



Press Release

21st August 2015

GREATWOOD'S GET GOING STUDENTS CELEBRATE 100% SUCCESS

In reaction to the racing industry's mounting stable staff problem, Greatwood aims to combat this problem through the delivery of the 1st4Sport (in partnership with the BHA) accredited Get Going Educational Programme.

Greatwood Charity is a 1st4Sport Accredited Centre and the objective of the '**1st4sport Entry Level Award in Assisting with Basic Care of Horses (Entry 2) (QCF)**' is to provide a benefit to learners through delivering an introduction to horse care to people who have an interest in horses and may want to work with them but who have little previous experience. The award will give the learner the basic skills and knowledge required to assist with caring for horses under supervision and will prepare them for further training; the programme also includes a 'field trip' to a racing yard; as well as talks from industry guest speakers; plus a veterinary and farrier demonstration. This qualification is in partnership with the 

Today, Friday 21st August, saw 100% of all Get Going students pass the one week intensive programme, gaining 1st4Sport Entry Level 2 Award in 'Assisting with Basic Care of Horses'.

The programme also aims to:

- ❖ Sustain and increase the participation in the sport through education
- ❖ Encourage young people to participate, experience and understand horse racing
- ❖ Encourage the consideration of the horse racing industry as a career option
 - ❖ Grow and diversify the fan base of the sport through education



Greatwood students showcase their skills with former racehorses, Framed, Quixotry, Ouzbeck, Malapropism, Albuhera and Seek The Faith

- 19 year old refugee from Sudan (referred by Swindon Care Leavers): who had to flee his war-torn homeland on his own four years ago, now wishes to pursue a career within the racing industry having completed the Get Going programme.
- Another student, unemployed Sarah G (referred by Jon Centre, Melksham) wrote: “Being on jobseekers sometimes makes me feel a bit of a failure and a burden on society. But you have all made me feel so welcome and happy. I have much more hope for my future now I really think / know that working with horses is what I want to do. It has taken me so long to figure this out, so thank you so much you have helped me more than you know.’ Sarah has already been in touch and would now like to volunteer at Greatwood.
- Sarah D (referred by supporter worker at Foyer Foundation) told Greatwood: “I have definitely become more confident around horses thank to Greatwood and I am now considering a job within the equine industry or possibly teaching because I have been so inspired by the teachers at Greatwood. I also suffer from Ehlers-Danlos syndrome (which effects the connective tissues in the body) and I rely on painkillers everyday however since I have been at Greatwood this week, this is the first time in four years that I haven’t had to take any medication. I think being around the horses has released natural endorphins because I feel so relaxed and happy. Thank you for the incredible insight into the racing industry. You have helped a lot.”
- Sam R (referred by Inner Flame): “Thank you for being so welcoming to a complete novice. I found this course more rewarding than anything else I have done before and I am now considering a career in the equine industry. You have given me access to a whole new career path that I never thought I’d have the chance to go down.”
<https://sjmuler.wordpress.com/2015/08/19/get-going-at-greatwood/>
- Louise H (referred by Job Centre, Swindon): “I have enjoyed Greatwood hugely and my confidence has grown. I have loved my week here and I don’t want to leave. I would like to work with horses and come back to Greatwood”
Shania L “Being at Greatwood has made me feel a lot more confident and I have achieved more than I thought I would and could.”



The Programme:

Aiming to help combat the rise in unemployment amongst young adults, the Get Going Programme is an innovative 1 week intensive course which provides students aged 16-24 with a qualification in basic horse care which will enable them to progress further in the equine industry or put them onto the path to further learning and will develop key workplace skills such as motivation and confidence.

Launched in 2012, the Get Going programme aims to combat the rise in unemployment amongst young people by offering a qualification in basic horse care which will enable them to progress further in the horse racing industry. This innovative programme develops key workplace skills for NEETS (not in employment, education or

training) who have potentially struggled at school; or have been in care; or are long-term unemployed; or have been in trouble with the law. Greatwood is involved in active marketing of the Get Going programme via local job centres; the Foyer Federation; local schools and colleges; the probation service; The Princes Trust; and through our invaluable relationship with the Local Youth Networks and Community Officers; the Wiltshire Council; and the Swindon Council as an 'Accredited Alternative Provider of SEND Programmes' and an Accredited Provider of 'Positive Activities for Young People' with the Wiltshire Council.

This accredited programme offers a 1st4Sport Entry Level 2 Award in Assisting with Basic Care of Horses (5 credits towards the QCF Framework*). Greatwood's 'Get Going' programme is aimed at KS5 learners and NEETS and we are now seeing attendees that more than likely would not have secured employment, entering the work place as a result of this programme. Having developed a very good relationship with the NRC, students have the opportunity to progress from the Get Going programme on to the NRC 18-week Stable Staff Foundation Course; alternatively students have the option to enrol on a Traineeship course at Greatwood Charity.

