

# SKILLWAY

**December 2019**

Wow what a year!

Skillway has had another amazingly successful year we now have 49 students on roll.

Despite the constraints on school budgets Headteachers are increasingly aware that we provide a valuable resource to both pupils and the schools to ensure that individuals do not get lost in the system just because they may not conform to what is perceived as the 'typical student'.

We have also welcomed a number of new volunteers which is great, but there is still a need to have more. This allows more flexibility to cover holidays and sickness 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 2020.



## A Special Visit

Skillway were delighted to welcome Mrs Bridget Biddell - The High Sheriff of Surrey to the Workshops in November. She had a tour of the workshops looking at everything that is on offer to our students and spent time chatting to them. We are also extremely grateful to the High Sheriff's Youth Awards for giving us some much needed funding.



Our stone and glass class of Autumn 19 showing a geometric window light catcher they made as an example to keep at Skillway.

They each made their own version of this decoration to take home.



## Thank You

**A huge thank you to everyone who supports Skillway financially. We are completely dependent on your regular giving and the increased number of students means that this is even more important than ever.**

**There are many ways to support us—please go to our website [Skillway.org.uk](http://Skillway.org.uk) to see how you can support us.**

**<https://www.give.net/20268491>**

### A volunteers view of Skillway

Having been a volunteer for just over a year and seen the interaction of Skillway staff with students and volunteers, I cannot help but be thoroughly impressed by the care, concern and genuine interest expressed to all people that have a connection with Skillway. This example impacts the students and helps empower them building their self confidence and is an inspiration to see. I would like to take this opportunity to say a big **THANK YOU** to the Skillway staff. Matthew

### The story of a Skillway Student

G was with us for a total of 2 years and during that time proved himself to be hardworking and conscientious. It wasn't all plain sailing of course and he did have a few off days but he was always able to pull it round. He left school and Skillway at the end of July with a place at Brooklands to study carpentry. However, he had a summer job in a nursing home and as a result of his hard work he was offered an apprenticeship. He has decided to train as a nurse and will work towards a degree.

G's story reflects many of our students, who although they may come to us with issues at school can find a new way through. They may not always go into woodwork or metalwork but the skills that they learn with us, both practical and in terms of teamwork, mean that they leave us with a much better chance of employment in the future.

### AQA & BTEC QUALIFICATIONS

The AQA Unit Award Scheme has now been running at Skillway for 3 years. During that time we have seen hundreds of certificates being awarded to the students to recognise their achievements in the projects they make.

This is a certification that costs Skillway to run, but we think that it is so beneficial to award the students effort from an examining body. Many of the students will not receive any other certificated award so this is really important to them.

Long may we be able to continue to offer these awards at no cost to the student.

### 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](http://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  
Greg Bleach—[workshop@skillway.net](mailto:workshop@skillway.net). 01483 414081**