



National Star

Realising the aspirations
of people with disabilities



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National Star in Wales
Create your brighter future

Welcome to National Star in Wales

We're here to help you create your brighter future for adult life. Whether you want to engage more with the world around you, actively contribute to the community, gain a job or voluntary role after college, or live more independently, National Star in Wales is the place for you.

At our small and friendly specialist day college for students aged 16 to 25 years old with physical and / or learning disabilities, you can learn the skills you need to live as independently as possible when you leave college.

We celebrate the diversity of all learners at National Star in Wales, who all bring something vibrant and unique to college. Our young people have a range of support needs and our personalised approach to learning, ensures that you will fit right in at our college at National Star in Wales.





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Discover your future

We are passionate about preparing students with a range of learning needs and physical disabilities to become active citizens in their adult lives.

Our small student numbers mean that we really get to know you and develop an individualised curriculum, to support you to meet your aspirations.



This prospectus can only go so far in capturing the unique essence of our welcoming and inclusive college. Come for a visit, meet our team and current students and decide whether you would like to learn with us.

Joanne Kingsbury-Elia

Joanne Kingsbury-Elia
Director of Learning and Support

Your time is now

There's only one you. We invest time in getting to know your plans for the future so that we understand what you need to learn to achieve your aspirations.

This starts from the day we meet you and your parents and carers for the first time. With your permission we'll also contact your current school and healthcare professionals to ask them to provide information about you and your needs.

During an assessment visit we'll begin to better understand your interests, current skills and areas for development. It will give us an opportunity to understand you as a person, as well as your personal care and therapy needs. We also begin to work out whether you might need any specialist equipment or technological or emotional support to achieve your goals.

“Staff helped us as parents adjust to letting our son go off to a new environment. The staff were exceptional with us as a family. Their patience and understanding with our questions and worries about this very big change in our son's life were extremely important and appreciated. The result of this has been a relaxed, happy and settled start to college life. He loves college and this means the world to us.”

James' mum, Julie



“The tutors and facilitators support learners successfully to reach their individual targets. Careful planning and support arrangements meet pupils’ learning, emotional and health needs.”

**Estyn* monitoring report
feedback, April 2020**

*Her Majesty’s Inspectorate for
Education and Training in Wales

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Our staff are what makes us different

Many of our staff are leaders in their field, who work together as part of multi-disciplinary teams to support students to achieve.

All our teams are committed to working together to help you realise and meet your aspirations. Student achievements are all different and celebrated equally.

For some students, learning to be independent and make decisions for the first time is liberating and life-changing. For others, gaining work and communication skills in preparation for the world of work is their goal while at National Star in Wales.

Therapy at National Star in Wales plays a major part in the social, emotional, behavioural and physical wellbeing of young people, so students engage with learning and can be more independent in later life.

Many students have the need for specific therapies outlined in their S140 Learning Skills Plan (applicants who are 16+ will have an Individual Development Plan) and in addition, families often choose to fund private therapy support for their sons and daughters.

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“The staff are wonderful. For me, that’s the best thing about National Star College. They got to know Leah really well, really very quickly and they catered for her individually. They work with her at her pace and it brings out the best in her.”

Leah’s mum, Edwina

Available therapy programmes:

- Emotional wellbeing support
- Occupational therapy
- Physiotherapy
- Positive behaviour support
- Posture management
- Respiratory support and management
- Sensory integration
- Speech and language therapy



Flexible and responsive learning

Our approach to learning is to be flexible and creative so that programmes are tailored to meet the individual needs of each student.



“It’s so difficult when you have got to make choices and decisions for your son or daughter when they can’t make them themselves. We visited a few colleges for Alex but as soon as I walked into National Star in Wales I knew it was the right place for him.”

Alex’s mum, Karen

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Learning sessions can include:

- Art
- Animation
- Cooking
- Customer service
- Dance
- Designing and delivering presentations
- Digital communication
- Digital photography
- Drama
- Horticulture
- Literacy
- Music
- Numeracy
- Photography
- Sensory storytelling
- Sport
- Welsh culture and language

These activities are the means for students to learn life skills as broad ranging as improving communication, enhancing numeracy, developing teamwork, managing behaviour and making choices and decisions.





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Delivering results, achieving outcomes

National Star is all about what makes a difference and we are continuously looking at how we can improve what we do for students.

Although we provide students with the opportunity to study towards formal qualifications, that is not the only way we measure students' achievements and outcomes.

One student may feel very proud of acting as a visitor guide in a local museum, using their communication device to provide more information about exhibits to visitors. Another will have spent a whole term learning how to prepare basic meals, remembering important food hygiene and health and safety rules when working in a kitchen environment.



Securing college funding can take time. That's why we recommend students start thinking about their transition to college in Year 11. Book your visit to National Star by contacting admissions@nationalstar.org

Ask us about the former student who had the confidence and communication skills to volunteer for a local community radio station or the student who taught her entire road to use Makaton during the pandemic. Our annual Eisteddfod sees students working as a team to put on a memorable theatre show, performing in front of family and friends for the first time. There are countless other examples of students exceeding their own expectations, as well as those of their parents and carers, thanks to their time at National Star in Wales.



“I am glad our son is at National Star in Wales because he wouldn't be the young man he is today with his speech and communication. His independence has been the biggest change as he is now making cups of tea and cooking basic meals with less support than he did before.”

Dewi's mum

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Support for your onward journey

We know we can play a key role in you living your life to the full as the things you will learn at National Star in Wales will help you prepare for your future.

After studying with us it can be exciting and challenging to consider your next options. A dedicated member of staff will work with you, and others who are important in your life, to establish your transition plan.



You may decide to make the most of some of National Star's other services when you leave. We currently have accessible and fully adapted long-term accommodation in Gloucestershire and Herefordshire and have plans to open similar facilities in Wales. We also offer respite and ongoing private therapies too.

We make an effort to keep in touch with former students and stage events throughout the year to give you the opportunity to reconnect with your college friends.

Book your visit to National Star in Wales today and begin your journey towards independence



Come and visit

If you are exploring the possibility of a residential college for your son or daughter, consider our sister college in Gloucestershire. Less than 90 minutes from Cardiff, National Star at Ullenwood accommodates around 100 learners aged 18 to 25 years old. We already have a number of Welsh learners who are studying with us at Ullenwood.

You may also be excited to hear that we are currently exploring the possibility of opening our first long-term living provision for young people with complex disabilities in Wales.



To find out more about this, or to book a tour of our Mamhilad site, email jhaile@nationalstar.org or telephone **01242 339967 / 07866 118001.**

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National Star is a working name of National Star Foundation which is registered in England and Wales, company number 00522846, charity number 220239.

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