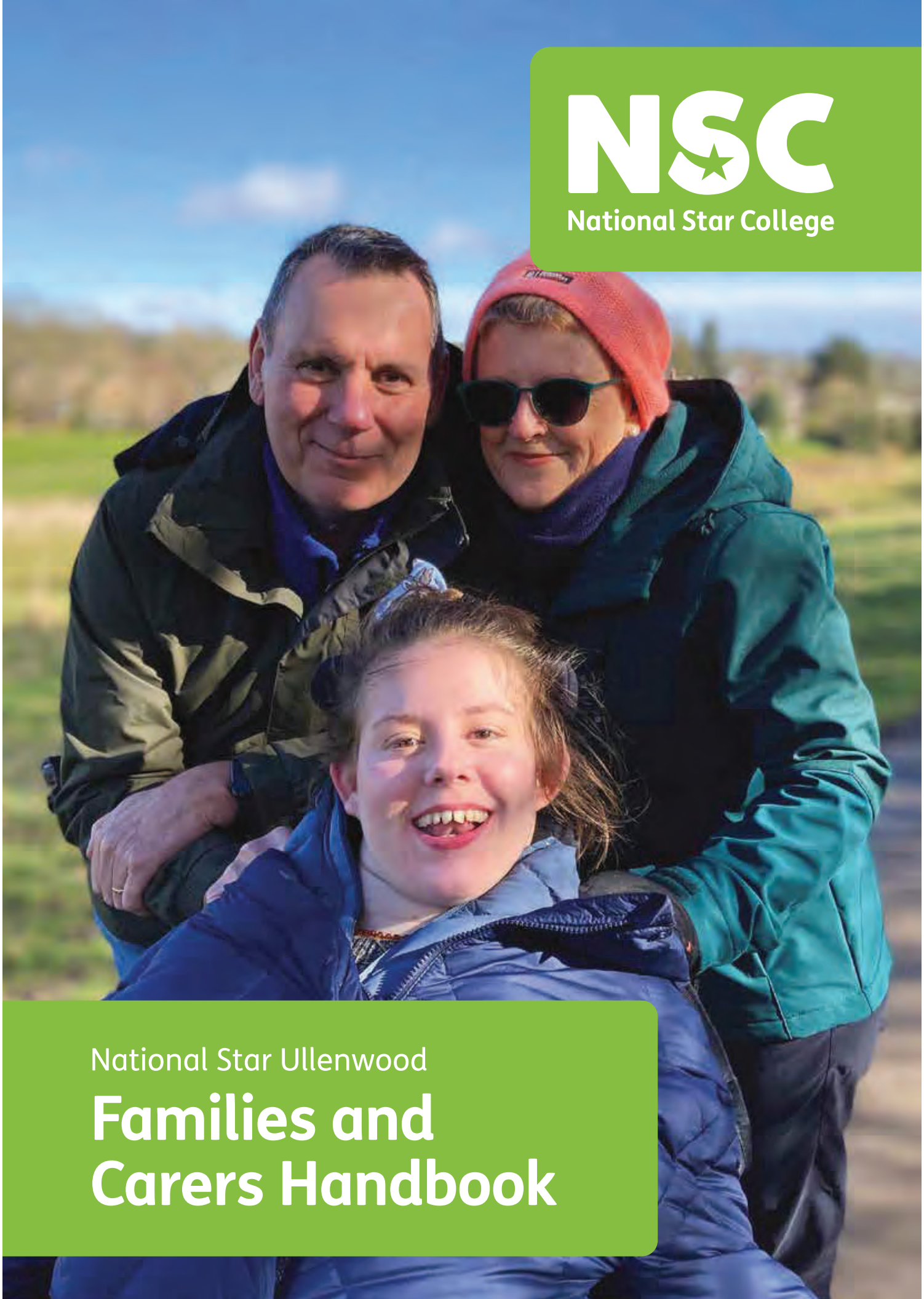

National Star College

National Star Ullenwood

Families and Carers Handbook

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TOTUM card (formerly NUS extra)



You can buy a TOTUM card for £14.99. This makes some things cheaper when you are shopping.

For more details ask your learner journey coordinator or visit www.nus.org.uk/en/nus-extra.



National Star College

Welcome

Hello!

To all families and carers of first–year learners I want to welcome you to National Star, and specifically to National Star Ullenwood. I am confident your young person will enjoy their time with us, achieve many great things and make lots of new friends. And to those who are returning, welcome back and well done on all of the great progress you made last year.

Starting a new college, and indeed returning after such a long holiday, can be a daunting experience for young people and likewise families and carers. However, there are a lot of people here to support. During your first week, you will meet many new people, including our learner journey coordinators, tutors, residential managers, therapists and learning support, all of whom you can go to if you have any worries or would like to ask any questions.

We want you to help us continue to make sure that National Star is a great place to live and learn. I look forward to meeting you all, and to seeing your young people progress, have fun and enjoy being a National Star learner.

Thank you for joining National Star.

Kingsbury-Elia

Joanne Kingsbury–Elia
Principal and Director of Learning Programmes

About National Star

Mission

To realise the aspirations of people with disabilities through learning, living and support services.

Vision

For a world in which people with disabilities are able to realise their potential as equal and active citizens in control of their own lives.

