



**I've graduated from  
Derwen College!**

**What comes next?**

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**Derwen  
College**

During your time at Derwen College, you will be supported to explore your future options. We will help you make positive plans and support your transition in lots of different ways.

## Our students regularly exceed what they and others thought possible.

The skills you learn at Derwen College will help to prepare you for your next steps.

Our aim is for you to reach a stage where you are able to live as independently as possible, whatever that looks like for you.

Our 2021 leavers went on to do a range of exciting things:

- 28% went on to get jobs – some paid and some voluntary
- 28% went to their local college or training programme (including Supported Internships)





## Adam

Adam is a former Derwen College day student who graduated from the Hospitality and Food pathway in 2019. Adam is proud to have a job at Premier Inn and to have moved into supported living with friends.

Adam's journey into employment started through training at Derwen College, and has now taken him into paid employment at his local Premier Inn hotel.

As part of his Hospitality pathway, Adam accessed work experience at the college's on-site Hotel 751 training hotel and at supported work placements at Oswestry and Chester Premier Inn hotels.

Adam was one of the college's first students to benefit from the Derwen College-developed 'Premier Inn app'. The app on his mobile phone prompted him step-by-step through the process of servicing a room. He knows the routine with very little support but is reassured by the safety net of the app.

Adam still uses the app today to support him in his work.

At Premier Inn, Adam works in housekeeping, servicing bedrooms for guests, and relishes the routine of his work. He told us:

**“I like my job. Guests say ‘Good Morning’ and I say ‘Good Morning’ back, and I like to follow the instructions on my phone. Everyone is friendly, and it’s really good to have a job with my own money!”**





## Maisie

Maisie graduated as a Performing Arts student after fully embracing Derwen College and the extra-curricular activities it offers.



Achieving Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award is an example of the hard work and commitment Maisie gave. She enthusiastically took part in two three-night camping and walking expeditions in Snowdonia, and five days canoeing, sailing and walking at an activity centre on the shores of Lake Coniston.

Maisie also represented Derwen College at sporting events; competing in the National Learner Disability tennis competition in Nottingham and as a valued member of the female football team.

As a member of sign, song and dance group DOT (Derwen on Tour), Maisie was extremely dedicated to her role and actively participated in all rehearsals. She also took part in a number of performances.

Maisie was part of the Student Union Board as Deputy Representative for Performing Arts, and was always keen to voice her ideas and opinions and to represent the students in her department.

In 2018, she was nominated for The High Sheriff of Shropshire's Outstanding Young Citizenship Award for her commitment to Derwen College and the community.



As well as completing work placements at college and in the community. Maisie also visited schools and nurseries as part of DC NarraTours – students who read and perform stories in the community. Maisie also undertook regular external work placements at the local library and supermarket.

Maisie's parents told us they saw a big change in her.

**“She has far greater independence, especially in travelling, and good understanding about the retail business and customer service. Also Maisie was able to make her own social life and not be dependent on us.”**

Since graduating from Derwen College, Maisie is continuing her education, studying a BTEC in Performing Arts at an inclusive theatre company. The independence skills that she has learnt and put into practice at Derwen, along with her growing confidence and self-reliance, have enabled her to move out of home into a shared supported living flat with a friend – another former Derwen College student.





## Sam

Sam, from London, was a hardworking and dedicated student who embraced every opportunity available to him during his four years at Derwen College. Since graduating, he has started a supported internship, and is living in his own flat.

During his time at Derwen, Sam worked in the college's Karten Print Shop and on the weekly Derwen College Oswestry Market Stall. He also had regular work placements at a local charity shop and at Severn Trent Water's main Shrewsbury site where he worked on reception and supported with health and safety checks.

Outside work, Sam embraced the college social life, sports and leisure programme, and was a dedicated part of the Derwen community.

Sam, who has Down's Syndrome and a moderate learning difficulty, achieved his Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award, was a regular in the gym, and in sports teams, and represented his fellow Retail and Enterprise students on the College's Student Union Board.

Sam told us:

**“My time living away from home at Derwen in the bungalows, and all the great work experience I did there, helped me get the confidence and skills to be able to live in my own flat and to get the internship. My local friends who did not go away to college are all still living at home and can't look after themselves and I am very happy and proud that I was lucky enough to go to Derwen and become as independent as this.”**





## Keeley

Keeley, a Horticulture student at Derwen's Walford campus, is autistic, with moderate learning difficulties and obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), which creates anxiety around interacting with peers and completing daily tasks.

The team and Keeley worked hard to build trust and develop strategies. As her confidence grew, her determination to support others led to a position as a Student Union rep, where she represented the College at Natspec Parliament.

Keeley now has a placement at social enterprise, Agri-Cation, which involves horticulture, craft projects and supporting of educational groups. She attends with her job coach Gemma.

Keeley is also learning independent living skills such as using a washing machine, cleaning up, and has enjoyed learning to cook. Eventually, she would like to combine her love of plants, and her creativity, to work as florist. Keeley was recently delighted to pass her driving test.

**“It gives me independence to come to College, work placements, or go to the gym on my own. I love my car and my freedom!”**

Walford campus Coordinator Liam says: “Keeley has grown from strength to strength. She was voted Student of the Year 2020–21, and we’re all incredibly proud to see her progress continue into her Supported Internship. Keeley has a bright future ahead of her.”



# A place of possibility.

Derwen College is 'a place of possibility'. We work with our young people to support them to achieve what they want to and challenge them to do more. Our students regularly exceed what they thought possible. Your college programme can open up a world of exciting opportunities

Derwen College delivers exceptional programmes within a rich learning environment for young people, aged from 16 to 25 years, with special educational needs and disabilities, including:

- Learning and physical disabilities
- Autism
- Behaviours of concern
- Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities (PMLD)

Visit [www.derwen.ac.uk](http://www.derwen.ac.uk) to see our virtual tour and begin your Derwen College journey!

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