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National Star College



Create your
brighter future





Welcome to National Star College

We're here to help you create your brighter future. Whether you want to discover more about the world around you, actively contribute to the community or gain a job or voluntary role after college, National Star is the place for you.

With campuses in Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Wales you can learn with us on a full or part-time basis as a residential or day student, depending upon where you live.

There is no such thing as a 'typical' National Star student. We celebrate the diversity of all learners, who bring something vibrant and special to college. We work with young people with a range of complex and multiple learning and physical disabilities, so we know you'll fit right in and soon see National Star College as your 'home from home'.

Discover your future

We are passionate about supporting students with special educational needs to prepare for adulthood.

We want to understand your interests, aspirations and needs so we can build the right personalised programme and support plan.



This prospectus can only go so far in capturing the unique essence of our college. Come for a visit, meet our team and current students and decide whether you would like to be part of the National Star family.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Welch'.

Simon Welch
Principal

Your time is now

There's only one you. We invest time in getting to know your ideas for the future so that we understand what you need to learn to get there.

This starts from the day we meet you and your parents and carers for the first time. With your permission, we'll also contact your current school and healthcare professionals to ask them to provide information about you and your needs.



During an assessment visit we'll begin to better understand your interests and the support you might need to make the most of your time at National Star. This is nothing to be worried about.

It will give us an opportunity to understand you as a person, as well as your personal care and therapy needs. We also begin to work out whether you might need any specialist equipment or technological or emotional support to achieve your goals.

“Excellent assessment and planning ensure learning programmes are highly individualised and students make significant progress.”

Ofsted, 2018





Securing local authority funding takes time. That's why we recommend students start thinking about their transition to college in Year 11. Book your visit to National Star by emailing admissions@nationalstar.org

www.nationalstar.org





“They (National Star) are swimming against the tide by sticking to what they do best – and doing it better than the rest.”

TES Awards, 2019

What we offer

Depending on where you choose to learn with us, you will be able to take advantage of a range of first-class facilities.

These include an aquatic therapy pool, sensory suites, horticultural spaces, dance studio, IT suites, gyms, an award-winning bistro and a printing enterprise.



We have forged strong community links and work in partnership with other organisations to arrange dance, cycling and boating trips, as well as visits to local businesses, helping you to explore the world around you and develop skills for life.

We are able to offer students the opportunity to travel abroad on cultural exchange and sports trips, including our highly popular annual ski trip to Andorra.

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Flexible and responsive learning

Our approach to learning is to be as flexible, creative and resourceful as possible, providing learning programmes that meet the needs of each student.



“The tutors and facilitators support learners successfully to reach their individual targets. Careful planning and support arrangements meet pupils’ learning, emotional and health needs.”

Estyn* monitoring report feedback, April 2020

www.nationalstar.org

*Her Majesty’s Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales



Activities can include:

- Aerial dance
- Art
- Animation
- Ceramics and glass fusing
- 3D printing
- Cooking
- Customer service
- Dance
- Designing and delivering presentations
- Digital photography
- Drama
- English
- Horticulture
- Literacy
- Maths
- Music
- Numeracy
- Photography
- Sport
- Swimming
- Welsh culture and language

These activities are the means for students to learn life skills as broad-ranging as improving communication, enhancing numeracy, developing teamwork, managing behaviour and making choices and decisions.





Outstanding staff, outstanding facilities

Many of our staff are award-winning leaders in their field who work together as part of multi-disciplinary teams to support students to achieve.

All our teams are committed to working together to help you realise your aspirations. Student achievements are all different and celebrated equally. For some students, learning to be independent so they can make decisions for the first time is liberating and life-changing.

For others, gaining customer service and communication skills in preparation for the world of work is their goal while at college.

Therapy at National Star plays a major part in the social, emotional, behavioural and physical

wellbeing of students. While many students have the need for specific therapies outlined in their Education, Health and Care Plans, most students will access therapies at some time or other while studying with us.

“People and their families viewed the staff as exceptionally skilled and knowledgeable when supporting them with complex health needs.”