Values











The Leadership Team





Communication Pathways

At National Star, we work as one and strive for positive partnerships with everyone.

Our core values help us achieve this:

Respect (Listening and understanding each other)

We respect one another as everyone has something valuable to contribute, whether it is knowledge, skill, expertise, or experience. Valuing each other brings positive outcomes for all.

Integrity (Open and honest)

We are open and honest, and we acknowledge when things don't always go as planned. Learning from our mistakes and being transparent about our feelings, in a respectful way, leads to positive outcomes.



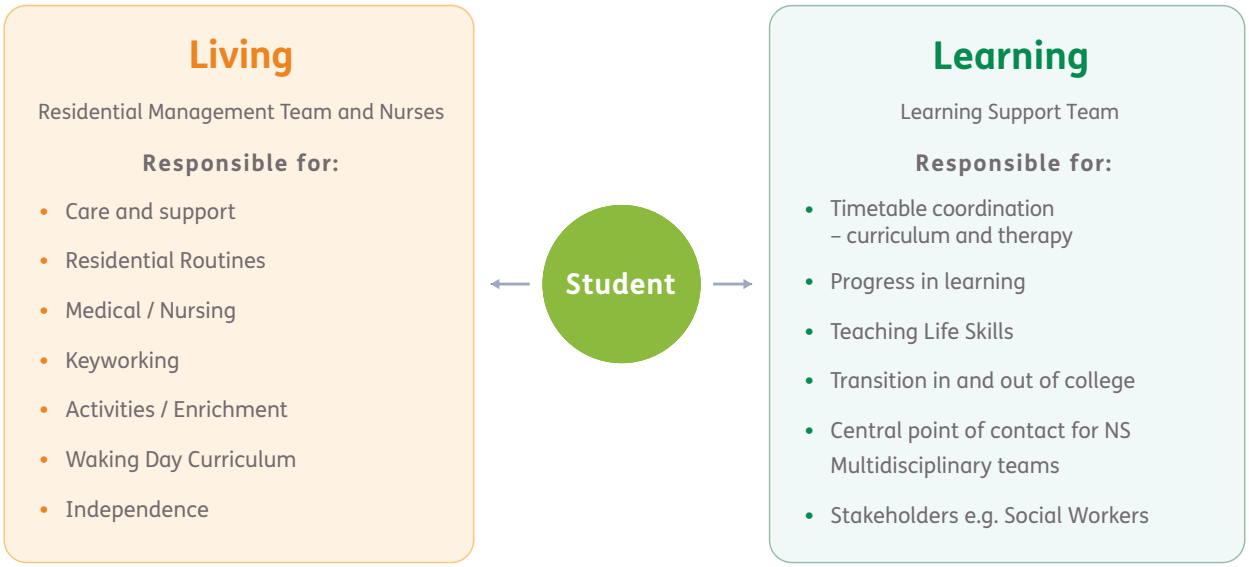
Collaboration (Working together)

You are the experts in your own experiences, and we want to work with you in a meaningful, open, and respectful manner. Developing and maintaining positive, professional relationships enables us to be effective and provide equity for all.

It is crucial that we develop positive, effective working relationships with you all so that we can quickly respond to your needs during your time here at National Star.

Ambition

We want everyone to be ambitious. There is plenty to be learned, social events to attend and many new opportunities to be had at National Star. Working together produces the best outcomes and experiences for the young people we support.



It is vital that you tell us of changes to your email address, home address or phone numbers. That way, we can keep communicating securely with you. Please let us know if any of your contact details change.

Collaboration

The organisational values are essential in how we work together. Through collaboration, we create a supportive and positive environment that fosters learners' successes. Your involvement is integral to the effectiveness of our young people's achievements.

We will work together to achieve the aspirations of your young person and foster positive working relationships.

We will always have professional and respectful communications and consideration for all.

We pride ourselves in being open and honest. When we don't always get things right, we are accountable and committed to learn from this. We value your contributions, patience and understanding whilst we work through these matters.

We strive to provide equitable standards of service to all our young people and families.



National Star Curriculum: Preparation for adult life

Community Inclusion:
Learners learn about self–empowerment and their place and role within their communities. There is regular exploration of leisure activities and developing relationships within college and wider social networks.

Employment / Meaningful Occupation:
Empower learners with the necessary skills and competencies required to succeed in their chosen fields e.g. work, leisure, personal interest, positive contribution, and citizenship.

Good Health:
A holistic provision will support both physical and mental health needs and develop strategies to engage in independent living skills and other meaningful activities.

Independent Living Skills:
Promote personal development by enhancing independence e.g. daily routines, money skills, mobility and health needs. Learners explore their strengths, interests, aspirations, and develop a positive mindset towards learning and future opportunities.

The four pathways

Click the links below to discover more about our pathways:

- Engaging with the world
- Personal development for active citizenship
- Personal development for positive contribution
- Work-based learning

Learners' rights and responsibilities at college

Collaboration:
Being on time, keeping safe, not being unfair, looking after the college (e.g. keeping it tidy), listening to staff, communicating, telling someone if you have a problem, speaking up / using your communicator.

Sustainability:
Not wasting food, electricity or resources and recycling.

