



SKILLWAY

Winter 2018



What's been happening?

Skillway has had another successful year—with of course the usual challenges along the way!

Our numbers have increased this year as Schools are becoming more aware of the benefits to their students of attending the workshops. Despite the increased pressure on school budgets the Headteachers are very conscious of the positive impact that Skillway has on their pupils.

We have lowered the age at which we take students to Year 8 and we have also had an increase in the number of home tutored students.

We have also welcomed a number of new volunteers which is great and gives us more flexibility as well as allowing us to accommodate more students.

We have had a number of fundraising events but we are always keen to find new ways to raise awareness. If you know of any companies that would like to sponsor a student or to simply donate then please do get in touch. Similarly if you have any ideas for fundraising then we would love to hear them.

In the meantime from all the Trustees, Staff, Volunteers and Students we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and all the very best for 2019.

A Royal Visit

We were very fortunate to have a visit from HRH the Duke of Kent in November together with Michael More-Molyneux—HM Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey. They were able to have a full tour of the Skillway workshops and met a selection of the Headteachers, supporters, volunteers and students who use our wonderful facility. The Duke spent time in each of the workshops and chatted to the students. We were also able to host the Mayor of Godalming, the Deputy Mayor of Waverley, The High Sheriff of Surrey, The Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey and various representatives of the charities and individuals who generously support Skillway. Following the unveiling of the plaque to mark Skillways 21st year we raised a glass of prosecco and had a ceremonial cutting of the cake.

A wonderful way to mark the beginning of another decade of excellent work.



Free Little Library

Bestselling author and Guildford resident Adele Parks opened a free community library in June. The book exchange scheme is situated on the public footpath at the back of One London Square, Cross Lanes, Guildford.

Funded and organised by Charles Russell Speechlys it was designed and built at Skillway. The idea was thought up by Becky Lawton and was put into action by Hannah Bleach (daughter of our Manager Greg). Do take advantage of it if you happen to be in that part of Guildford.

New Video

We have produced a wonderful new video this year showcasing the work that Skillway Workshops does. It can be found on YouTube on the following link:-

<https://youtu.be/OrDtwKhdQes>

or search Skillway

Our thanks goes to Lucy at Ten80 films who worked with us to put the video together. I'm sure you'll agree that they did a fantastic job.

The story of a Skillway Student

J has been with us for over a year now and is completing a BTEC qualification with us.

Over the time here he has had his ups and downs with his focus and coping with instructions (he often viewed it as criticism).

The good news is that despite this he has made a trusting connection with his tutors. He now understands that what the tutors say is important and that they are there to help him rather than hinder him.

He has never avoided work or lacked effort but now he is co-operating it means he is achieving so much more and to a higher standard.

He has a bright future ahead of him with the skills he is learning at Skillway together with his BTEC once it is completed.

Thank You

A huge thank you to all those who sponsored our team for the Cyclathon on Sunday 18th November. The event was put on by the Rotary Club in Godalming. Thanks to your generosity we raised just over £1,000!

Also a big thank you to our fundraising team of Nick Harris (Trustee) Greg Bleach (Manager) Ian Britten (Volunteer) Jon Taylor (Employee) Richard Jeffery (Employee)



AQA & BTEC QUALIFICATIONS

We recently introduced AQA—Unit Award Scheme certification into the Skillway portfolio. This means that most students will be able to gain a number of certificates of achievement in various subjects. In the academic year 2017/18 we presented over 200 certificates to 26 Students.

For those students who show promise in their first year with us we are able to offer a BTEC qualification. This involves a greater commitment on the part of the student who has to provide evidence of their learning. We are hoping 10-12 students will complete their BTEC by the end of the summer term.

How you can help us.

There are many ways in which you can support us.

The first and easiest way is to join Easyfundraising and select Skillway as your Charity of choice. That way when you shop online—as long as you click through Easyfundraising—you will be generating funds for us at no extra cost to yourself. It's amazing how quickly it mounts up. www.easyfundraising.org.uk and search for Skillway.

Have you got a skill that you would be willing to share. We are always looking for volunteers to join our team. You may wish to guide a craft or a skill or you may wish to be a general pastoral supporter. Whatever you have to offer we would love to hear from you.

We are keen to trial one to one support for our students so the need for more volunteers is greater than ever.

If you are unable to volunteer you may like to sponsor one of our students. It costs £2,400 per year for a student to attend Skillway. We can provide you with regular information about the student that you sponsor so that you can see how they are benefitting from their time with us.

Alternatively you may like to make a one-off donation. This money can be used to purchase equipment and materials to use with the students to expand their skill set.

Finally, do you know a person, business or grant maker who might be looking for a charity to support? Skillway needs their help raising funds so that we can support the disengaged and disadvantaged young people in our local area.

If you can help in anyway at all then please contact