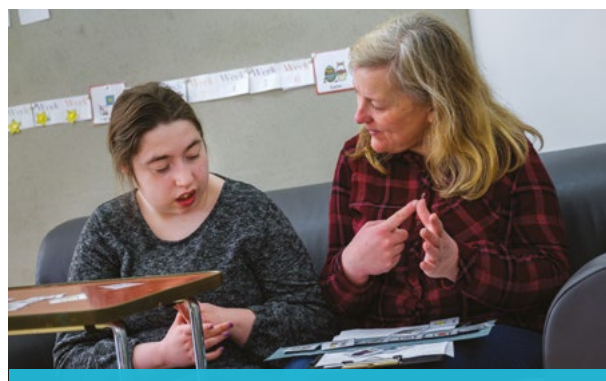
Care Quality Commission, 2020

www.nationalstar.org



Available therapy programmes:

- Aquatic therapy
- Dramatherapy
- Music therapy
- Occupational therapy
- Pain management
- Physiotherapy
- Positive behaviour support
- Posture management
- Rebound therapy
- Relaxation and sensory
- Respiratory support and management
- Speech and language therapy



“They always pick me up when I am not feeling hunky-dory, then they always help me feel better.”

Student feedback to Care Quality Commission inspectors



“The progress made by students from the time they start at the college until they make the transition to their chosen destination is outstanding.”

Ofsted, 2018

www.nationalstar.org



Delivering results, achieving outcomes

National Star is all about what makes a difference and we are continuously looking at how we can improve what we do for students.

Although we provide students with the opportunity to study towards formal qualifications, that is not the only way we measure students' achievements and outcomes.



One student may feel very proud of learning to swim without armbands for the first time. Another will have spent a whole term perfecting the use of AAC eye-gaze technology to make choices about what they wish to wear each morning.

Holly was overjoyed when she passed her GCSE English Language exam, while Katie knew she had moved closer to independence when she developed the skills and confidence to administer her own medication. Judging our results by formal qualifications alone only tells a small part of the story of what is achieved at National Star.

Ask us about the former student who had the confidence and communication skills to choose to live with his peers when he left college, or the woman who now volunteers at her local hospital radio station, or the students who worked as part of a team to produce a local radio show. There are countless other examples of students exceeding their own expectations, as well as those of their parents and carers, thanks to their time at National Star.

Book your visit to National Star today and begin your journey towards independence.



Living at National Star

Our range of student accommodation will enable you to live independently, be sociable, make friends and continue learning outside the classroom.

We will support you to take control and direct your personal care and support. You can learn how to become more independent through performing household tasks such as cooking and laundry, and develop skills to manage your home, money and personal safety in the community.

We'll recommend a residence for you based on your

individual needs so that you can make the most of living away from home with your peers.

“We found young people and staff were motivated and passionate about equality and empowering people to live the lives they want.”

Care Quality Commission, 2018

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Some of our residences have large communal living spaces and kitchens for shared living. Others have flats to prepare you for living on your own or with a friend.

Some rooms have environmental controls so you can practise vital skills to become more independent.

Our term-time student accommodation is also available for respite stays during the holidays. We have a range of clubs and activities in the evenings and weekends, including a popular animal club and student disco.

You can visit bars, cinemas, go shopping and visit local attractions with friends.





“Our daughter Ruth has learned, developed and grown with the collective help and support of National Star, and made more progress than in the previous decade. National Star exceeded our expectations.”

Ruth's father, 2019

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Support for your onward journey

We know we can play a key role in you living your life to the full as the things you will learn at National Star will all help you prepare for your future.

After several years of studying with us it can be exciting and challenging to consider your next options. A dedicated member of staff will work with you and others who are important in your life to establish your transition plan.

You may decide to make the most of some of National Star's other services when you leave. We have accessible and fully adapted long-term accommodation in Gloucestershire and Herefordshire, and also offer respite and short break services.



We can provide private therapies and run a wide range of adult community learning programmes too.



We make an effort to keep in touch with former students and hold events throughout the year to give you the opportunity to reconnect with your college friends.

Come and visit

Securing local authority funding can take time, which is why we'd urge you to arrange an early visit to National Star.

Our friendly Admissions team will be happy to show you and your parents around our facilities, giving you the chance to meet current students and staff.

