



Building Skills, Building Futures

**PRESTON
VOCATIONAL
CENTRE**



Building Skills | Building Futures



Who are we?

Preston Vocational Centre (PVC) is a registered charity, established in February 2009. We provide vocational training and personal development support to children, young people and adults, especially those living in and around Preston. Our aim is to equip our learners with the skills required to go onto further education, training, or employment.

The PVC approach has been so successful that we have now seen 6,000 learners come through our doors, many of whom had previously disengaged from other forms of education. Our support for local schools continues to grow year on year.

Our parent company is Preston's largest social housing landlord, Community Gateway Association.



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Jack's Story

Why did you choose PVC?

Like many others, I am not that academic. After leaving school I didn't really have a real idea about what to do next. I heard about PVC through a family member, thought it sounded interesting and went along to see what it was about. The rest is history!

How have you found it so far?

I've really enjoyed it. The learning is very hands-on, which makes it easy to stay interested. From plastering to bricklaying and decorating, no two days are ever the same. The teachers and staff are another big reason why I've enjoyed it. They treat everyone as equals and are always respectful. This has created a great environment for everyone to learn in.

What will you take away from your time at PVC?

Well, my BTEC qualification of course! But I've learnt lots of things, including how important hard work and doing something you enjoy are. I've become interested in plastering and have recently been staying behind after class to help plaster the PVC building as a way of giving something back.

What do your family think about you being at PVC?

They are proud. They say I have become much more positive after

finding something I enjoy doing. They also say they are much less worried about my future prospects now.

What's next?

I think for the first time I am actually optimistic about the future. I graduate in the summer and then hope to start an apprenticeship at a local building company. After that, who knows? I may look at starting my own plastering business!

To read more of our student testimonials, visit www.prestonvocationalcentre.co.uk/success-stories



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Feedback from Local Schools

“Staff are very experienced with handling pupils with challenging behaviour. PVC is a warm and caring environment for pupils to learn.”

“Hope High are very appreciative of the support and vocational education that PVC provide to our students and would recommend them to any school who may require alternative education options for their students.”

“Great service, very friendly and amenable.”

“Friendly professional and organised staff. Staff will always look to resolve issues and have a high standard of positive relationship building with learners and other professionals.”

“We feel as a school the service provided by PVC is extremely good. We are informed about pupils attendance and if they are not in school PVC will chase up with parents/carers. Also we receive feedback about the pupil’s learning and attainment. With regular updates scheduled every term.”

“Really popular provision in school that is always oversubscribed. More places if possible as the need is there.”

“PVC continues to be one of our most popular and successful vocational providers. This year we have requested additional places as so many of our pupils are expressing an interest in the Construction trades. We have always maintained a good relationship with the Centre staff and they continue to be a huge support to the school staff and pupils as a whole. We hope to continue this successful partnership into the next academic year and beyond.”

Feedback from Community Groups

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We are really grateful for the benches the students at PVC made as it has provided our customers with a much more comfortable wait, rather than just having to sit on a nearby wall.

Jackie - Purple Pantry Food Outlet



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Thank you so much for the benches that you have made for us - they are great! The pupils and staff will massively appreciate being able to sit out and enjoy the garden, which they have recently spruced up.

Abigale, Headteacher - Shaftesbury High School



Want to help us make a difference and change lives?

Why do we need your help?

We are a not-for-profit organisation funded solely by income from local schools, grants and kind donations. We operate on very tight budgets and are always keen to ensure that our learners have the best experience and support we can provide, so they can realise their potential. Seeing our students progress and learn crucial skills like bricklaying, plastering, painting or plumbing is so rewarding, but even a humble brick costs 75p and sadly, we can't teach students how to build a wall without a few of them!

Why should our organisation help? What's in it for us?

Supporting us is a fantastic opportunity for you to fulfil your corporate social responsibilities with a local charity that makes a real difference to the life chances for young people in the area. Not only will you be investing in PVC, but you will be transforming people's lives, building their confidence, helping them get their foot on the career ladder or even a job with you in the future! How great is that?

Testimonials

Here's what some of our supporters have to say about why they got involved:

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Chris Holden
Managing Director CCH Joinery



At CCH Joinery we buy into the philosophy of local community and the importance of supporting commerce, charity and society. In many ways we share the views of Community Gateway Association (CGA), which fosters our great working relationship.

CGA introduced PVC to us last year when we installed some fire doors for them at the Centre. We were that impressed with what PVC were doing, we immediately gave them a donation to buy new boots and PPE for the students.

Since then, we have employed two young men from PVC as Apprentice Joiners. The level of application shown by both of them has been outstanding. Their drive, determination and work ethic has been a revelation. To be honest, they have had such an impact, we've asked about the prospect of employing a further two young people from PVC.



Chris Keeney

Managing Director JFN Integrated Solutions

Our organisation has always ensured social value is at the heart of our business. Working with Preston Vocational Centre gives us a great opportunity to put that into practice.

Some people ask “what’s the benefit to JFN?” – a good question. The relationship benefits us greatly. We have recruited several apprentices directly from PVC who have Level 1 qualifications and have learned skills such as how to use tools and Health & Safety. What makes them stand out is that they have also gained life skills, understand what it’s like to work for an employer and what to expect from a construction career and how to benefit from it.

We also now have a reputation as an employer who wants to work with young people and offer opportunities. That alone makes people aware of our “brand” and who we are.

How do we support PVC?

Well, in various ways including offering interviews to students, sponsoring awards and helping PVC keep up to date with its Fire & Security infrastructure and we plan to do more. PVC is integral to JFN’s corporate responsibilities.

Why do we support PVC?

