extra special as the previous two years there were no performances and theatres were closed due to the pandemic...Boooo! Not only was it extra special that the theatres were back open, Sleeping Beauty was hitting the stage with the legendary Adam Moss back performing as Silly Billy.

Our interns had the opportunity to commence with their work placements with the theatre working as Welcome

Assistants. Interns spent their working days welcoming all of the theatre goers including many local schools to the panto. It was busy times for the interns showing people to their seats, providing excel-

lent customer service skills by helping the public with any questions or queries they may have had, but most importantly they had to make sure no one in the theatre was using their mobile phones and keeping the auditorium dark at all times by opening and closing the doors and curtains in a very special way. It was then a mad dash to get the auditorium cleared and cleaned ready for the next performance and the doors opening to do it all again!! Interns enjoyed meeting the cast and having an opportunity to watch the performances themselves.

Thank you to Mansfield Palace Theatre for providing this valuable work placement!



The top photo: Interns on a back stage tour. Left to right Drew, Jonathan, Sian (Manager from Palace Theatre), Charlie, Liam & Connor



Ellie looking smart and ready to welcome the theatre goers.



.....getting crafty at Mansfield Library



Some of our supported internship students were getting into the Christmas spirit and dressing up as elves, all in the aid of Home-start children's charity.

Home-start children's charity is in the heart of Mansfield providing much needed support to families as well as having a children's only charity shop selling everything a family could ever need for as little as 50p. Not only do Home Start support our local community but find themselves in need of help and support too, especially from volunteers.

So, that is where our students got involved. To show their help and support they helped facilitate a Christmas craft event to promote volunteering and bring families in the community together to enjoy some Christmas crafts. Our magical elves set up a variety of different crafting tables including: making Christmas cards, hand-painting Christmas decorations, jewellery making, Christmas puzzles, painting and making wreaths and garlands and many more.

Information tables were set up to showcase the charity and information about volunteering, including refreshments. It would not be a Christmas event without a mince pie!

Even with the unexpected snow on the day, the event turned out to be a success. Our students really enjoyed not only being able to offer their time and services to help the charity, they got to have a go at many of the different crafts available alongside the children. Seeing the smiles on the children's and families faces that came along was extremely rewarding. Well done to everyone involved!





TIME FOR TEA WITH MRS B

Jess is causing quite the stir

As part of our Supported Internship programme we ask local business to support us by giving our interns an opportunity to gain employability and independence skill in a range of industries. This year Tea with Mrs B provided us with an opportunity for one our interns to do just that.

Jessica started her internship back in November 2021 and has not looked back. She is getting to grips with the daily works of the business and is happy to try new experiences that are thrown at her. She has learnt the importance of cleanliness in the catering sector and has become a pro at folding the napkins for the cutlery. She is improving her eye for detail by dressing tables with bespoke themes at customer request. Jessica has grown in confidence and can now ask questions about her daily work routine. Jessica stated 'I have gained confidence, especially with taking orders and serving customers their food.'



Jessica has been pushed out of her comfort zone, especially around serving customers but her confidence is growing and she will continue to gain valuable employment skills.

Tea with Mrs B owner Chloe is full of praise for Jessica; *'Jessica has had a fantastic start at Tea with Mrs B, she is polite, well-mannered and works well within the team. She has become more confident in her daily routines and needs less direction to her tasks. She is engaging in more conversations with both customers and staff members and these are tending to last longer than they were.'*



Christmas with Micky and Minnie

Q&A with Jessica

Q. What is your favourite table theme?

A. They are all amazing

Q. What is your favourite part of job?

A. The staff, there all there to help me if I need it and setting all the themed tables.

Q. What is the best cake you have tasted while at Tea with Mrs B?

A. Chocolate Orange



Anyone for an Aladdin Theme?

TRAVEL TRAINING



Jake (left) has enjoyed the freedom of being able to travel from college to Mansfield town centre & now completes his journey independently. Jake will be taking the next step after the holidays, travelling from home to work placement. Jake is eager to progress & has already completed his journey plans.

Liam (far right) Started travel training in September. Liam was extremely nervous but quickly overcome his anxieties. Liam now travels towards Nottingham for his work placement and enjoys the journey, particularly people watching.



Drew (right) embraces every opportunity to develop his independence & employability skills. Drew now travels independently to work 3-4 times per week, also volunteers to work extra in the holidays.



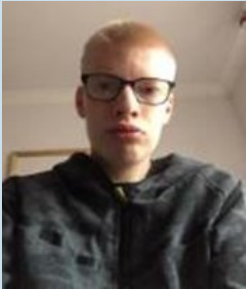
Ellie (left) lacked self-belief and thought she would never be able to travel independently. Ellie built her confidence very quickly and was able to travel independently in a matter of weeks.

Jess (right) travels independently to work placement and uses her new found skills to visit friends and family in her spare time.



EMPLOYEE OF THE WEEK

Every week, one student is crowned 'Employee of the Week'. Keep a look out for our next edition for more employee's of the week and 'Employee of the Term'



**13th September
DREW**

Professionalism, dressing appropriately for work, 100% attendance & displaying a high level of engagement with all lessons.



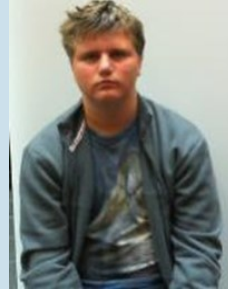
**27th September
CHARLIE**

Improved punctuality, 100% attendance, showing motivation & enthusiasm in job searching.



