

Woodpecker Court Expectations



Woodpecker Court



ABOUT OUR PROVISION

Woodpecker Court is an alternative education provider with specialist post 16 status set in a rural location. We believe that every student is different and treated as an individual and therefore vary our practices to support them holistically. We aim to improve outcomes by providing all of our students with the necessary skills to equip them to sustain their onward destination after leaving us. We have a calm, safe and friendly environment that all of our students together as a community maintain.

We offer our post 16 courses in animal care, catering, or occupational studies, personal development, enterprise and employability, alongside functional skills English and Maths. Many post 16 vulnerable learner programmes fail because the delivery is formal in a classroom. This has not worked for the previous eleven years, so why repeat the process? Block by block, we will enable a young person to tolerate then work with others, show resilience to failure and bad weather. They can have the time and space to express their frustrations in the outdoors. They can fail safely and then learn to succeed. They can develop good peer and staff relationships, and maintain them over time. Then, and only then, do we deliver the formal learning because then students are ready to achieve. Our outdoor experiences are explicitly linked to formal learning objectives, for example, quantities of animal feed are linked to profit margins, having an impact upon Maths.

We provide engagement programmes for learners aged 11-16 by working collaboratively with local schools. Our programmes are run in the great outdoors from our 15 acre site that encompasses woodland, paddocks, classrooms, workshops and at the heart of our community our parachuted fire circles. These engagement programmes offer the chance for schools to prevent exclusion and promote reengagement by changing the environment completely around the young person. We develop resilience, self-esteem and positivity through introducing routines and developing a sense of community. This is achieved by a daily breakfast and lunch, cooked by the young people themselves, using bush craft techniques, meaning they have to work with others to achieve. They then devise their own programme in wood craft, forestry work, horticulture, animal care and bush craft and team building activities, that both engages them and generates a culture of success. All learners have a key worker who tracks their progress through their Personal Learning Plan, which includes data on soft and hard outcomes. We work on a bespoke level according to the aims of the referrer and needs of the young person and their family.

All of our students either have an Education Health Care Plan or have exhibited a struggle to access education. We deliver both formal and informal education to enable the students to either re-engage in school if they are 11-16 or support our post 16 students in transitioning to a sustained destination thereby improving lifelong prospects. We facilitate forest schools and day activities, as well as access for the community, families and other Youth Organisations to the great outdoors.

THE STAFF TEAM

Dom Meehan – Principal/DSL

Elizabeth Shilling – Vice Principal/DT/Lead DSL

Matt – Head of Teaching and Learning

Tilly – Head of Animal Care/DSL

Alison – Head of Formal Learning

Tim – Head of Catering & Horticulture

Vicky – Careers Advisor, Tutor/DSL

Karen – Assistant SENCO and Data Manager

Dawn – Administrator

George – Pastoral Assistant

Georgina – Teaching Assistant

Sasha – Teaching Assistant

Rachel – Teaching Assistant

Reece – Teaching Assistant

Ellie – Farm Assistant

Cath – Counsellor

WOODPECKER COURT EXPECTATIONS AND RULES

Whilst onsite our students are expected to:

- Maintain good behaviour
- Respect animals and stay calm around them
- Wash your hands after handling the animals
- Wash hands before lunch and breakfast
- Respect each other and staff
- Respect peoples work
- No phones in activities
- Respect your surroundings
- Be understanding of others
- Use tools safely

THIS IS A SAFE PLACE – WE WILL NOT TOLERATE

Bullying, we are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all of our students so they can learn in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. Bullying of any kind is unacceptable at our provision. If bullying does occur, all students should be able to tell and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively. Anyone who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell the staff.

What Is Bullying?

Bullying is the ongoing use of aggression or intimidation with the intention of hurting another person. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim. It is persistent and targeted. Bullying is not 'one off' actions of aggression or intimidation.

We will also not tolerate smoking on site, illegal substances, alcohol, headphones or use of mobile phones during sessions.

We reserve the right to search students if there is a suspicion that they are in possession of anything that could be considered a weapon or an illegal substance or tobacco. We reserve the right to use positive handling techniques to intervene where damage to persons or property is probable, or a student's behaviour is persistently disrupting the learning of others. We cannot take responsibility for student's personal property that is brought onto site.

We have an acceptable IT use policy to maintain the safety of students online.

TIMINGS OF THE DAY

Breakfast	9.30am
Period 1	10.00am
Period 2	11.00am
Lunch	12.00pm
Period 3	12.40pm
Period 4	1.15pm
End of day plenary	2.00pm

REWARDS

Students can achieve points for all sorts of positive behaviours, good learning and supporting others, we offer both individual and group rewards.

