Seashell Matters

Autumn/Winter 2024

Seashell

Patron Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Contents

Hello & welcome	**3**
Our Impact	**4**
A very Royal visit...	**6**
How we transform young lives	**7**
Proudly offering free family support	**8**
Steel Beam Signing	**9**
Launching our MQ MSI PGDip	**10**
Hire our facilities	**11**
Arthur's Story	**12**
Donate	**13**
Support Seashell your way	**14**
What's on in 2024/25	**Back page**

Pudsey came to Summer CADS...

Many families of children with disabilities find it hard to find suitable holiday clubs, often due to lack of inclusive facilities, equipment and support. Our Sports, Leisure and Wellbeing Activity Programme, CADS is able to accomodate children with a high level of need.

Funding from Children in Need means we can offer one to one provision, which is essential for some of the children who attend and is what makes CADS unique...thanks for visiting Pudsey!

Hello & welcome

to the Autumn/Winter edition of Seashell Matters...

Seashell Matters is all about highlighting the amazing difference our supporters make. This edition demonstrates the life changing impact your support has on our students and the wider community...

We see the impact our work has on children and young adults everyday on campus, but it has been a special time drawing data for our Impact Report. It truly demonstrates the meaningful work we do and fuels us moving forwards. Some highlights are included on page 4 where you will also find a link to view the full report.

There has been great progress with the build of our new college, and I am delighted to have the facility named after long term supporter, Ged Mason. We celebrated this milestone by hosting a Steel Beem Signing event, which brought together students, staff and supporters to make their mark on one of the beams that will form the structure of The Ged Mason Building - read more about this on page 9.

Numerous other events have brought a variety of special guests on campus, including Children in Need's Pudsey Bear, over 1,000 members of the community at our Superhero themed Summer Fair, not to mention Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Edinburgh. It's safe to say, there is never a dull day at Seashell!

We continue to make great progress with our college appeal, and thanks to some exceptionally generous supporters we have raised £6.8m of our £10m target. We need plenty more help to make our new college building a reality and there are so many ways you can get involved. Please know, that every single donation made is truly appreciated.

Looking forward, I'm delighted to see the return of our Strictly Seashell fundraising event, which will see a brave team of local business people take to the dancefloor, all for a great cause. Planning is well underway, and we can't wait to share more information from the rehersal rooms! You can find out more information on the event, including table packages on our website here: seashelltrust.org.uk/get-involved/strictly-seashell/

I do hope you enjoy reading this issue of Seashell Matters - please don't hestitate to get in touch with our team if you would like to get involved in supporting Seashell in the future!

Brandon Leigh
Chief Executive, Seashell

Our Impact

We are delighted to share with you our Impact Report, which encompasses our achievements over the last year.

Students attending our school and college often arrive at Seashell at crisis point, when other provision has been unable to meet their high level of need. But thanks to our unique expertise and environment, we see children and young adults make life changing progress, that has an enormous impact on their future.

We continue to lead the way, sharing our expertise with our communities, for the benefit of thousands of disabled children and young adults. It is with great pride that we are able to share with you what we've been able to achieve.

Our Impact Report demonstrates the incredible progress the our students can make with the right support. With the help of our colleagues, partners and funders, we are building a brighter future, not just for now, but for generations to come.

Student outcomes...

Thanks to our generous supporters, we are able to provide the best facilities, equipment and experiences that significantly improve life outcomes for our students and their families.

88% of children attending our school achieved their individual education plan targets this year.

98% of young adults attending our college achieved their destination goals for the year.

34% of residential students reduced their need for support as they had become more independent.

Our year in numbers...

In total, more than **8,000** people benefitted from our wide range of services and facilities in 2023/24. This included:

Education and care for over **130** children and young adults with some of the most complex disabilities in the country

Fully inclusive sports, activities and facilities accessed by over **2,600** children and adults from the community

Information, advice and training to over **300** families, to help them support their child with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

Training and support to almost **200** organisations and more than **300** professionals to enable them to become more supportive and inclusive

Our work doesn't stop there...

We are committed to understanding the complex needs population better, and are working with specialist organisations and condition specific charities to capture data that will help with planning of future provision. Our **National Complex Needs Survey** has already demonstrated that organisations like ours have seen notable changes to their cohort in the last five years.

Read the full report on our website:
www.seashelltrust.org.uk/our-impact-2023-24/

...or scan the QR code

A very Royal visit

Excitement was in the air when Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Edinburgh visited our campus earlier this year.

As well having the opportunity to meet our students, their families, staff and supporters, the Duchess broke the ground of our new college, The Ged Mason Building as well as formally opening the new home to our school - The Moulding Foundation Building.

She was also given a whistle-stop tour of our incredible facilites and even had a spin on one of our adaptive cycles on our Learn to Ride track, The Bradbury Cycling Centre.

Royal College Manchester Principal, Clare Sefton said: *"It's been an absolute pleasure to meet The Duchess today - I was able to discuss the new college with her and explain how this new environment will be sensitively designed for the needs of our students both now and for the future.*

She's just made such an impression, taking time to meet the students and staff - she certainly has put those first. The students and staff have been extremely excited - the atmosphere has been electric!"

We are very proud of what we've been able to achieve throughout the years, not to mention our plans for the future development of our campus and services. It was an honour for staff and students to introduce The Duchess to the impactful work that goes on everyday at Seashell.

How we **transform** young lives...

We are proud to challenge misconceptions of what disabled young people can achieve. As a result of the experiences we provide, our students are four times more likely to progress into paid employment than the national average.

It has been acknowledged by regulatory bodies that we don't place boundaries on what our students can accomplish. This aspiration allows children and young adults to make incredible progress with us.

