



PRESTON
COLLEGE

FOUNDATION LEARNING


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Provider

www.preston.ac.uk

FOUNDATION LEARNING

Foundation Learning courses are available to learners with Education Health Care Plans and special educational needs.

Our courses aim to ensure that learners work to achieve targets in areas of vocational/academic learning, employment or social outcomes, and become as independent as possible. Courses usually last up to three years, with learners typically attending college for three days a week, however this can vary as courses are bespoke and tailored for every individual.

Our transition team will meet with you to discuss and assess support needs before enrolment. We can attend high school annual Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) reviews, organise taster sessions, liaise with external agencies and provide support with applications and interviews.

There is no entry test for Foundation Learning.

Preston College operates an integrated cross-college approach to Foundation Learning with all staff working together to deliver tailored high-quality education for learners of all abilities.

We are ambitious for our learners and set challenging targets to support them in achieving their full potential.

The curriculum comprises bespoke learning programmes based on an initial assessment which identifies previous achievements and creates a support package to aid educational, personal and social development.

Learners also leave with a sense of their role and contribution to the local community and wider society.



TASTER DAYS

Preston College regularly runs taster sessions so you can come and experience what it would be like to study your chosen subject and sample college life.

To find out more about taster days email the transition team on transition@preston.ac.uk





CREATIVE MEDIA FOUNDATION SKILLS LEARNERS WIN WORLDSKILLS FINAL!

Sean and Tysha, both studying on the Foundation Art, Design and Media programme at Preston College, reached the WorldSkills UK final in 2022 and won a gold medal in Creative Media.

Successfully progressing through the online qualifiers and semi-finals, Sean and Tysha re-designed and marketed a chocolate bar, and were the only two competitors from the College to reach the grand finals.

Fiona Birtchet-Sharpe, Head of School and WorldSkills UK Project Lead at Preston College commented:

“Reaching the final of the WorldSkills UK competition is a brilliant achievement for our learners. To have their work, skills and commitment recognised, alongside the opportunity to compete on a national stage is a unique opportunity, which really adds value to their continued learning.

As a provider, we are proud to be working with the WorldSkills UK Centre of Excellence to enhance our teaching and innovation and provide our learners with high quality technical skills and exposure to real-life work environments.”



VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

INTRODUCTION TO CREATIVE ARTS & WELLBEING
Entry 2

ART, DESIGN & MEDIA
Entry 3, Level 1,
Foundation Level 2

PERFORMING ARTS
Entry 3, Level 1,
Foundation Level 2

Progression opportunities may include:

- Employment - paid or voluntary work
- A supported internship, e.g. DFN Project Search (page 20)
- Improved social outcomes, such as independent living
- Further vocational study at Level 2