(The **Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF)** is the national [credit transfer system](#) for education qualification in [England](#), [Northern Ireland](#) and [Wales](#). Every unit and qualification in the new framework has a [credit](#) value (where one credit represents 10 hours of learning time). There are three different sizes of qualification: **Awards** (1 to 12 credits); **Certificates** (13 to 36 credits); **Diplomas** (37 credits or more). In addition, each qualification has a level of difficulty from Entry level at the bottom to Level 8 at the top.)*

Funding:

The Get Going programme receives no direct funding from the local authority and currently is not eligible for funding from the Skills Funding Agency (SFA). Due to the economic and social circumstances of the students attending Greatwood, places on the Get Going programme are offered free of charge to the young people and funding is therefore obtained via grants from Trusts and Foundations.

It costs the charity over £500,000 each year to support up to 60 ex-racehorses per annum whilst delivering education to 300 disadvantaged young people annually; we rely heavily on the support and generosity of the industry as well as the general public with our fund-raising efforts on-going throughout the year.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Established in 1993, Greatwood is the most established racehorse welfare charity in the UK and the first organisation to use ex-racehorses to educate disadvantaged children and young adults with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, whilst providing those horses that couldn't be re-homed previously with a useful occupation. Greatwood operates a 'Cycle of Rehabilitation and Change': horses helping young people ♻️ young people helping horses.

As an accredited Alternative Provider of SEND programmes and Provider of 'Positive Activities for Young People' with the Wiltshire Council, Greatwood offers a variety of unique resources to both mainstream and specialist schools as well as to parents and carers; exclusion and reintegration multi-agency teams (including The Prince's Trust); the LAC Service (looked after children); and local authorities to meet the needs of vulnerable and 'at risk' young people in the community. Being able to offer a variety of inclusively diverse programmes has helped to enable those that have previously attended one of our courses, the opportunity to sustain their educational development at Greatwood. Greatwood has now educated over 3,500 disadvantaged children and young adults since 2006 from Wiltshire, Hampshire, Oxfordshire, West Berkshire, Gloucestershire and Somerset.

Greatwood's SEN Programmes aim to:

- Provide socially inclusive opportunities to transform the lives of disadvantaged young people from challenging environments by re-engaging them back into education/training/work.
- Educate young people with first hand experiences of farming, animal welfare and horticulture.
- Identify future job opportunities by bringing alive the countryside as a place of work as well as understanding the career landscape.
- Work towards reducing young people at risk of NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training); crime; and anti-social behaviour.

Greatwood's variety of educational programmes prepare young people, often marginalised by society, for life in and out of the workplace by helping them to learn life and study skills; as well as personal development and employability skills; achieve a nationally accredited qualification; and ultimately assist them in achieving independence in adulthood. National Open College Network (NOCN) qualifications offer a step-by-step, unit-by-unit route into learning and skills that help to increase learners' confidence and employability and make sure that the qualifications fit with today's industry needs. In addition, Greatwood aims to promote a highly skilled and educated work force, which will address the skills shortages and lower than average educational attainment in the community.

Greatwood works with children and young adults with a variety of SEND ranging, but not limited to: autism, ADHD, Down Syndrome, Global Development Delay, Attachment Disorder, Asperger Syndrome, specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia and dyspraxia, as well as social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. Greatwood aims to help those who are, or have previously struggled in mainstream education; these students have may have suffered significant harm, loss or trauma during their childhood; or may suffer from medical conditions, all of which affects them through to adulthood and manifests as low self-esteem. Our innovative, personalised programmes not only help the young people but those that work with them at school and in the care system too, providing comprehensive support. We run credit based learning programmes for KS4 learners most at risk of disengaging; these courses are especially suitable for those learners following an alternative curriculum or who are at greater risk of exclusion. Greatwood's 'Get Going' programme is aimed at KS5 learners and NEETS, and we are now seeing attendees that more than likely would not have secured employment, entering the work place as a result of this programme. In addition volunteering and holiday programmes are also available; for 2015/2016 Greatwood will be offering study programmes; apprenticeships; and we will be developing a more cohesive progression for students going from Primary education into Secondary education.

Low confidence and self-esteem is a significant issue within the cohort of vulnerable groups that Greatwood serves, often displayed in a variety of challenging behaviours, and which can affect young people's progression into education, employment and training (EET). Greatwood's programmes support young people's personal development and individual resilience resulting in more sustained transitions to EET with a particular focus on support for those furthest from the future workplace due to vulnerabilities, learning difficulties or social exclusions. Positive aspirations are crucial for young people's future success; what people aspire to do as a child is linked to what they do in later life, and low aspirations lead to poor academic attainment and professional achievement.

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Greatwood's educational programmes are supported by

www.greatwoodcharity.org

For photographs from our extensive library, interviews or more information,
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