

DFN PROJECT SEARCH



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MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF COLLEGE

Rachel Thompson

Hi everyone,

This year has once again been fantastic for our Queensmill College DFN Project SEARCH internship program at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (ChelWest).

Our interns have worked hard and achieved their ASDAN Employability and Inclusive Working CPD qualifications whilst gaining experience in various hospital and contractor departments, as well as in external sites. Many former interns are thriving in paid roles or volunteering within the Hospital Trust, and new interns have also gone into paid employment this year.

This success is thanks to the partnership between Queensmill College and the different teams at the ChelWest hospital and Stamford Bridge Hotel. Together, we are breaking down barriers to employment for young people with autism and learning disabilities.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support and congratulations to our interns. We look forward to celebrating this year's interns at Graduation this July!

Wishing you all a wonderful Summer.

Rachel ”



MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS LIAISON

Kathryn Mangold

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Hi,

Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust is proud to continue our partnership with Queensmill College delivering the DFN Project SEARCH programme.

Over the past 7 years, our hospital teams and contractors have supported more than 20 young people to gain employment and have real work experience across a wide range of departments. The experience our interns gain here is incredible and continues to open doors to employment.

I want to thank all our managers and mentors for their continued commitment, and a special thanks to the Queensmill team for raising awareness of autism and learning disabilities across the Trust, and for their relentless efforts in helping interns move towards paid employment.

Thank you all for making this programme such a success.

Kathryn. ”



SPREADING THE WORD

About Supported Internships

This year, our interns have been developing their public speaking skills – a powerful way to promote self-advocacy and inspire the next generation to consider supported internships as a pathway to employment.

Many young people are unaware that this route is even possible. That's why hearing directly from our interns – as they share their own journeys into employment – can be so impactful. Even more powerful is the fact that many of our interns have attended at nurseries, schools, and colleges that the students in the audience did attend in the past.

It's been a truly inspiring experience all around.

Here are some of the moments we've captured throughout the academic year.



Students from West London College visited our Education Centre at Harbour Yard Business Centre.

Our interns informed them about supported internships and provided a masterclass about safety in the workplace.



All our team visited Kensington Ormiston Queensmill, in order to inspire the little ones to pursue employment when they get older.



A small Project SEARCH team visited West Thames College during their Careers Week to inform students about supported internships.



CAREERS @ STAMFORD BRIDGE HOTEL



We were delighted to be invited by Mark Gregory-White, General Manager of the Stamford Bridge Hotel, for a special breakfast with our whole team.

During our visit, we had the opportunity to learn first-hand about breakfast service and gain valuable insights into the hospitality industry.

We are truly grateful for Stamford Bridge Hotel's continued support and generosity. Opportunities like this mean so much to our interns and staff. We're already looking forward to working together again in the coming year!

WEBSITE UPDATES

Dylan Brayford

Job Coach

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This year I was given the opportunity to push my creative boundaries when I was asked to come up with a re-design for the Queensmill college website, something I've never done before.

I wanted to create a sense of unity between the two sites (Q6 and Project Search) while also making it a more user-friendly experience.

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What are Supported Internships?

A one year transition to work programme for autistic young adults and young people with other disabilities, including learning disabilities who hold an EHCP.

It includes on-the-job training, classroom learning and support from job coaches.

For more information about DEN Project Search, please visit their website. [PROJECT SEARCH WEBSITE](#)

Our Main Sites

NHS

- Chelsea & Westminster Hospital
- West Middlesex University Hospital
- Hatfield York Business Centre

Our main hospital sites offer an average of 15 different departments where interns can develop new skills and refine existing ones. Each department provides opportunities across various roles, requiring specific skills for physical tasks, data entry, customer service, cleaning, organisation, and more.

Collaboration with New External Rotations

- Stamford Bridge Hotel Chelsea F.C.
- Woodford Shopping Centre White City
- Hammer Power Station Shopping Mall

Our external rotations offer up to three different roles per site, with the potential for a paid contract upon completion.

The Team

Our team consists of seven specialists, each playing a key role in supporting interns as they learn and develop skills to secure employment.

Led by a Head of College and an NHS Business Liaison, our team, which is fully funded by the Education Provider (Queensmill College), includes a Qualified SEN Teacher, an experienced Job Developer, and three highly trained job coaches.

We provide personalised 1:1 support to maximise each intern's experience and improve their chances of finding a job. Our approach is adaptable but always focused on achieving employment outcomes by the end of the programme.

JOB DEVELOPER VOICE

Josh Hodgson

Job Developer



“*Our biggest year is yet to come*”



NEW PARTNERSHIPS



Westfield Shopping Centre in West London will now be part of the **Queensmill College – DFN Project SEARCH** programme.

Internship rotations at Westfield will take place with specific subcontractors, including:



4 Rotations with Ethos Farm



- Westfield Shopping Centre Cleaner - Internship
- Westfield Shopping Centre Restaurant Assistant - Internship
- Westfield Shopping Centre Kitchen Porter - Internship
- Recycling Sorter - Internship

4 Rotations with Grosvenor



- Car Park Inspector (Internal) - Internship
- Car Park External (External) - Internship
- Car Park Customer liaison admin assistant - Internship
- Red car rental cleaner + inspector - Internship

EXISTING PARTNERSHIPS

ISS Continues to Champion Opportunities for Our Interns.



After seven years of partnership, ISS remains committed to creating employment opportunities for our interns. This year, we're thrilled to announce that two of our interns will be joining the ISS team.