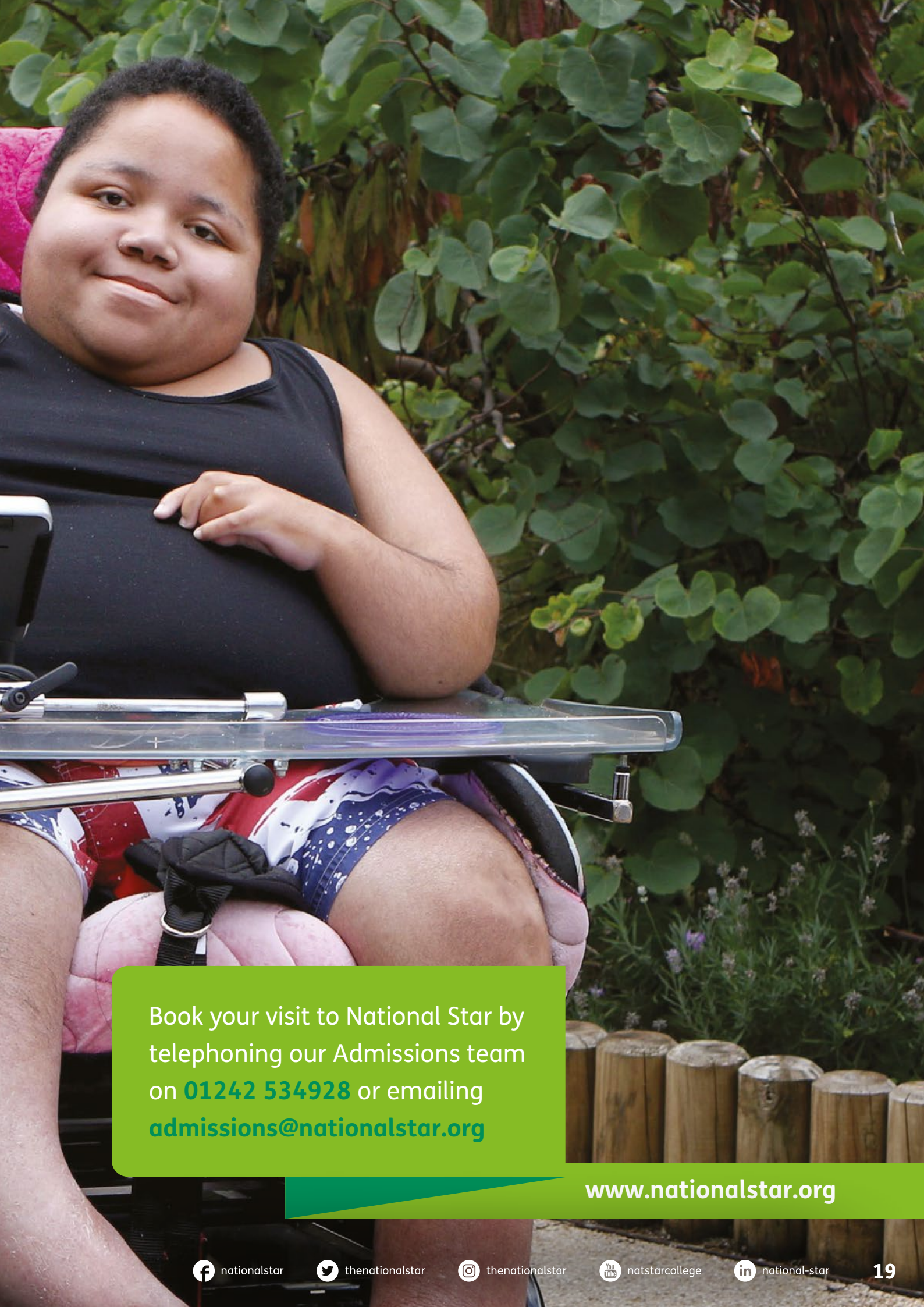


We know National Star is a special place – but don't just take our word for it. Telephone our Admissions team on [01242 534928](tel:01242 534928) or email admissions@nationalstar.org to see the college in action.

“If you are coming to National Star and get a feeling that it's the right place for your child, follow your instinct. My daughter is in her last term and we have never regretted sending her here.”

Parent, 2020





Book your visit to National Star by telephoning our Admissions team on **01242 534928** or emailing **admissions@nationalstar.org**

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National Star

Realising the aspirations
of people with disabilities

Email admissions@nationalstar.org
Tel 01242 534928



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