



Prospectus

2024 - 2025

Empowering learners to discover
a world of opportunity and possibility

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Welcome to Petty Pool

Based in Sandiway Cheshire, Petty Pool is a charity set up in May 1981, with operational activities divided between **Petty Pool Vocational College**, which provides education and training for young people with learning disabilities and difficulties, **Petty Pool Outdoor Education**, providing personal development through adventurous activities and **Petty Pool In The Community** linking young people to leisure, vocational and community activities.

About Our College

Petty Pool Vocational College is an education provider for young adults with learning difficulties, supporting 113 full-time learners from across Cheshire, Halton, Warrington and the North West.

Located in the heart of Cheshire, and set in 40 acres of woodland in Sandiway, near Northwich, Petty Pool Vocational College aims to provide every learner with an effective and enjoyable educational experience that empowers them to reach their full potential.



"I feel very privileged to lead the team here at Petty Pool, it is a unique place to work and learn with such a diverse opportunity to explore the great programmes the college offers as well as the fantastic environment to promote learning.

I am excited about the future we can create for our learners to help them be the best they can be to achieve their employment goals for the future. I urge you take some time to read more about Petty Pool and what's on offer from our team."



Sally Garratt
CEO

We focus on what young people can do and not what they cannot.

Our Learners

All applicants must have an Education Health Care Plan or equivalent. We accommodate learners with a range of learning difficulties and disabilities, including moderate/severe learning disabilities, specific learning disabilities, physical disabilities, communication needs, Autistic Spectrum conditions, Epilepsy, Down's Syndrome, Williams Syndrome and Fragile X. This list is not prescriptive or exhaustive and each individual learner's condition is assessed at preliminary interview.



Our Success



100%

Gained their vocational qualification



96%

Achieved their ECP targets



91%

Achieved entry level English



96%

Achieved entry level Maths

Petty Pool's success comes from the on-going involvement of young people in everything we do; our commitment to collaboration with parents and partners; our unique combination of support and empowerment of learners, and our combination of a nationally driven educational framework and policy, with high quality personalised delivery.

Our achievements and continued growth are thanks to the excellent staff and volunteers who work with extraordinary passion, skills and talent to positively support our learners.



Our Vision & Values

Our vision is 'empowering young people to discover a world of opportunity and possibility'. At Petty Pool, students feel that their views and experiences are encouraged, valued, respected, and most importantly, acted upon to shape services that meet their needs. We strive to deliver exceptional education, within an inclusive environment, building a strong foundation for life.

We consider the following to be essential:



Creative
Exploring innovation
and embracing change



Collaborative
Feeling valued and
adding value



Brave
Fearless in our
boldness



Ambitious
Striving for excellence
in everything we do



A message from our Principal



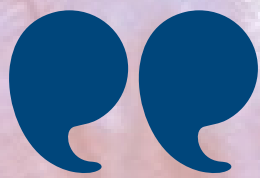
"At Petty Pool College we want to empower young people to discover a world of opportunity, developing the skills they need to achieve endless possibilities. Through an innovative curriculum and a wealth of wider experiences, we offer exceptional education within an inclusive environment which will help young people to build a strong foundation for life and work.

"We recognise that each learner is an individual with different strengths, passions and aspirations. Our team work hard to create an environment where these can be explored and celebrated.

Our purpose at Petty Pool College is to support young people into meaningful and sustainable outcomes, equipped with the right skills and beliefs to take their next steps with confidence and enthused by learning! Working with our experienced coaches, young people will be supported into paid work, volunteering or further education.

Everyone in the Petty Pool community is committed to living by our values and promotes equality, inclusion and respect for all."

Wendy Bowyer
Principal



**It's where I belong and
can be my best. I am
encouraged and
celebrated."**

Study Programme

All learners must have an EHCP on entry. Following an induction period, they are profiled to their individual study programmes.

Learners can continue for the maximum of three years if they are continuing to show incremental progression. This is subject to a panel process and agreed by your LA.