Areas for which students are awarded points are as follows:

Going above and Beyond (+3 points)

Good Work (+2 points)

Helping Others (+2 points)

Positive Attitudes (+1 point)

Reward Structure

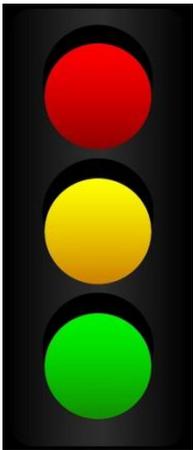
Students and their parents will have their reward points totalled to them on their formal reports, sent home 3 times a year. Students will receive the following rewards;

30 Points	Reward certificate and small prize given to student on Friday afternoon at the celebratory gathering
50 Points	Reward Certificate given to student, 2 x small prizes given to student on Friday afternoon at the celebratory gathering and a phone call home
100 Points	Reward Certificate given to student, £5 to spend in the local shops in Eythorne or this can be saved to add to further rewards given on Friday afternoon at the celebratory gathering and a phone call home
150 Points	Reward Certificate given to student, Breakfast or Lunch at East Kent Railway and a celebration at the celebratory gathering as well as a phone call home
200 Points	Reward Certificate given to student, £10 to spend in the local shops in Eythorne or potentially a haircut at the local barber or hairdresser, a celebration at the celebratory gathering and a phone call home

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY MATTERS

Every day counts

At Woodpecker Court attendance is displayed as a traffic light system.



79% or below indicates a drastic effect on academic achievement

80-89% indicates a cause for concern

90%-100 indicates excellent

Attendance Days	Days Absent	Weeks Absent	Lessons Missed
65%	67 Days	13.5 weeks	268 Lessons
70%	57 Days	11.5 weeks	228 lessons
75%	48 Days	10 weeks	192 Lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	152 lessons
85%	29 Days	6 weeks	116 lessons
90%	19 Days	4 weeks	76 lessons
95%	9 Days	2 weeks	36 lessons

How can parents/carers help?

We expect you to report any non- attendance to the office, by 9:30am. By phone 01304 830958 or by text 07441 907259

- Establish a good routine in the mornings and evenings so your child is prepared for the day ahead.
- Make sure your child attends regularly and meets the expectations.
- Ensure your child arrives on time – not late.
- Take truancy seriously – if your child is not attending as you expect they may be putting themselves at risk – Who are they with? What are they doing?
- Take family holidays outside term time.
- Praise and reward your child's achievements at Woodpecker Court
- Always support staff in their efforts to control difficult or challenging behaviour.
- Discuss any problems or difficulties with us – staff are there to help and will be supportive.

Don't be afraid to ask for help if a problem arises.

PLAGIARISM

Copying of original sources, text books, websites etc. is expressly forbidden by qualification awarding bodies, and therefore by Woodpecker Court. Any student found to have plagiarised or copied from another student will be asked to withdraw this work, and may forfeit all or some of their course or courses. Awarding bodies take severe action against students identified as being involved in plagiarism.

DRESS CODE

All Students are expected to wear our uniform, this consists of a polo shirt and sweatshirt. Students will be provided with appropriate Personal Protective Equipment if required for some activities, this must be worn.

Students need to wear clothing that is warm and appropriate for the activities that they are undertaking. No coats, hats or hoods will be tolerated in our classrooms. A waterproof layer is required as we do work outside in the rain.

TERM DATES ACADEMIC YEAR 20-21

Term 1 – 01/09/20 – 23/10/20

Term 2 – 09/11/20 – 18/12/20

Term 3 – 04/01/21 – 12/02/21

Term 4 – 22/02/21 – 01/04/21

Term 5 – 19/04/21 – 28/05/21

Term 6 – 07/06/21 – 21/07/21

CAREERS, EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ADVICE & GUIDANCE

Careers education and guidance programmes play a major part in helping young people choose programmes that suit their interests, abilities and individual needs. A robust careers programme helps avoid disengagement, puts educational learning into a wider and more relevant context, and helps raise aspirations.

This Careers programme will support our students to plan and manage their careers effectively, ensuring progression which is ambitious and aspirational. It will promote equality of opportunity, embrace diversity and challenge stereotypes. We are committed to ensuring that every student that leaves our provision does so with a positive, sustained destination.

WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Hello, and welcome to Woodpecker Court. I am immensely proud to call myself the Principal of Woodpecker Court. I am a qualified Youth Worker that turned to education, I have always been passionate about students that find education a challenge; I was fortunate enough to hold a Senior Vice Principal Role in a large Secondary School where I completed my Masters in Education. I made a very difficult decision to try and run my own provision providing education for the students that did not suit the usual educational path.

With extreme passion and drive from not only myself but my very small staff team at the time and a converted garage. Of course not forgetting the very first staff member my very faithful Cavalier King Charles, who you can see pictured with me here; Teddy who has sadly now passed away. The provision has grown exponentially starting

from one day a week with 4 students to 5 days a week with up to 40 a day. The journey has been a challenging and interesting one, never could I have imagined that Woodpecker Court would see the successes it does and impact it has on the students' lives that attends here. I am eternally grateful to everyone that has supported both me and Woodpecker Court during this time. You are most welcome here for your period of study with us. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact any member of my staff team.

Dom Meehan, Managing Director & Principal Woodpecker Court