Ambition:
Working hard, being prepared, joining in.

Integrity:
Telling staff what you want to achieve, speaking up, making decisions, and accepting help when you need it.

Respect:
Being friendly, looking after yourself, respecting other people's opinions and values, not being a bully, understanding personal space, giving time to others to communicate, being polite, not forcing someone to do something they don't want to do, and listening.

What your young person should expect from college

Collaboration:
Being listened to, being involved in what's going on, not being excluded, having things to do, being involved in making decisions, being kept informed, becoming more independent, staff giving time and being patient.

Sustainability:
Receive outstanding teaching, exceptional care, timetables or programmes that fit around them as an individual, good support, help from staff when needed, having a choice of healthy food options.

Ambition:
Becoming more independent, having access to a variety of activities and things to do.

Integrity:
Being listened to, being involved in decision making, freedom of speech, feeling safe and secure, and having access to safe IT systems.

Respect:
To be treated equally, but not the same, to be treated as an adult, to be allowed to make mistakes, have supportive friends, to have privacy, to be given time.

How you can support your young person while they are at college

- Be proactive in understanding what they are learning and support that learning while they are away from college.
- Embrace National Star's values and work collaboratively with the multi–disciplinary teams, always treating them with respect.
- To support your young person's achievements at college, good attendance is imperative. Avoid taking your young person out of college** **Student exceptional leave | National Star | Learn with us**
- Be aware of National Star's policies and procedures – **www.nationalstar.org/privacy-notice**



Keeping you informed

Learning at National Star is part of that journey towards independence and life after college.

We encourage all of our young people to share updates on college with their families and carers. Our staff will support where required.

You will also receive termly newsletters from our marketing and communications team, highlighting the activities and achievements of the young people from the previous term.

The role of the multi–disciplinary team (MDT):

We offer a holistic learning programme, where our young people benefit from the skills and experiences of a breadth of professionals around them.

The opportunities available to learners include, but are not limited to, making choices of clothing, calculating the cost of a shopping list, undertaking a stretch programme while working with physiotherapists, or serving customers as part of work experience. A team effort contributes to a young person's overall success.

Within your young person's MDT there are several key staff members who you'll be in regular contact with:

Transition:

An important aspect of college is preparing learners for life after college from their first day at National Star. During their time with us, learners are supported in preparing to transition out of college and into the community. As they become more equipped with strategies to support them beyond college, we will also provide reports and connect with community services to ensure a smooth and successful transition from education into adult social care within the public / private sector.

Transition is at the heart of your young person's programme. We will start talking about this with your young person within their first term at college. This can include where and with whom they want to live and what they aspire to do post education, including activities and employment.

Care and Support:

Residential manager: The manager is responsible for providing high–quality, individualised care. They will ensure there are skilled and appropriate staffing levels to meet the diverse needs of the people in their care.

Working within the residential team is a team of nurses who oversee clinical health and support the staff in daily health management.

Education:

Learner journey coordinators: Our aim is for learners to become as independent as possible so that they can direct their own care and do things for themselves when they leave college.

As a result, we may suggest that your young person do more things for themselves. This may be difficult to begin with. Your young person's learner journey coordinator will have regular contact with you, keeping you informed and updated.

Therapies:

At National Star, we are dedicated to providing a comprehensive and specialised therapy service that supports the unique needs of our learners. Our team of highly skilled therapists work collaboratively with the learner journey coordinator to create inclusive and supportive environments, striving for each learner to reach their full potential.

The therapy your young person receives will be based on assessed needs before their time at college.



Therapy Specialists:

- Speech and Language Therapy: includes dysphagia management, bespoke language programmes, social communication group therapy, AAC (augmentative and alternative communications) technical support / troubleshooting and specific approaches such as intensive interactive and Makaton.
- Occupational Therapy: includes development of independence, including personal care, wheelchair mobility, meal preparation and accessing the community training (ACT). We also provide specialist programmes in sensory integration and 24–hour posture management, including assessment of specialised equipment.
- Physiotherapy: includes aquatic therapy, rebound therapy, a fitness suite and various land–based therapies.
- Emotional Wellbeing Services: include positive behavioural support, talking therapy, drama therapy, music therapy, dance movement, psychotherapy and clinical psychology input.



What you can expect from the therapy department:

Learner centred approach:

- Every person is different with different needs. Therefore, we are guided by the education, health and care plans (EHCP) to provide a person centred approach to meet their specific needs and goals.

Timely assessments and reviews:

- We will conduct initial pre–assessments prior to each learner starting with us and provide details of what therapeutic input they are likely to require. Once their place is confirmed, we will arrange and conduct an initial assessment when they arrive to understand each learner's abilities and challenges. These assessments will guide the creation of individualised therapy plans. Regular reviews and adjustments will ensure that therapy remains effective and responsive to any changes in the learners' needs.

An integrated approach:

- Our therapists collaborate with educators and other staff to integrate therapy goals into the classroom and daily activities where appropriate. This holistic approach ensures that therapeutic interventions are consistent and supportive across all learning, residential and therapeutic environments.

Support with shared decision making:

- We believe that prioritising our learners' needs and involving family in therapeutic care is important to the success of our therapy programmes. You will be updated on your young person's progress at appropriate intervals determined by the named therapists. We may also provide resources and training to help you support your young person's development at home.