FOUNDATION LEARNING **SCHOOL OF**

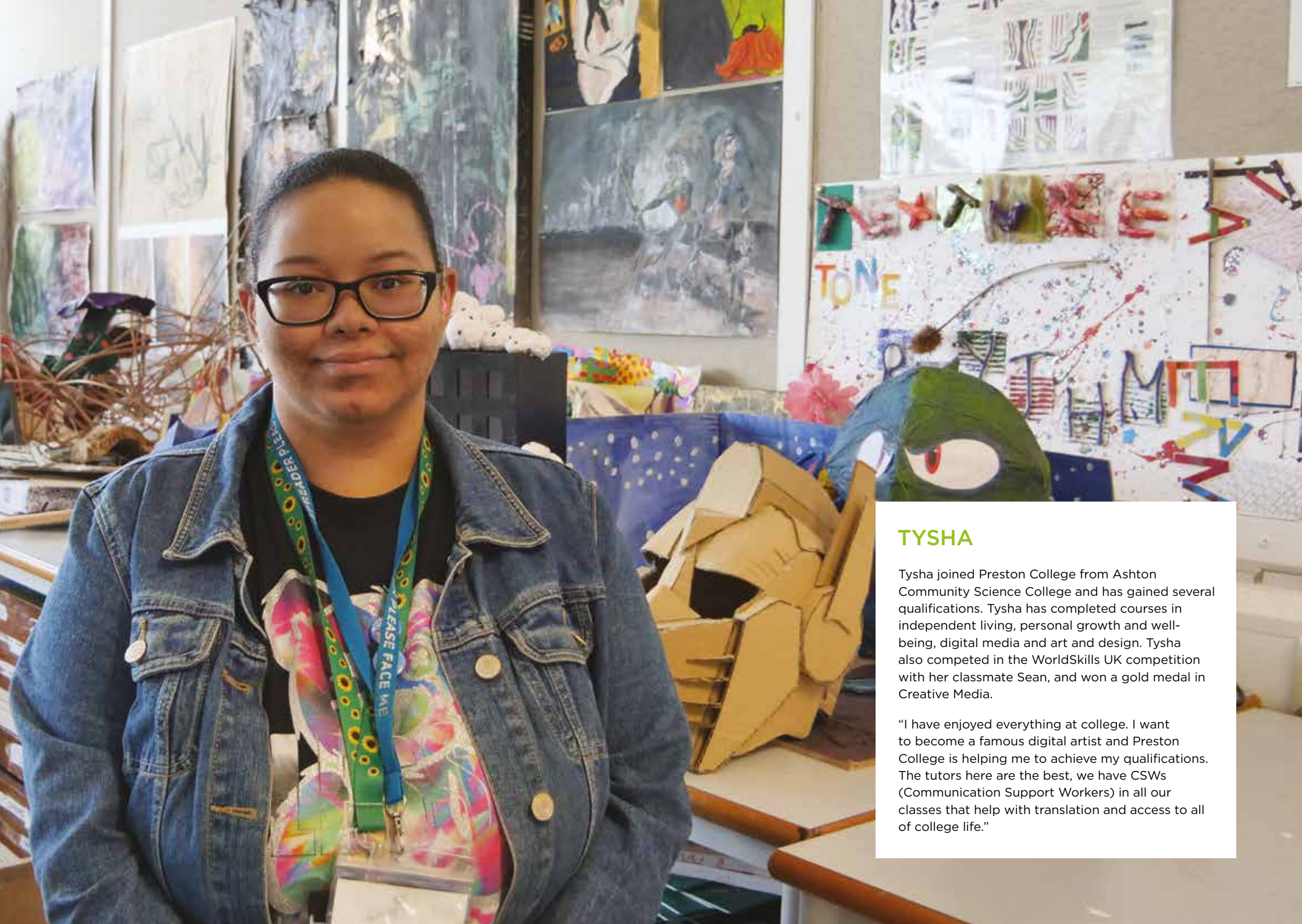
An exciting and dynamic programme which will help to build confidence and communication skills, and provide options for further study or progression into employment or supported internship.

Preston College runs inclusive shows and there are opportunities to take part in trips and events including residential trips to London and New York.

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

Learners take part in a range of activities including:

- Practical sessions
- Classroom sessions
- Educational trips and visits
- Work related activities
- Enrichment programme