Study programmes are made up of four key elements...

1 CORE AIM – We ask learners to pick a key subject that is of interest to them.

2 ENGLISH & MATHS – These compulsory subjects are covered in Functional Skills.

3 WORK EXPERIENCE – Work experience linked to your chosen subject area.

4 NON QUALIFICATION ACTIVITY – Independent Living, healthy Lifestyles, Tutorials, Enrichment, Digital Literacy and Duke of Edinburgh.

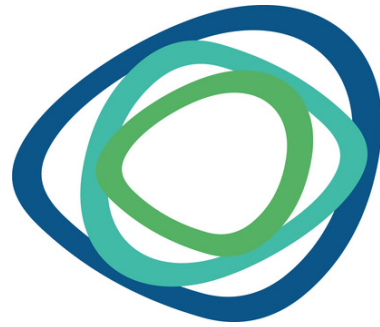
Learner Voice

We recognise and value the importance of the voice of learners. To facilitate this, we create opportunities for young people to play meaningful roles at an operational level, thereby making them an integral part of decisions and governance arrangements.

Learner rights and autonomy are actively championed at Petty Pool. At the heart of this is our student council, which consists of two reps from each class who are elected by their peers. A focus on developing a strong learner voice through the student council and monthly learner forums are key in preparing learners for life after college.



Journey to Petty Pool



01 > Open Events

We hold two open events each academic year, one in the Autumn term and another one in the summer term.

02 > Application

Begins on the 1st of September for enrolment the following year.

Step 1 – Application form completed and submitted.

Step 2 – Attend Autumn term open event and select preferred course(s)

Step 3 - Attend transition taster session in a chosen vocational area to help us understand your aspirations and learning styles.

Step 4 - Petty Pool admissions panel will meet to agree admissions for the following academic year.

Step 5 – College places offered and accepted; next stage of the transition process starts.

03 > Transition

Petty Pool's aim is to ensure that the move from school to college is a smooth and positive experience for all students who enrol with us. Getting to know everyone is an important part of this.

Learners will also be invited to “new learner welcome days” where they will meet their tutor and other new learners

04 > Enrolment

All learners enrol at the beginning of September onto a study programme which will include their chosen vocational subject, Maths, English, work experience and wider skills such as Preparation for Adulthood, Enrichment and Tutorials. All learners' individualised study needs and any prior knowledge will be assessed within the first two weeks in college.

Work Experience Placements

Petty Pool Vocational College is committed to optimising the skills and confidence our learners need to gain meaningful employment when they leave. We recognise that work experience is a key component of the Study Programme, helping learners to develop the core skills, qualifications and experience needed to prepare them for a fulfilling life in the workplace.

We have strong links with local employers, with whom we work closely to ensure that work experience is beneficial and rewarding for both learners and employers.

Employers are supported in all aspects of providing the placement, and in some cases, making the transition to offering learners permanent employment.



For more information please contact our Job Coach Team on **01606 889097** to find out more about opportunities available for learners.





I have made so many new friends at Petty Pool and grown in confidence, especially when talking to others."

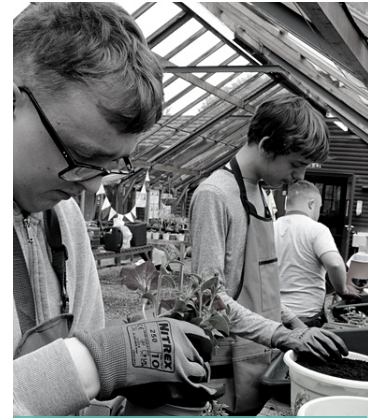
Courses



Hospitality & Catering



Retail & Customer Service



Horticulture & Grounds



Pathway to Independence



New courses coming soon...



Hospitality & Catering

In Hospitality & Catering learners will develop the skills to work both front of house serving customers, as well as in the kitchen helping to prepare and produce food. They will also be responsible for catering to external visitors and guests of the college, ensuring industry standards are always maintained.