Group therapy and social skills development:

- In addition to individual therapy sessions, we also integrate group therapy and social skills development programmes to optimise the therapy experience. These sessions help learners practise communication, social interaction, and motor skills in a supportive group setting.

A focus on wellbeing:

- Our Emotional Wellbeing Service is a core component of our therapy provision. Our therapists work on building resilience, coping strategies, and emotional regulation skills to ensure learners feel supported both academically and personally.

What our therapists expect of you as families / carers:

- We believe that a strong partnership between the college and families and carers is essential to the success of our learners. Your involvement and support play a crucial role in your young person's time at college.

Communication:

- Our therapists will contact families / carers to introduce themselves at the start of the academic year, and continue to communicate with you throughout the year by email or phone call. We recommend that any additional queries you have are made via your young person's learner journey coordinator, who will support you in arranging any meetings or specific communications with the relevant therapists.

Through collaboration, we can create a supportive environment that fosters growth and success for your young person. Your involvement is appreciated and integral to the effectiveness of our therapy programmes.

Families and Carers Forum

We'd encourage you to join our Families and Carers Forum, which meets regularly on Teams to discuss topics of common interest to National Star families and carers. Topics discussed include nutrition and hydration, transition after college, options for long–term living, wills, mental capacity, healthy relationships, lasting power of attorney and deputyship.

For additional information, please contact: parentcarerforum-host@nationalstar.org

In addition, there are in person opportunities for parents to meet across an academic year.

Families and carers of learners at National Star will be automatically invited to future meetings. We hope you will choose to join us.

Dates for the next academic year can be found in the Families and Carers Zone of the National Star website: **Families and Carers Zone | Sharing knowledge | National Star**.

You may also wish to join the private Facebook group **National Star 'Life after College' Parent and Carers Network**. This Facebook group is monitored by our Transition Team, who will regularly post useful information. In addition, this is a private network to share and receive information with other National Star families and carers supporting their young people for life after college.

Zivver

National Star uses Zivver to securely send personal or commercially sensitive information by email. This way, we can guarantee that we send sensitive information using extra security and that only you can read the contents of the email. Not all our emails will by sent using this extra security, only messages that contain sensitive personal information about your young person.

How can you access a securely sent message?

You can open a message from us by clicking the blue link that says 'Click for message'. When you do, Zivver will automatically open. To access the message, you must insert an access code or an SMS code.

Opening a message with an access code

Our team will give you an access code via regular mail, by phone, or in person. Click 'Click for message' and insert this access code. You can now read the message. If you haven't received an access code contact the sender.

Opening a message with an SMS code

If you receive a message that is secured with an SMS code click 'Click for message' and then click 'Send SMS'. Insert the code that you have received on your phone. You can now read the message.

Want to respond to an email that was sent via Zivver?

If you want to respond to the message, click 'Reply'. You can type your message in the editor window. You can also add attachments if needed using the 'Add attachments' (paper clip) button. Click 'Send' to send your reply. When the recipient of your message responds, you will receive another notification message.

Stay up–to–date on social media

Discover the latest news and learner stories from National Star by following us on social media:

Facebook

www.facebook.com/nationalstar

Instagram

www.instagram.com/thenationalstar

LinkedIn

www.linkedin.com/company/national-star

YouTube

www.youtube.com/natstarcollege



Progress reports and review meetings

Your young person's learner journey coordinator will gather information from the learner, their course tutor, therapists, and others to write a report which will be discussed in the progress review.

For many learners, this will also be the review of their Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) / Learning Skills Plan (LSP) or Individual Development (IDP).

At the review, we will talk to you and your young person about what is going well and how they can learn things to help them in the future. In each review, we will also talk about where your young person would like to live and what they'd like to do when they leave National Star. You, your young person and the learner journey coordinator will attend all reviews. Other college staff, such as therapists, may attend if relevant. Our expectation is for external stakeholders to attend annual reviews, such as social workers and health professionals, to enable shared ownership towards your young persons' ambitions after National Star.



Complaints and Compliments

Complaints:

We are open and honest, and we acknowledge when things don't always go as planned. Learning from our mistakes and being transparent about our feelings, in a respectful way, leads to positive outcomes.

Very rarely, we may still not have got it right. If this is the case, you can contact someone about National Star. This could be:

- Ofsted for concerns about education and learning (**telephone 000 123 4234**).
- The Care Quality Commission (CQC) for care concerns (**telephone 03000 616161**).

Compliments:

We value your feedback. If you want to compliment us, please email **compliments@nationalstar.org** or leave us a Google review. And if given the chance, be sure to share the feedback directly with the individual or team.



Learner Voice at National Star

Learner Voice is known as ‘Your Voice’

We believe that inclusion is built on our ability to listen. The purpose of Your Voice is to bring the phrase, ‘Nothing about us, without us’ to life by embedding Your Voice into every decision and action taken at National Star that impacts those we are here to support. Our vision is for National Star to be the leading specialist college in the UK for integrating ‘Your Voice’. We will achieve this by championing and sharing the wisdom and insight of users by locking their voices into the daily college life, driven by the people we are here to serve.