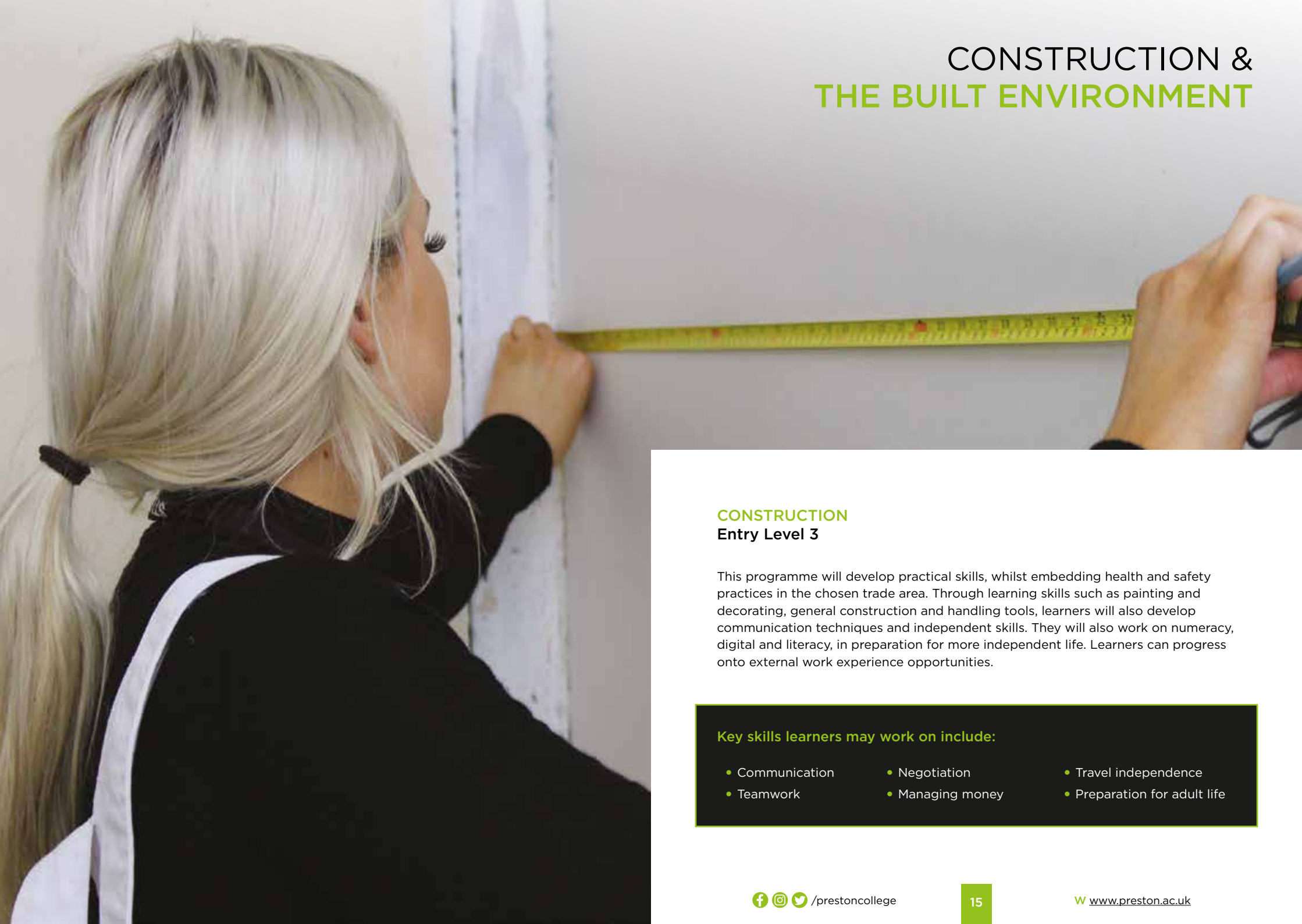
TYSHA

Tysha joined Preston College from Ashton Community Science College and has gained several qualifications. Tysha has completed courses in independent living, personal growth and well-being, digital media and art and design. Tysha also competed in the WorldSkills UK competition with her classmate Sean, and won a gold medal in Creative Media.

"I have enjoyed everything at college. I want to become a famous digital artist and Preston College is helping me to achieve my qualifications. The tutors here are the best, we have CSWs (Communication Support Workers) in all our classes that help with translation and access to all of college life."



CONSTRUCTION & THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT



CONSTRUCTION

Entry Level 3

This programme will develop practical skills, whilst embedding health and safety practices in the chosen trade area. Through learning skills such as painting and decorating, general construction and handling tools, learners will also develop communication techniques and independent skills. They will also work on numeracy, digital and literacy, in preparation for more independent life. Learners can progress onto external work experience opportunities.

Key skills learners may work on include:

- Communication
- Teamwork
- Negotiation
- Managing money
- Travel independence
- Preparation for adult life



DANIEL

Daniel joined Preston College from Sir Tom Finney High School and has been studying employability, independent living and construction with a focus on painting and decorating. Daniel is going to progress to the Level 2 in Painting & Decorating qualification and develop his skills further.