AD will be supporting the Catering Stores team at the Chelsea site, while RJ will be joining the Portering team at the West Middlesex site.

We're proud of their achievements and grateful to ISS for their ongoing support in making inclusive employment a reality.



Equans Welcomes One of Our Interns to Their Team

Equans at West Middlesex Hospital continues to recognise the value our interns bring to the workplace. Believing in the positive attributes of this year's cohort, they have offered a 30-hour contract to our intern JSR, who will be joining the Grounds Maintenance team, helping to keep the West Middlesex premises clean and well-maintained.

Congratulations to him on this fantastic achievement!



NEW MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMME FOR OUR STAFF AND INTERNS

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College Mental Health Lead
Todd Wearn

College Counsellor
Pablo Gonzalez

We're excited to launch a new wellbeing approach this year focused on prevention, positive relationships, and stress management. Interns will be offered 1:1 counselling each half term to support their mental health, alongside group workshops to explore strategies like breathing exercises, grounding techniques and regular wellbeing practices.

By year's end, each intern will have built their own personalised wellbeing toolbox to support them in their day to day lives. We look forward to working together with interns, families, and staff to support this journey.



**For more information please contact the Wellbeing Team at
todd.wearn@qcollege.org.uk**

CELEBRATING OUR INTERNS' ACHIEVEMENTS



DB has become only the second intern ever to complete the Pharmacy Accreditation – an impressive achievement that required picking and distributing 500 items with zero mistakes! This is a challenging task that few manage to accomplish. DB showed real perseverance through difficult moments, and all that hard work has truly paid off. Well done, DB!

DP has grown in confidence so much during the supported internship that her family is now telling her to take it easy! She has successfully mastered two NHS roles – in Accounts Payable and Dermatology – and even delivered a presentation to a group of 30 people, showcasing her developing public speaking skills. As a wheelchair user, DP continues to break down barriers and inspire everyone around her. A truly remarkable journey!



EH – our workplace soldier! This year, he's made a real difference supporting the ISS team across multiple departments and proudly became the Trust's first-ever Recycling Auditor – a vital role ensuring that PPE is disposed of correctly. From day one, he made an impact. EH is a brilliant example of how job carving can create meaningful roles that help organisations meet their sustainability and operational goals. A true trailblazer!

DG can deliver anything, anywhere at Chelsea & Westminster Hospital! With excellent moving and handling techniques and top-notch trolley training, he's truly unstoppable. The Procurement team has given glowing feedback on his work, and he's also developed valuable skills in the Lab at the Sexual Health Department. On top of that, DG successfully completed an external rotation at Stamford Bridge Hotel – a fantastic achievement. Well done on an incredible year, DG!



VOLUNTEERING:

A Pathway Beyond the Internship

Our mission at Project SEARCH is to support our interns in finding meaningful employment. While employment is always the goal, we recognise that it isn't always possible straight away for a variety of reasons.

For many of our interns, the hospital remains a safe and familiar environment where they can continue to grow in confidence, build skills, and gain valuable experience.

We're proud to have developed a strong partnership with the ChelWest Volunteering Team, offering our interns opportunities that may lead to employment in the future.

Many of our former interns now play an active role in the hospital community—supporting patients, welcoming visitors, and spreading kindness throughout the Trust.

They're here to help, to learn, and to continue making a difference.



TA

Project SEARCH Graduate -
Current Chelwest Volunteer

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I've been a cooperate volunteer, and also volunteering at the hospital for about 2 years now. And I love coming back each week on Thursdays.

And it also makes me feel proud to help those special patients and visitors across the wards within the hospital, and for those who need help and care.

And I have also learned many new skills during my time over those 2 years until this present day

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SPECIAL STORIES



JJ is a graduate of our DFN Project SEARCH programme at Chelsea & Westminster Hospital and has always stood out as a dedicated and talented intern. In fact, he secured employment during his very first rotation—an impressive achievement! By the end of the internship, JJ had not just one but two job offers to choose from.

He accepted a part-time role in the Pharmacy Department, while also making history by becoming the first-ever Project SEARCH graduate at the hospital to complete a Supported Apprenticeship. JJ worked in the Coding Office within the Sexual Health Department while studying for his Level 3 Business qualification.

It was a demanding schedule, but JJ rose to the challenge and successfully completed his apprenticeship with a Distinction!

A huge congratulations to JJ, who continues to inspire others through his hard work and commitment. We believe this experience will open many exciting doors across different departments in the hospital and beyond.

SPECIAL STORIES



We're incredibly proud to celebrate Cormack Mylchreest, a Project SEARCH graduate and the winner of "Newcomer of the Year" at the 2025 MyPorter Awards. The MyPorter Awards shine a spotlight on outstanding individuals and teams working within healthcare portering and domestic services.

Cormack, who was diagnosed with cerebral palsy, began his journey in the Pharmacy Department during his Project SEARCH internship at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital. After his contract came to an end, he chose to stay connected to the hospital by volunteering.

While volunteering, Cormack supported the portering team, helping deliver vital items across the hospital. He enjoyed the role so much that he decided to apply for a permanent portering position with ISS Healthcare—and he got the job!

His dedication, positive attitude, and commitment to helping others quickly made him stand out, earning the title of "Newcomer of the Year".

Cormack has also raised over £1,500 for SCOPE and walked 500 miles to support food banks, showing the same commitment to others in his personal life as he does at work.

A hero and an inspiration to us all. Well done, Cormack!