Your young person will have the opportunity to stand for election as a student governor or student union executive member, become a Natspec Student Voice Parliament Representative or join the Charity Advisory Board.

There are also other learner groups providing feedback on a range of topics including sustainability, learning and student experience.



Keeping your young person safe at National Star

We want your young person to be happy and safe while they are in our care, and that's why we take safeguarding extremely seriously at National Star. We do not tolerate bullying and harassment of any kind and will ensure that your young person has the confidence to report any bullying, harassment or safeguarding concerns to us.

We have a robust approach to equity, diversity and inclusion and will not tolerate discrimination of any kind.

Familiarise yourself with the **safeguarding and anti-bullying policies**.

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please speak to a member of our team or speak directly to our safeguarding team on **01242 339 997** or by emailing **safeguarding@nationalstar.org**.



Acceptable use of social media

Lots of learners at National Star use social media to share news and keep in touch with family and friends. Below are a few guidelines we ask families and carers to discuss with their young person around the appropriate use of social media:

- Learners' social media accounts are their platforms, so we encourage them to keep images that they post of themselves, where possible.
- If a learner wants to post a picture of someone else, especially a fellow learner or staff member, they should always check permission first.
- They should always give another person the opportunity to check the photos, even if they give consent for their image to be used.
- Don't use the full names of fellow learners or staff in any social media posts.
- Don't share confidential information about learners or staff.
- Respect people's privacy; another learner's social media account may be private for a reason.
- If your young person thinks a post may be inappropriate, they should not post it.

National Star also requests that all learners complete a **photo consent form** for marketing purposes. Please note, they can opt in or out of photo consent. Please return all completed forms to **team-communications@nationalstar.org**

College essentials

Food: Nutrition and hydration for learners with disabilities requires a personalised approach. We will work with you and your young person through assessment to identify what requirements they have.

Most residential learners will eat their breakfast in their residence, enjoy lunch in the **Star**Café and have their evening meal in either their residence or **Star**Café. There are additional options available where learners can purchase food – **Star**Bistro and **Star**Bar.

Throughout a learner's programme, there will be varied opportunities for food preparation and skills development. Residential learners can be supported to shop and make some of their own food to promote independence.

We provide a range of nutritious meal options for learners to choose from that cater to a range of needs and requirements. Menus change weekly.

Menus can be viewed within the families and carers section of the National Star website –
Families and Carers Zone | Sharing knowledge | National Star

If you are concerned your young person is not getting an ideal diet, please talk to your young person's learner journey coordinator.

Money

Prepaid Cards: We prefer residential learners to bring prepaid cards in September. This can then be easily topped up from home when required. Please see Appendix A on page 44 for more information.

Learners can practise their money skills in both onsite and off–site locations.

Benefits: For information about what will happen to your young person's benefits, please contact the Department for Work and Pensions. Advise them that your young person will be going to a residential college and for how many weeks a year. They will then be able to help you further.

Additional information can be found in Appendix B on pages 45 and 46.



Bringing personal possessions into college

Personal possessions brought from home, especially electronic equipment such as mobile phones and tablets, need to be insured. Please check that your home insurance policy will cover these items, so your young person does not need to take out a separate policy.

It is helpful to have items clearly labelled with your young person's name in the event they are misplaced during their time at college. We recommend you work with your young person to complete an inventory list of all items you bring to college and identify the serial numbers of electronic devices.

Smart speaker usage: In response to learner feedback, and to support learner privacy, we would be grateful if families / carers could ensure that any smart speaker used by your young person while they are at college has the 'drop–in' function switched off.



Student owned vehicles

Some residential learners bring their car to college.

If you wish for one of our staff to drive your young person's vehicle while they are at college, we require the completion of a service user vehicle agreement together with the supporting documentation, including relating to insurance arrangements, vehicle recovery arrangements, servicing, MOT and road tax. The exact documents will be agreed upon completion of the service user vehicle agreement.

As with any other vehicle on National Star property, we expect a learner vehicle to be parked carefully and not accept responsibility for any loss or damage to the vehicle while parked on the premises.



Enrolment pack

Prior to starting at National Star please complete the following forms. Passwords for these forms have been sent via email.

Insurance of personal possessions:
www.nationalstar.org/sharing-knowledge/knowledge-hub/the-parent-zone/the-welcome-hub/ullenwood-residential

Concessionary television licence 2025 – 2027:
www.nationalstar.org/sharing-knowledge/knowledge-hub/the-parent-zone/the-welcome-hub/ullenwood-residential

Electricity at Work Regulations 1989:
www.nationalstar.org/sharing-knowledge/knowledge-hub/the-parent-zone/the-welcome-hub/ullenwood-residential

Use of privately owned devices on the National Star College computer network:
www.nationalstar.org/sharing-knowledge/knowledge-hub/the-parent-zone/the-welcome-hub/ullenwood-residential



Your visit to college

We welcome visitors to the college; residential learner families or peers are welcomed on evenings and weekends. Please respect your young person's availability around timetabled sessions.

Please liaise with the residential team before any visits.

To comply with our strict safeguarding policy, **all visitors must sign in**. This will be at the reception. When the reception is closed, **visitors must wait for a member of staff to meet them at reception to sign in**, prior to receiving a black lanyard.