Daniel says: "The staff are caring and support me. The lessons are interesting. I have enjoyed my time here and would recommend it."



MICHAEL

Michael joined Preston College from Sir Tom Finney High School and has studied health and wellbeing and developing construction skills. Michael is progressing into the Project Search Supported Internship Programme at Lancashire County Council.

Michael says: "At the beginning (of my course) I was shy but with the help and support of my tutors I have come on leaps and bounds. I have completed work experience at a school and I want to become a painter and decorator."



CREATING SKILLS FOR LIFE

As well as progression into further study or employment, for some young people progress is measured in more holistic terms. This reflects their abilities and needs which may result in an enhancement of existing skills which add to their overall quality of life and independence.

Learners are reviewed regularly to ensure their progress is on track to achieve their goals, and they can enter or leave the programme at any point according to their individual aspirations and needs.

The programme may involve:

- Practical sessions
- Classroom teaching
- Educational trips and visits
- Work-related activities
- Enrichment programme

Examples of enrichment include performing arts learners undertaking classes led by stars of *Pretty Woman on Broadway* in New York, a London residential, work experience with Hallmark Hotels and a visit to an alpaca farm. Learner success is celebrated with an annual prom.

INDEPENDENT LIVING SPACE

The College has a dedicated independent living skills space for our Foundation Learning students. This is located next door to the existing fully adapted sensory kitchen, which learners also have access to.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A FOUNDATION LEARNER

Here is a typical day for Foundation Learning students at Preston College, involving a wide range of learning activities over four periods.

9.00 - 9.15 ARRIVE AT COLLEGE

Learning support staff meet and greet the learners from their transport, and then assemble in the atrium. Learners are escorted to their lessons.

9.15 - 10.45 PERIOD 1

Vocational subject session supported in class by SEND staff.

10.45 - 10.55 BREAK/MOVEMENT TIME

Accompanied by SEND staff.

10.55 - 12.10 PERIOD 2

Vocational subject session supported in class by SEND staff.

12.10 - 13.10 LUNCH BREAK

Foundation Learning students go for lunch 15 minutes before the rest of college to avoid queues. Learners have a designated room for lunch time which is supervised by SEND staff. There is also the option to go to the Food Court.

13.10 - 14.40 PERIOD 3

Vocational subject session supported in class by SEND staff.

14.40 - 14.50 BREAK/MOVEMENT TIME

Accompanied by SEND staff.

14.50 - 16.20 PERIOD 4

Vocational subject session supported in class by SEND staff.

16.20 DEPART COLLEGE

SEND staff see learners to their transport home.

