

You Said, We Did - Update for Learners: December 2024

Your voices are important to us, and whilst we will take everyone's viewpoints on board, we are not able to please everyone with so many learners so we have to go with the majority of learners' views. We know that this is difficult for those who do not share the majority view, and this feels as though your views are not important, this is not the case and there will be things that do go with your views, and where possible when planning future changes these will be captured.

We wanted to remind you all of some of the things that you told us over the past two terms, what we have done with those comments/views and to outline some of the next projects from your feedback. We also want to thank you for your patience as some of these jobs have taken us a little longer than we expected and we know that this can cause some of you anxiety and frustration – so a massive thank you from all staff 😊

September 2024 – December 2024

You said:	We did:
You wanted a dedicated space for Hair & Beauty Qualifications	Led by Wayne, the Construction learners built a new room for Hair & Beauty; other staff supported this by working late evenings and weekends; Julian and Lisa funded the equipment, and the room was opened on 5 th December 2024
A number of you asked for lunches to be provided and expressed an interest in developing cookery skills as part of independent living but you were worried as there was no freezer on-site; and there was limited equipment	A freezer has been purchased along with other equipment such as more crockery, cutlery, and other kitchen equipment. Julie has been an angel and has deep-cleaned the entire kitchen and has labelled all cupboards. The majority of learners now have a hot meal each day, and we are getting into a routine of meal planning and preparation and this will be even better in the New Year now that the routine has been established and Libby has agreed to support Learners in this area
You said that there was nowhere to eat lunches and that the middle room was a mess	With the help of staff the entire learning zone building has been cleaned, tidied and broken equipment has been removed. We have purchased some new multi-functional furniture, which provides not only a social space for eating but also some additional learning

	space. The furniture that has been removed is in storage and we will work with you over the coming months to look at how we may further improve areas across the site
You told us that it was important to you to have your mobile phones with you and for staff to trust that you would agree to the 'rules' for this	You worked with staff to devise a mobile phone contract, and you all signed up to this. Unfortunately, as the weeks have progressed the use of phones during non-phone time has increased and you have several days to turn this around otherwise this will need to be reviewed in January and we may to revert to the MIAG policy of no phones on site, this is something that we do not wish to do as we know how important this is to you but we cannot have the level of disruption and silliness that we have seen in recent weeks.
You wanted the teaching rooms to feel more inclusive	Rooms have been re-organised so that work is within a group situation rather than smaller individual workstations

What Next? January 2025 – April 2025

We have three new members of staffing joining our staff team at Beeches from January 2025, we will introduce them to you at the start of the new term but their names are Freyr, she will be our SENCO/DSL; Josh who will be a teacher and Phoebe who will be working with Penny and our younger students at the Forest School

We also have committed to undertake some further improvements and wanted to outline these to you.

You said:	We did:
You want the Arts & Crafts Room to have a revamp	We have agreed to make this into a specific room (like Hair & Beauty), we will be putting up a new wall and there will be a separate door that creates its own space and provides a quiet environment for our creative learners. This work will start in early January and will be completed as quickly as possible.

	We will work with our learners who are keen on this area of work to ensure that, where possible we can create a perfect environment
You want to be able to do some nice off site activities at the end of term	We will be introducing a new rewards system where you will all have opportunity to earn daily/weekly rewards that can be saved up to earn an end of term activity/treat. This will be a system where good behaviour or excellent examples of progress can be seen. Staff will be implementing this early in the New Year and will ensure that you all know how you can earn these rewards and how the system works
You have asked for the outdoor area to be more welcoming	We are working to create some nice spaces outside of the learning blocks and you will start to see some changes late in the Spring. Creating outdoor space is weather dependent so we will have to wait of the nicer days to come but we are committed to ensuring that this space looks and feels better for the summer months so you can all enjoy some outdoor time.

We love to hear from you about things that will make the MIAG learning environment better, not just for you but for the young people who come here when you have left for your next placement or work. We are committed to improving the site and need to do this through the eyes of you the learners. If you have ideas for improvements please do speak to George and he can bring these forward to the leadership team.