Should you want to stay overnight, there are local hotels; however, National Star also has the provision of a two–bedroom self–catering cottage and glamping pods. Follow the link for further information and costs:

www.nationalstar.org/visit-us/starglamping



Absence policy and term dates

Please click here to view our term dates – **Cheltenham term dates | National Star**

Learner absence:
For learners to make the most of their time at National Star, we expect them to have full attendance at college. However, we do understand that due to illness or exceptional circumstances, parents or carers may need to request time away from college for their young person.

Authorised absences from college can include medical appointments and admissions, illness, and significant special occasions, such as a family wedding (a holiday is not a reason for an authorised absence).

Requests for authorised absences will be considered on an individual basis, considering previous absence and the reason for the request.

Learner absence from college requires at least three days advance notice except in emergencies, which may be approved. Parents and carers are now expected to make absence requests via the form on the National Star website at **Student absence | National Star | Learn with us**

Parents and carers have been advised to contact a learner journey coordinator if they need help completing the form.

Funding and absences:
Funding for term–time residential learners includes the cost of staying at college at the weekends. National Star College is obliged to log and inform funding authorities of all absences.

Your funding authority realises that some absence from college may

be unavoidable (such as a hospital admission). However, regular or repeated absences may affect your funding and could affect your placement.

Exceptional circumstances:
We recognise that there may be other instances when an absence from college might be unavoidable. Please discuss and negotiate this with your learner journey coordinator. These absences must be approved.

Travel arrangements for the start and finish of holidays

Term end travel day:
Travel days are often on a Saturday, but please check term dates. We ask all learners to leave by 1 pm.

Travel return day:
Return travel days are often a Sunday, but please check the term dates. We ask that learners return between 2 pm and 9 pm.

Terms start:
This is the first day on which timetable classes are held.

Medicine reminder:
Please ensure that medicines are collected **in person** from a nurse or designated person in your accommodation / base area when you leave and are taken back there on your return. These need to be counted and signed for when taking home from college and upon return.

Medical matters

The health and well–being of National Star college learners is important to us. Your support needs are unique to you, and below you will find guidance to help our team provide the best possible support.

Seeing a Doctor:
Residential learners will be registered with a local GP practice. Once they are registered, you will be able to access a range of services and support.

All hospital appointments should where possible be arranged during half term, however if outside of this time, families remain responsible for taking their young person to the appointment.

Medication and medical supplies:

- On enrolment day please bring with you a **four–week supply** of medicines, wound / pressure dressings, food thickeners, nutritional supplements, feeds and all other important equipment.
- All personal medication should be clearly labelled with the learner's name and the dosage / instructions. It must also be in the original packaging or in pharmacy–dispensed Dosette or Venalink packaging. **Loose tablets or medication decanted into alternative containers will not be accepted**.
- **Please make sure that the dose on medicine packets / bottles matches the dose on the prescriptions.**
- Please bring the **RIGHT SIDE of any prescriptions** you currently have **AND a medical summary** (available from your GP surgery).
- **If learners are over 19 years of age, they must bring their prescription exemption card** to save them / you from paying prescription charges.

- Please let us know if your young person's medication has recently changed or is soon to change.
- Please bring instructions for any specialist equipment that your young person uses.

Collection and return of medicines:

- At holidays or other periods of absence, learners should collect their medicines from a college nurse or designated person before they leave. Medication will be checked and the amount noted; you will be asked to countersign.
- When learners go on holiday at the end of the college year (July), we will give them a full supply of medication to take home for the remainder of the academic year. **If they become unwell during the holiday, they should temporarily register with a GP in your home area**.

Other equipment:

- **Continence products:** In September please bring a six–week supply of pads. Gloucestershire Health Authority will then supply pads during term time.
- **Gastrostomy:** Please bring all gastrostomy equipment with the learner – such as pump, giving sets, feed, spares and printed instructions – with a four–week supply of all gastrostomy feed and giving sets. Once you are registered with a GP we will arrange for a dietician to visit and they will establish a supply of feed and equipment.
- **Pressure relieving mattress:** If you use a pressure relieving mattress, please bring it. Once registered with a local GP learners will be referred to a service to supply one, but they will need theirs at first.

- **Sleep system:** If you have a bespoke sleep system, learners should bring it with them when they come to college.

Other services:

- **Podiatry services:** Available half–termly following referral by the nursing team. Learners should remember to bring their own nail clippers and / or scissors and files.
- **Dentist and optician check–ups:** Routine dental and eye appointments and treatments should be arranged in your home area. We will support learners to access emergency treatment if needed.
- **Orthotics, splinting and wheelchairs:** All orthotic and splinting referrals and appointments should continue in a learner's home area.

Contacting the Nursing team: Get in touch with the Nursing team by contacting staff in your residence. Telephone **01242 527631**.



Visiting National Star, Ullenwood

If we can help when you are making your travel plans, please get in touch.

National Star
Realising the aspirations of people with disabilities

By train and taxi

Cheltenham and Gloucester railway stations are both about 15 minutes away from Ullenwood, and there are generally taxis available.

By road

Via the M4, M5 or other roads, shown below.