Learners will gain a wide range of skills, from vegetable preparation, baking, cleaning and till use. They also organise and provide catering for Petty Pool festivals and special events.

Young people on this course are offered further opportunities to develop valuable skills needed to work in the hospitality industry through Petty Pool's own Outdoor Activity Centre, which hosts overnight residential visits for guests. They will be given opportunities to develop skills they have learnt by doing the housekeeping, service the chalets and communal areas, laundry, planning and preparing meals for residents and any general maintenance tasks that may need completing to ensure health and safety is maintained.



**My son is
gaining lots of
experience in
his area of
study.**

**He enjoys
college
and seems
genuinely
happy at
Petty Pool."**



Retail & Customer Service

This pathway has been designed to support learners in developing employability skills to work in the retail and customer service industries. Learners hoping to gain employment in roles including shop assistants, warehouse operatives, cafe and restaurant waiting on staff, and any customer facing roles, will develop the skills they need on this course.

All learners will experience real working environments when they complete internal work experience in our community shop and cafe, as well as the college shop. External work placements may include Tesco, Co-Op, local farmers markets and other local business where they can practice all the knowledge, skills and behaviours they have learned at college.

The course will teach learners about health and safety in practical environments, serving food and drink, handling stock, looking after customers in hospitality and retail, teamwork and many other transferrable work-ready skills.



I've seen my daughter's confidence grow.

She's loving every minute."



Horticulture & Grounds Maintenance

On this pathway, learners will develop Horticultural skills and knowledge which will help them progress into meaningful employment. They will participate in a range of work experience activities to develop and strengthen work ready skills, industry knowledge and understanding.

Learners will gain knowledge about Horticulture, conservation, and ground maintenance. They will develop skills in sowing seeds, filling containers, planting trees, propagating and using tools. Course participants will help to run a 60ft greenhouse, large vegetable patch and also help maintain our college grounds and woodlands at Petty Pool. We also have a tree nursery which grows trees from sapling, ready for planting.

Learners are responsible for producing industry standard hanging baskets, pots and other plant-based products for our on-site community shop, The Railway Shed.



I enjoy my work experience because I like meeting new people and learning new skills."



Pathway To Independence

This non-accredited pathway is designed for those learners who may not yet be ready to progress onto a vocational pathway or whose priority is working towards being independent citizens.

As part of the course, learners focus on developing their personal development and EHCP outcomes, travel training, independent living, healthy lifestyle and functional/digital skills. All learners undertake work placements.

The Pathway to Independence groups participate in many projects which support the development of their independence skills including a weekly pop-up cafe in Sandiway Library, working in the community shop and constructing and maintaining vegetable gardens.

Learners will develop a wide range of independence and personal skills, knowledge and understanding to support good mental health and well-being in preparation for adulthood.



**It's where I
belong and can
be my best."**



Animal Assisted Therapy

Animal Assisted Therapy has a positive impact on our learners here at Petty Pool College. It is often very difficult to start a conversation about why learners require additional therapy, it can be even harder for those with disabilities and/or neurodiverse conditions to articulate their needs. The presence of an animal often makes this much easier.

Our trained Animal Assisted Therapy staff will use solution focused therapy skills, combined with the presence of an animal, to support learners in helping them achieve their goals and to develop their social and emotional skills/intelligence.

The Animal Assisted Therapy sessions will also help our learners work together with the therapist to develop skills and strategies that will help them further access the curriculum, college life and the world beyond.



I feel calmer and more patient when I'm with the animals."

Supported Internship

What is a supported internship?

Supported internships are a structured and personalised study programme based primarily within an employment setting.

They enable young people aged 16-24 with an Education, Health and Care plan to achieve sustainable paid employment by equipping them with the skills they need for work, through learning in the workplace.



What is the role of a job coach?

Our job coaches provide in-work support that tapers off, if appropriate, as the supported intern becomes familiar with their role.