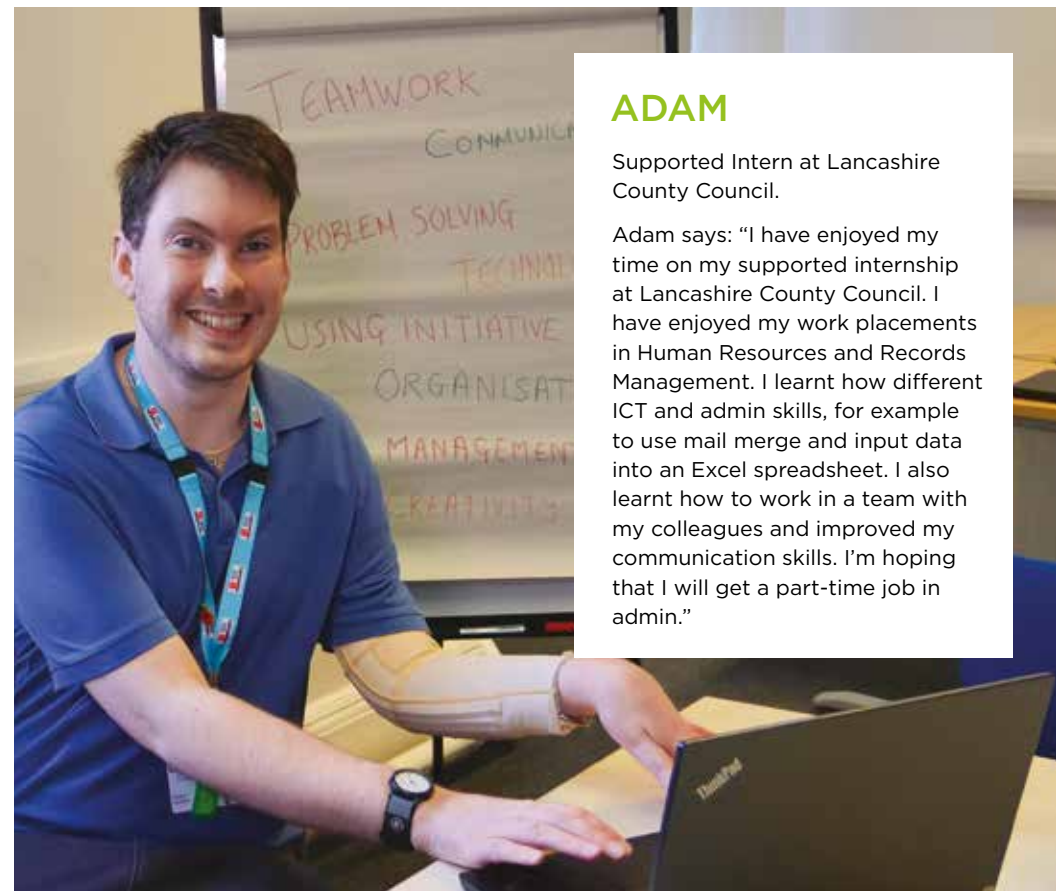
SUPPORTED INTERNSHIP

DFN PROJECT SEARCH

The Supported Internship is an academic year-long programme designed for young people aged 18-25 with an Education, Health and Care Plan, transitioning from education to paid employment. DFN Project SEARCH is a collaboration between Preston College, Hft and our employers Lancashire County Council and Lancashire Constabulary.

The goal for each intern is to gain paid employment of 16+ hours a week. To reach that goal, the programme provides real-life work experience placements, typically around four days a week, within Lancashire County Council or Lancashire Constabulary. This is combined with onsite daily classroom sessions in employability and independent living skills, to help young people with learning disabilities and autism spectrum conditions make successful transitions to a productive adult life.

Through completing a series of three targeted internships, each intern will acquire competitive, marketable and transferable skills to enable them to apply for a related post. They will also build communication, teamwork, and problem-solving skills which are important to their overall development as a new worker.



ADAM

Supported Intern at Lancashire County Council.

Adam says: "I have enjoyed my time on my supported internship at Lancashire County Council. I have enjoyed my work placements in Human Resources and Records Management. I learnt how different ICT and admin skills, for example to use mail merge and input data into an Excel spreadsheet. I also learnt how to work in a team with my colleagues and improved my communication skills. I'm hoping that I will get a part-time job in admin."

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN INTERN

Here is what a typical day of an intern looks like on the Supported Internship based at Lancashire County Council.

9.00 - 10.00 CLASSROOM

Interns arrive to the classroom which is based on site at County Hall. Here interns are taught employability skills, spend time creating and building CV's,

cover letters and practicing interview techniques.

10.00 - 12 noon PLACEMENT

Placement begins and interns arrive ready to work. Interns experience real-life work and learn new transferrable skills. These skills are built on progressively throughout the year.

12 noon - 13.00 LUNCH BREAK

County Hall has a canteen and there are plenty of 'breakout' rooms where interns can have their own lunch. There's also a large choice of places to buy food in the City Centre.

13.00 - 15.30 PLACEMENT

Return to placement

15.30 - 16.00 CLASSROOM

Return to classroom to reflect on the day and share experiences with fellow peers.

16.00 HOME

Interns to access public transport home.

PRESTON COLLEGE

TRANSITION TEAM

To discuss your support needs further please contact us:

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