Entrance and parking

The site entrance is on Ullenwood Manor Road, off Leckhampton Hill. Once on site, follow signs for **Visitors** and **Disabled parking**. Park and follow signs at the rear of the car park for **Reception**.

Use this entrance for

- National Star College (NSC)
- **Star**Bistro
- **Star**Theatre
- **Star**Training
- **Star**Glamping

Please note **Star**Golf entrance is on the A436 – see map below.

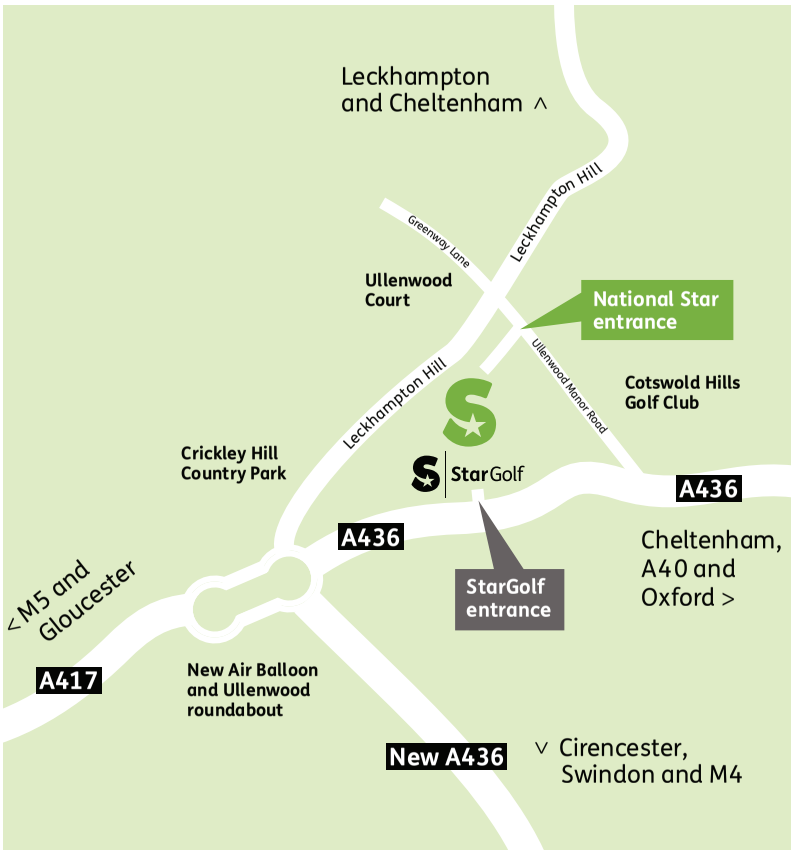
Our postal address

National Star
Ullenwood
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL53 9QU

Email enquiries@nationalstar.org
Tel 01242 527631

www.nationalstar.org





Visiting National Star, Bradbury Gardens

If we can help when you are making your travel plans, please get in touch.

National Star
Realising the aspirations of people with disabilities

By train and taxi

Cheltenham railway station is approximately 15 minutes from Bradbury Gardens, and there are generally taxis available at the station.

By road

Via M5 Junction 11, shown below.

Entrance and parking

Parking is limited at Bradbury Gardens. However, there are spaces on the public road which vary from one-hour stays to two-hour stays. The visitor's entrance is located through the gates and past the car park spaces. It is on the right of the main entrance.

Our postal address

National Star
Bradbury Gardens
West Drive
Pittville
Cheltenham
GL50 4LY

Email enquiries@nationalstar.org
Tel 01242 504375 / 01242 504384

www.nationalstar.org



Ullenwood switchboard and accommodation contacts

Ullenwood reception switchboard
Direct dial: 01242 527631

Lake House
Direct dial: 01242 504235

Manor Barn
Direct dial: 01242 504203

Ullenwood View
Direct dial: 01242 339985

Cotswold Sky
Direct dial: 01242 804250

Cotswold Star
Direct dial: 01242 804260

Bradbury House
Direct dial: 01242 504291

Scott House
Direct dial: 01242 504290

Malvern
Direct dial: 01242 504301

Cleeve
Direct dial: 01242 504219

Shortwood
Direct dial: 01242 504305

Residential Duty Manager mobile – Ullenwood
Upper campus (Lake House, Ullenwood View, Bradbury House and Scott House): 07814 809861

Lower campus (Cotswold, Malvern, Cleeve and Shortwood): 07522 550376

Medical Centre direct dial: 01242 534911

Off–site accommodation

Bradbury Gardens
Challen direct dial: 01242 504375
Christie direct dial: 01242 504385
Sumner Wilson direct dial: 01242 504384

Year–round:

For accommodation areas, please use direct dial numbers whenever possible.

Term–time:

The switchboard at our college campus in Ullenwood is staffed Monday to Friday at 8am to 5pm and Saturday and Sunday at 10am to 4pm. It is not staffed during Bank Holidays.

Outside term–time:

The switchboard at our main college campus in Ullenwood is staffed Monday to Friday at 8am to 4pm and Saturday to Sunday at 10am to 4pm. It is not staffed during Bank holidays.



