

September
2020



Our Story

Nikki's Column

Together Again

After what seems to have been an eternity, on Monday 7th September we were delighted to welcome students back to our Centre's. We were greeted with happy faces and big smiles.

The first stage of our phased return started at the beginning of August, with staff returning to site one day a week. The first week of September saw them return full time, working to ensure our rooms were as safe as possible for our students and staff to be together.

Naturally there was some apprehension around our return for both students and staff. However, the process went far smoother than we could have imagined, with students adjusting to our new ways of working extremely well. This is a credit to them and to those who have worked with them in their home environment preparing them for the changes they would face.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all our staff for the manner in which they have worked alongside us through this period, and for their patience during the difficult and understandably worrying period of lock-down.

Also a thank you to the team of staff who contributed to the success of the online sessions we have run since lock-down. From the feedback we have received, their hard work and creativity was integral in helping many students, parents and carers through an extremely difficult period and is greatly appreciated.

I am pleased to say that we continue to run two online sessions a day. Whilst these are targeted at students who are not in each day, students at the centre are regularly joining in and participating. This in itself creates a feeling of being together again and helping to maintain student and staff relationships.

After such a difficult period it has been great to welcome the students back. There is still a slightly strange feel to the place due to running at half capacity and social distancing. But I am sure we will all adapt as time passes.

There may be difficult times ahead, but having reached this point gives us positivity towards a full return when safe to do so. In the mean time we will continue to work within the guidelines provided and make changes when required, to ensure everyone on our sites remains as Covid-19 secure as we can.

Nikki Marley,
Chief Executive Officer

New Print Room Open

We are pleased to announce that our new print room is now open to students.

The building, completed during our closure due to the Covid pandemic, is situated between the pond and sensory garden at the Vineyard. As well providing a quiet space for our print sessions there is also a small office space incorporated into the building, making it multi-purpose.



Our new print room and office

Our decision to have the new print room built was driven by our desire to have the students in the session back on the Vineyard site. This means the students, who previously attended print in a room on the business park across from the Vineyard, will no longer have to cross the busy main road and are better located for any required personal support.

We were also in need of further office space at the Vineyard for small meetings, and somewhere for students to go where it is quiet if they are unwell or anxious. It will also provide a space for us to conduct student reviews.

Funding for the project was obtained through running a series of fund raising evenings and the very kind and greatly appreciated donations from our supporters.

To ensure that we are able to maximise the capacity of the room, the storage cupboards have been designed so that the workspace is optimised for students.



Students at work in the new print room

Having the building located by the Sensory Garden and the Pond gives students the opportunity to work and take their lunches, in a quiet outside environment when the weather is suitable.



vineyard
farm shop

Now serving food to outside tables
Opening Hours
Monday -Saturday 9am - 4pm



vineyard
garden centre

Monday -Friday 11am - 3pm
Saturday 10am - 4pm



VINEYARD
LOGS
kentlogsales.co.uk
01227 831052
Delivery and stacking service
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Meet The Online Students

Lucy A



My name is Lucy Appleton, I was Born on 8th October 1965 at Epsom hospital, my family lived in Epsom downs in oaks way. I lived at home till I was 24 years old. My parents were called Mary and Robert, I have a sister called Claire and a brother called Dominic. I am the youngest in my family. My mum and my dad have both died now, I miss them so much.

I moved to Greenbanks on 4th December 1989. I have lived here for 31 years now. I am good friends with Elizabeth. My other good friends are Diana from Bridge house and Luisa from valley House.

I like watching TV and music, my favourite rock group is Bon Jovi, I like musical Memphis The Musical and Toxic Avenger as I met David Bryan the keyboard player from Bon Jovi fame, as he wrote the songs to these two musicals.

I love going to watch musical Theatre, going shopping, going out for a meal and going to watch films at the cinema. I also like going on my laptop, iPad and my mobile phone. I like doing special Olympics for people with a learning disability, I like playing basketball.

I like going to the work centre as I like sewing in Penny's craft room. I like going in the media room with Ern and going to the tea shop with Elizabeth and making my famous fruit and cheese scones, making cakes and serving customers their meals. I have been working in the tea shop with Diana for 25 years now .

I missed doing all this, as we have been in lock-down since March 2020 as Covid-19 hit the whole world. I miss seeing my old friends and my new friends at the work centre and the vineyard.

Thank you to Ern for starting the zoom sessions, as I was worried about how my friends were coping in lock-down, the zoom sessions has been a lifesaver to us with a learning disability trying to cope in these hard times. So thank you to Penny and all the work centre staff for doing zoom sessions. It meant a lot to me to keep in touch with my friends, I miss you all so much.

As my Auntie died of this terrible Covid-19 virus in April, I was very upset, I've been feeling very down. The zoom meetings helped me cope with all this going on in our world.

We have been in lock-down for 6 months now. I do not like lock-down as I have not seen my sister or brother since December 2019. I can't wait to see them on my birthday!!!! As I miss them both. I miss going to London to stay with my brother and my sister. I do keep in touch with them ,but I want to give them a big hug and I can't wait to hug my friends.

Thank you again for the zoom sessions. I like penny's story time, Dom and Tom's disco and the chat room, as that's were I made new friends like Sam, Leah, Jamie and Jenny.

Jamie wins 1st Prize

Student Jamie C used the lock-down period to become the winner of an art competition.

At the start of the lock-down Jamie's sister-in-law Scarlett brought him a large painting by numbers of a Lion to help him stay focused and occupied. Despite the fact he loves art he had never undertaken a painting by number project before, let alone one this size.

But Jamie's commitment and dedication meant that he persevered and did eventually complete the piece.

Following its completion Jamie entered his work in the competition which was run by East Kent Mencap. To his delight it was chosen from the other entries as one of two overall winners.



Jamie's Lion taking pride of place on his old bedroom wall.

Jamie's mum Sue told us, " It looked very complicated to me but he took it on. He struggled at first with the delicate areas but overcame them with such patience. It took a number of weeks but it was a great distraction from what was happening during lock-down, we are so proud of him".

All at The Trust would like to congratulate Jamie on his success and we think his picture is truly stunning.

During the latter part of Lock-down Jamie was able to move into his new room. He had been very patient waiting to do so as Lock-down had delayed it's completion. He has hung a lot of his art work on his walls. So much so that he has had to hang his lion in his old bedroom

If you would like to see Jamie's winning entry and other entries to the East Kent Mencap art competition please visit <https://www.eastkentmencap.co.uk/news/east-kent-mencap-art-gallery/>



Jamie in his new room displaying his artwork.