My own journey as a teenager was not too dissimilar to that of many of PVC’s learners. We can talk about corporate responsibility and social value all day, however in my experience, it comes down to having compassion and a desire to support young people to achieve their potential. Our PVC apprentices are some of our most dedicated and loyal employees. To see them going to college, gaining qualifications, and growing as individuals is so rewarding.

Preston is our home, with most of our work coming from the North West. We love to support our community and there’s no better feeling than helping young people achieve their potential.



Maureen Boland

HR and Business Development Director Conlon Construction

How does Conlon Construction support PVC?

We have supported PVC financially each year for more than a decade and sponsor their inspirational annual awards evening. We provide work experience opportunities for PVC students with the help of 'Constructing the Future Lancashire' and additionally make a point of encouraging our supply chain members to support PVC if they can.

Why do we do it?

As a leading construction business and personally as a Board member, we see the excellent results that PVC achieve with the students who attend. PVC delivers a range of trades courses and the students have a genuine interest in construction. In turn, the partnership was a perfect fit for Conlon, and we were keen to get involved. By supporting PVC, we are helping the students to gain real life construction experience and the qualifications they need to give them a route into the industry, as well as a solid foundation to build upon.

How does it benefit Conlon Construction?

We believe we have a responsibility to train and develop the future talent in our industry, and our work with PVC is integral to this. Apprenticeships and training are part of our DNA and working with PVC is so much more than a corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative.

Why would Conlon encourage other companies to get involved?

Many businesses look to give back to their community where and when they can. This is not just because it enhances the company's reputation, it's because it can make a real difference to local organisations like PVC, who are working to improve the prospects and life chances of young people. We look forward to many more years working with PVC, and we would encourage other businesses to follow suit and pledge their support.

How can I get involved?

We offer a range of Patronage Packages to local organisations with a social conscience who are interested in making a difference to their local community.

We will provide recognition of your generous support as a sponsor on our PVC e-newsletter and through external media, as well as on our digital channels:

➔ www.prestonvocationalcentre.co.uk | [@prestonvocation](https://twitter.com/prestonvocation)

Other ways of lending a helping hand...

🕒 As well as our prestigious Patronage Packages, you can also donate on our **JustGiving page** - www.justgiving.com/preston-v-centre.

We're always grateful for any contribution and will put it to very good use.

If you can't help us out with a financial contribution, we'd also really appreciate any donations of materials or offers of support for our learners, no matter how small. In particular:

- Assistance writing award entries to gain recognition for the work we do
- Donations of stationery, refreshments, snacks, office supplies
- Supporting our learners through mock interviews or delivering CV workshops
- Providing students with guest speakers from the construction industry
- Donations of building materials (bricks, plaster, paint, wallpaper, wood, etc.)
- Donations of building tools (trowels, paintbrushes, planers)
- Offers of work placements for our learners to gain valuable experience
- Offers of apprenticeship opportunities for our graduates
- Training days, eg. self-employment, managing finances, organisational skills.

SILVER PACKAGE

£500

This could provide:

- 10 pairs of safety boots for our young people
- 10 overalls for our young learners
- Juice and snacks for student refreshment breaks

What you will receive from PVC:

- Opportunity to visit our training centre to see some of the great work we do with young people
- Access to reduced cost DIY training for your staff
- Recognition of your support as a sponsor on our website, Twitter page, PVC e-newsletter and in local media coverage

GOLD PACKAGE

£2000

This could provide:

- Notebooks, folders and pens for 20 learners
- Enough wood for 20 Joinery and Carpentry lessons
- 20 rolls of wallpaper for our decorating students
- 10 tins of paint for painting students
- 10 paint brushes for our lessons.
- 1 ton of wallpaper paste for our decorating lessons

What you will receive from PVC:

(In addition to the Silver Package)

- Sponsorship and presentation of a student award at the annual PVC awards event held in July each year
- Tour the PVC Centre with your clients to demonstrate your commitment to the community
- Nominate PVC as your staff charity of the year and we'll come along and deliver a short, inspiring presentation to your team about how their fundraising activities will make a difference

PLATINUM PACKAGE

£5000

This could provide:

- Student certificates to recognise individual achievements
 - Two packs of bricks each for our bricklaying students
 - One ton of sand and 10 bags of lime cement
 - Trowels for our plastering and bricklaying students
 - Tea, coffee, sugar and milk for student break times
- ... and so much more!

What you will receive from PVC:

(In addition to the Gold Package)

- Your logo displayed at the Centre
- A team-building session at PVC, where your team can try their hand at some of our trades for themselves
- PVC colleagues will be happy to attend your corporate events to speak about the great work of the centre and how your support makes a big difference
- Access to special promotional packages for any PVC events
- We would be keen to engage with you as an employer, giving our young people an insight into the world of work, or perhaps even an apprenticeship opportunity with your organisation

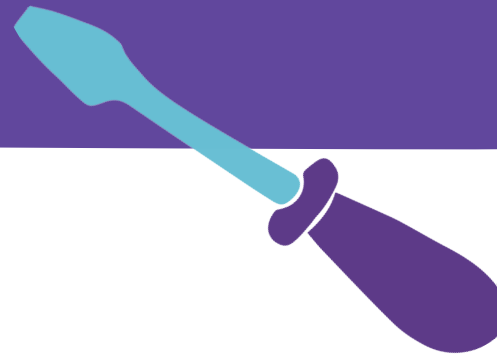
Contact Details

For more information about Preston Vocational Centre (PVC), please contact us at:

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Website: prestonvocationalcentre.co.uk



Follow us on Twitter to keep up to date with all the great work we do!

 @PrestonVocation

Please make a donation of your choice via our Just Giving page – we're extremely grateful for any contribution and always put it to good use.

 www.justgiving.com/preston-v-centre

If you are interested in becoming a Patron of PVC and signing up to one of our range of prestigious Patronage Packages, please contact us.



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