They support employers to offer meaningful work placements that match the skills and needs of interns.

The job coach ensures supported interns are on task and will be a first point of call if issues or problems arise and will negotiate solutions.

What are the benefits to learners?

Supported internships help learners to take their first steps towards employment and all the independence that it brings. The interns develop skills, confidence in their own abilities and can demonstrate their value in the workplace.

Independent Living

All learners develop basic skills to live more independently in the future. They develop practical skills and make decisions in using equipment to prepare basic meals, laundry and cleaning and generally learn how to maintain and run their own home.

Learners can also take part in our travel training programme to understand how to become independent travellers. They will also develop skills to keep themselves safe online, learn about healthy relationships and access a cultural education.



Healthy Lifestyle

To help keep themselves physically and mentally fit and healthy, all learners will access the Healthy Lifestyle programme that is dedicated to teaching them about fitness, health and nutrition as well as mental wellbeing.

We have strong links with local sports and activity groups as well as partnerships with Chester FC and Warrington Wolves. We follow the 5 steps to mental wellbeing:

- Connect with other people
- Be physically active
- Learn new skills
- Give to others
- Pay attention to the present moment

Learners are encouraged to take part in inclusive national sporting events such as the Natspec Games which Petty Pool has been proud to host.

Functional Skills

Petty pool's English and Maths curriculum is embedded into the wider curriculum and is designed to make learning meaningful and appropriate to each individuals ability and aspirations

On entry to the college, we assess each learner's levels of English and Maths. They then work on specific areas for development. English and Maths provide learners with essential knowledge, skills and understanding that will enable them to operate confidently, effectively, and independently in life and work.

Where a learner is not making expected progress, or finds a particular element of the curriculum challenging, an intervention will be offered. This intervention will provide small group or 1:1 teaching.

Our approach to teaching English and Maths is holistic, targets are worked on in lessons, off-site visits and within the workplace, enabling learning to take place organically.

Enrichment

Every Thursday afternoon, all learners take part in a weekly Enrichment session, an opportunity for them to try different activities which they can also access in their leisure time.

Learners choose a different activity to join each half term.

Enrichment activities include:

- Hair and Beauty
- Community Participation
- Zumba
- Outdoor Expeditions
- Animal Therapy
- Floristry

And many more...!



Tutorial

Our weekly Tutorial Programme for all learners is designed to meet their individual and varied needs. It also aims to provide sessions that relate to equality & diversity issues, prevent duty & safeguarding initiatives, and the preparing for adulthood agenda of moving to employment, staying healthy, developing good relationships and independent living.

Learner Voice

This is the tutor group's chance to develop advocacy skills, feedback thoughts on college, input on future planning and change, and discuss issues from current affairs. We also encourage learners to share personal experiences, liaise with their student council representative and ask questions of the Senior Management Team.



Natspec Student Parliament

Natspec's Student Voice Parliament provides an inclusive opportunity for learners to be part of a collective and learner-led voice to talk about subjects important to its members. The agenda is set by members of the Parliament and chaired and hosted by learners from a different college each time it meets. Learners come together with other specialist colleges to discuss and collaborate on topics that are important to them and to make sure their collective voice is heard.





Petty Pool In The Community



Petty Pool In The Community is a payable service available to all young people and linking with the wider community to develop learners' skills.

Learners explore the world around them using a range of public transport and learn how to function independently in a range of social settings.

Activities include travel skills, learning how to stay safe in the community, visits to community venues such as shops, parks, bowling, and museums.

Young people are encouraged to spend time with their peers and are supported to develop and maintain friendships and relationships.

M.O.R.E Maintenance

Petty Pool College is offering the fantastic opportunity for young adults to join our M.O.R.E Maintenance team. This is a payable service running Monday to Friday 9.00 -15.00 offering you the chance to help with local community projects, work on site at Petty Pool, learn new skills, create new friendships and be part of a great team helping to make a difference.



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