**4th October
JAKE E**

Demonstrating professionalism, a positive attitude when visiting an employer & being able to communicate effectively.



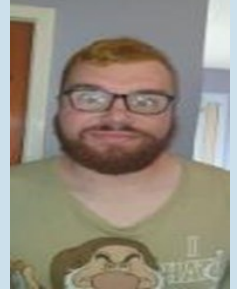
**11th October
LIAM**

*Improving his independence
Becoming an independent traveler & being able to adapt to new routines.*



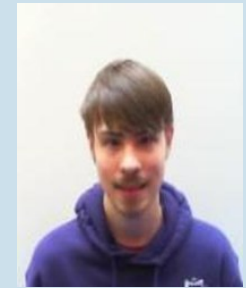
**18th October
JOSEPH**

Challenging himself & working extremely hard on the NCS project. Improved social interaction & communication with others.



**1st November
JONATHAN**

Developed independence at college & efforts to undertake work based tasks to help the team.



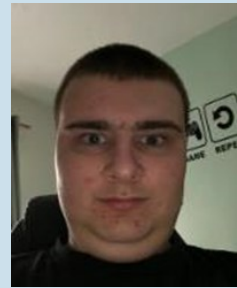
**8th November
ALEX**

Increased motivation to learn time & developed confidence



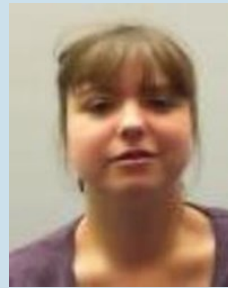
**15th November
THOMAS**

Working extremely hard & enthusiasm displayed in his first week at work placement.



**22nd November
JAKE**

Developed attitude towards the world of work. Building of work relationships & progression towards independent travel.



**29th November
JESSICA**

Developed independence, becoming an independent traveller & developed customer service skills.



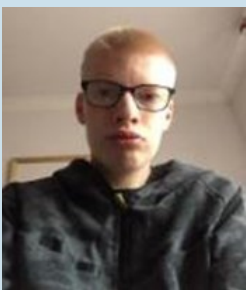
**6th December
ELLIE**

Developed resilience to change. Confidence & motivation at work placement. Independent travel.



**13th December
JOSH**

Going the extra mile to support in placement to deliver services to the community



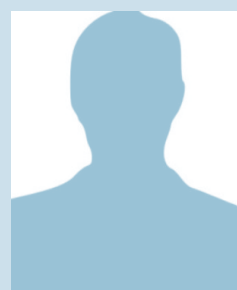
**3rd January
DREW**

Going the extra mile to work additional hours over the Christmas period



**10th January
ARTHUR**

Developed team work skills & progression towards independent travel



**17th January
HARRY**

Improved attendance & motivation towards employment



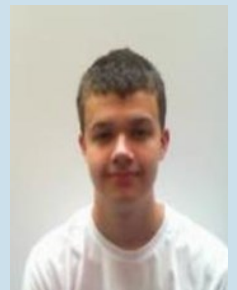
**24th January
ALEX**

Developed independence & communication skills



**31st January
JOSH**

Continued support & loyalty to Home Start



**7th February
JOSEPH**

Developed confidence & communication skills at work

Keep a look out for more in our next edition , including 'Employee of the Term'!

STUDENT MENTOR

Remember Jordan?

Jordan was enrolled onto our programme last year and joined us for academic 21-22 as an employee. Jordan supports the learners in the classroom and completes some administrative duties including managing our online Job Shop. We asked Jordan how he was progressing in his role.

"Since starting as the Supported Internship Mentor it has been an amazing experience for me, being part of the college as a staff member and taking the next step from being a student of 5 years. I studied the Supported Internship course for two years and now I am part of this fantastic team".

"I have developed and built on my employability skills since taking on the role, such as being able to answer the office phone, independence and I have kept the Job Shop up to date with relevant jobs for this years student's. I have been able to support students in the classroom and offer my experience of my time on the programme.

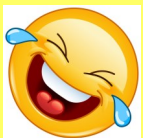
"I would personally like to thank all the staff members that are part of this team for having me this year. I am really enjoying my time doing this job and being part of the college team as a staff member."



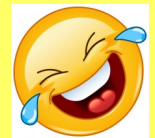
The winners are:

**Jonathan
Drew
Liam**

Well done for coming into college every day since Sept



Jokes to brighten up your day!



I became an archaeologist

Before long, my career was in ruins.

I tried to spend this summer making orange juice

I had to stop the job because I couldn't concentrate.

I just lost my job as a psychic

I did not see that coming.

WELCOME TO THE TEAM!



NEW RECRUITS JOINED US IN FEBRUARY

Andrea (left), Aaron (right)

Both have a wealth of experience and knowledge supporting young people with SEN in the education sector.



NEW FOR 2022-2023



DFN
Project | SEARCH

Project SEARCH is an international transition to work programme committed to transforming the lives of young people with learning disabilities and autism.

As a college we are excited to be getting involved in Project Search at Kings Mill Hospital starting September 2022. We will be working hard over the next few months to recruit talented young people to fill job roles & staff to facilitate the programme.

We will also continue to run and develop our current programme based at West Nottinghamshire College, Derby Road.

LOOK OUT FOR OUR NEXT EDITION IN JUNE FOR MORE NEWS

THANK YOU

TO ALL OF OUR CURRENT EMPLOYERS
THAT ARE CONTINUING TO SUPPORT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE ON
THEIR JOURNEY INTO EMPLOYMENT!



West Notts are 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

Louise.pilter@wnc.ac.uk

01623 900283

07484506634