



Principal's Update



9th October 2026

Meet one of our Educational Support Workers



Gwen has a degree in Psychology with Clinical Psychology from the University of Lincoln and has always wanted to help people. After university, she started working in supported living as a support worker for older adults with learning disabilities and other needs. Ever since she was younger, she has wanted to work with younger people so she joined the college last year as an Educational Support Worker. She says being able to support young people and watch them grow and succeed has been very rewarding.

Fun facts about Gwen:

- She loves to travel – whether it's abroad or around the UK, she loves to explore new places.
- She loves reading.
- She loves going to the theatre and has been to both Broadway and West End shows and would love to go back.
- She plays the piano and used to do exams for it.
- She was a competitive swimmer for 10 years.
- Her favourite TV show is Grey's Anatomy.
- She loves to learn – last year she completed a level 3 Counselling course and hopes to one day get a Masters and a PHD.

Staff BSL Achievements

We are delighted to celebrate the success of several staff college members who have recently achieved BSL qualifications, demonstrating their commitment to accessibility, inclusion, and communication with Deaf learners and work colleagues.

BSL Level 1:

- Cameron Murray
- Kerry Shawcroft
- Michael Ibbotson
- Leanne McGarey
- Molly Vale
- Rachel Whittaker
- Sara Tunesi
- Sol Barker



BSL Level 2:

- Laura Dalton

Congratulations to everyone on this fantastic achievement. Their dedication helps strengthen our commitment to creating a more accessible and inclusive environment across the college.

Buddy the Otter

This week, Kayleigh has given Buddy to Penny Brownson, saying, "I would like to express my appreciation for your supportive and approachable leadership. Your door is always open, and you consistently make time for staff, offering guidance, encouragement, and a listening ear whenever needed. Your approachable nature creates a positive and trusting environment where everyone feels valued and supported. Thank you for always being there for your team and leading with kindness and understanding."



Staff Appreciation



Leah would like to nominate Claire McGann and Kayleigh Gray, saying, "A special shout out and recognition to Claire McGann and Kayleigh Gray for their excellent work supporting students within their baselining sessions. The progress, participation and enthusiasm demonstrated by students within these sessions reflected the high-quality support and teaching provided. Thank you, Claire and Kayleigh, for your dedication, skill and commitment to providing high-quality learning experiences for our students. Your hard work does not go unnoticed and is greatly appreciated."



Travel Training



A huge well done to Ellie-Mai who had an outstanding travel training session on Wednesday afternoon. She demonstrated significant growth in both confidence and independence whilst visiting community facilities.

It is wonderful to see the progress Ellie is making, and she should be incredibly proud of her achievements. Keep up the fantastic work, Ellie-Mai!

Duke of Edinburgh



Ten of our students completed their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze expedition last week. As part of this expedition they went for walks in Finningley, Thorne and local areas, and as well as completing the physical challenge, they improved their travel, shopping, cooking, camping and teamwork skills. The students should be very proud of their achievement as we are proud of them! A big thank you to all the staff that helped in so many ways.