Directors and Head Contact Details

Adam Pearce – Head of Health Care and Support

Email apearce@nationalstar.org

Aubrey Nkata – Director of Clinical Services

Email ankata@nationalstar.org

Claire Townshend – Head of Health Care and Support

Email ctownshend@nationalstar.org

Dave Hansell – Head of Learning and Support

Email dhansell@nationalstar.org

Gillian Cameron – Head of Learning and Support

Email gcameron@nationalstar.org

Hayley Allard – Head of Health Care and Support

Email hallard@nationalstar.org

Sasha Neary – Head of Learning and Support

Email sneary@nationalstar.org

Jo Middleton – Head of Service – Social Enterprise and Events

Email jmiddleton@nationalstar.org

Joanne Kingsbury–Elia – Director of Learning and Support

Email jkingsbury-elia@nationalstar.org

Joanne Waite – Head of Learning and Support

Email jwaite@nationalstar.org

Kirby Shepherd – Head of Deployment and Support

Email kshepherd@nationalstar.org

Megan Rogers – Director of Services

Email mrogers@nationalstar.org

Zoe Barnett – Director of Services and Registered Manager

Email zbarnett@nationalstar.org



Appendices

Appendix A:

Pre–paid cards:

It is preferred that you bring a pre–paid card for your young person in September. This can then be easily topped up by yourself from home when required. If you need to bring cash for any reason, please be advised that we are only able to keep up to £50 in cash per person at any given time.

For more information about pre–paid cards with suggested places to get them visit: www.moneysavingexpert.com/credit-cards/prepaid-cards

Pre–paid cards will be held in individually named wallets in the learner's safe. The PIN will be held securely elsewhere by the authorised handlers.

In order for audits to take place, the authorised handlers must be aware of when and how much money has been loaded onto the card. A maximum amount of £75 is recommended, unless agreed otherwise by management. This will be logged onto the learner's Finance Log.

The Finance Log will be completed and audited in the same way as cash transactions. The leadership team will be immediately made aware of any discrepancies so they can investigate. Authorised handlers may request access to statements of transactions made using the card (from the learner's parents or financial appointees), to aid the auditing process.

The card will be signed out in the same way as cash, and PINs shared discreetly.

Responsibility for the safekeeping of the card, including the PIN, lies with the staff member who is supporting the learner while out and about. They are also responsible for returning the card, along with any receipts, to an authorised person. As with cash, in the absence of an authorised person, the card and receipts must be placed in the post box with the required information.

Appendix B:

Ullenwood – what's included in funding

Included

- There is a standard weekly budget for food and drinks, which is included within the learners funded placement. This includes food and refreshments during learners' time at college (all meals and breaks for residential learners).
- There is an amount per meal that can be used as a contribution towards the cost of refreshments when out in the community. This must be pre–authorised by residence / day management team in advance and there is a procedure for cancelling meals at college.
- Transport in locality of campus and residence for residential learner appointments and facilitating educational activities. Social activities for residential learners are included as a learning opportunity and transport included locally. Normally this is around a 10 mile radius.
- All utilities and estate costs are included in funding. This includes laundry and cleaning.
- Communal areas have shared TV viewing.
- Internet connectivity via Wi–Fi within buildings is provided.

Not included

- Supplementary food and drinks from **Star**Café, **Star**Mart, **Star**Bistro or shops need to be paid for personally.
- Transport to and from college for residential learners. This includes at the beginning and end of term, weekends, breaks at home or appointments outside of the locality of campus or residence. Transport to any activities outside of the local area is not included.
- If your young person has their own mobility vehicle at college, it is your responsibility to insure to cover any staff driving, fuel and maintenance costs.
- Any holidays or trips away are not included in funding.
- Any leisure activity requiring additional staffing above funded ratio would require prior agreement and incur an additional charge.
- Cost of tickets or admissions for activities, such as cinema, bowling, farm parks is not included.
- Any personal items such as toiletries are not included.
- Any personal equipment brought to college, including items required for health and wellbeing, are your responsibility to continue to maintain.
- 5G or other mobile data connections costs are not included.
- Please see section on personal TV licencing.
- Please see section on personal insurance.
- Please see section on financial support for educational items of equipment.
- Please see section on financial support for educational items of equipment.

Financial support for costs not covered by funding

We may be able to help with some additional costs that your young person may not be able to afford through a discretionary bursary.

The request has to be for things that will help with their learning, such as equipment, the cost of trips, activities and transport, where they are not covered by statutory funding. If you request a larger bursary, normally over £150 a year, we will need information about your financial situation so we can be sure we share the money we have fairly. We will explain this more if you make an application.

If your young person is living in England and is aged between 16 and 18, depending on your circumstances you may be able to get money from the Government from their vulnerable person bursary. More information is available at:
www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund

If your young person is living in Wales, you may be able to receive money from the Welsh Government from the Education Maintenance Allowance or Welsh Government Learning

Grant schemes, depending on the learner's age and financial circumstances. More information is available at:
www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/fe.aspx

You can talk to your young person's support team or the Bursary team at any time during the year. If you need more information please contact us on telephone number **01242 527631** or email bursary@nationalstar.org.



Ullenwood, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL53 9QU
Email enquiries@nationalstar.org
Tel 01242 527631

nationalstar
thenationalstar
national-star
natstarcollege

www.nationalstar.org

National Star
Realising the aspirations
of people with disabilities

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