By changing our perception of certain activities and adapting what we see as an achievement within them, the opportunities for disabled young people become endless.

We work closely with a number of organisations to break down barriers and promote inclusivity in the workplace and community; creating opportunities for our students that will prepare them for life after Seashell.

Armaghan's Story

Armaghan graduated from Royal College Manchester in 2023. When he first joined us, his ADHD and Autism meant he found it hard to communicate and he could get easily distracted.

Benefiting from the routine and structure, Armaghan thrived as a residential student. He was able to develop the skills, knowledge and behaviour needed to take on several work placements. Thanks to his hard work and determination, he secured a paid job upon leaving college at Laltex. Now, he is a calm, happy young adult who is able to focus on tasks. His attention to detail has been praised by his employers.

Armaghan's success truly represents what we set out to achieve.

Proudly offering ***Free*** **Family Support...**

We are delighted to have been able to offer a series of **free** workshops for families of children and young adults with the most complex disabilities thanks to sponsorship from Slater and Gordon Lawyers.

Parent carers of disabled children face significant financial inequalities. Many are unable to work due to care responsibilities and the lack of/cost of appropriate childcare. So being able to remove financial barriers and deliver this support for free is invaluable.

Sessions have covered a variety of topics, from sleep support, internet safety, wellbeing and self-care.

An attendee of our most recent workshop on wellbeing said: *"It has been incredibly helpful and so lovely to feel listened to and seen as an individual."*

Rosalyn, a Principal Lawyer at Slater and Gordon said: *"Although I regularly meet with families of children with complex needs and disabilities there is usually an agenda and endpoint to the meeting, and so it was a privilege to be able to just listen and absorb information and stories, which I hope will give me a greater degree of empathy and understanding generally."*

Jenny, Family Support and Participation Manager at Seashell said: *"The feedback we receive from families shows how vital it is to continue offering the opportunity to attend workshops that not only empower them to increase their knowledge but also to look after their own wellbeing."*

The workshops have been delivered both online and in person, in the hope that as many families can access the support as possible.

Seashell / Slater Gordon

Family Support Workshops

Partnership Impact Report

"It has been incredibly helpful and so lovely to feel listened to and seen as an individual" - Seashell Parent

40

"It's the first time we have been able to attend something as a couple for a long time" - Wellbeing and self-care workshop attendee

Seashell Slater Gordon

Steel Beam Signing Event

Our campus transformation made another leap forward in September, as we held our steel beam signing event with students, staff and supporters of Seashell.

The beam, which is now in situ and forms part of the structure of the new building is adorned with signatures of those who together, make Seashell the special place it is.

It would not have been possible to reach this milestone without the support of lead donor Ged Mason OBE. Not to mention notable donations from Together Money, the Mulchand Foundation and the Michael Josephson MBE Charity Ball, all of whom were in represented. With £6.8m raised towards the build, we have £3.2m left to raise.

Ged Mason OBE, said: *"I'm proud to be associated with this new college and the benefits it will have for the students. Our family have been supporters of Seashell for 20 years or more and when we first visited, we were just blown away. It was great to visit again and meet the students, who are all enthusiastic about this new building going up."*

Also in attendance were The High Sheriff of Greater Manchester Dr Eamonn O'Neil DL and Diane Hawkins, Lord Lieutenant of GM. Mrs Hawkins said: *"I was here when the Duchess of Edinburgh visited earlier in the year cutting the grass sod. And here we are with all the steelwork already up. What a fantastic rate of progress! And I'm so excited to be back again, soon I hope, for the opening."*

Launching our **MQ MSI PGDip**

We were delighted to see the launch of our new Mandatory Qualification of Multi-Sensory Impairment Post Graduate Diploma.

Excitement was in the air as the next generation of Qualified Teachers of Multi-Sensory Impairment (QTMSI) gathered together for the first time, ahead of the two year course.

Multi-Sensory Impairment (MSI) means that a person has impairments with both sight and hearing. The combination of sight and hearing impairments can also cause additional challenges, such as problems with balance and spatial awareness, this is why we talk of Multi-Sensory Impairment , but you may also hear the term 'deafblind'.

Terminology in the education, health and care settings can vary, making understanding this population of learners challenging. In fact – this was one of the first topics that was discussed with the cohort during the residential weekend, alongside gaining a deeper understanding of MSI.

"MSI children and young adults require highly specialist teachers to maximise their potential to learn. This qualification will provide our students with the specialist knowledge to ensure those learners have the best opportunities in preparation for adulthood." – Caireen, Course Leader

We are one of just two providers delivering this specialist course in the UK. This is welcome news for the Sensory Impairment (SI) sector and for MSI especially, as it will give more opportunities for MSI learners, their families and naturally, the professionals working with them.

We are proud to have this course validated by Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU).

Find out more about our MSI Services: **seashelltrust.org.uk/msi-support/**

Hire our facilities

Looking to host an AGM, event, staff celebration or exhibition? Or do you need somewhere to host your sports club or teaching sessions? Our flexible spaces could be just what you need.

Our inclusive spaces can cater for up to 220 guests and there is free parking on site. We have a number of packages to suit your event, and our on-site production team will help you bring your day to life.

With flexible indoor and outdoor space, our venues flow to allow you to host arrival drinks, Keynote presentations and breakout sessions. We've hosted a wide range of organisations including Bentley, Syngap1 UK, Team Spirit Cheerleading, 1Voice and the Hallé; you can even combine your event with use of our pools, 3G football pitch or cycle track.

"What an absolute privilege it was to host our 4th Annual Syngap1 family and researchers day at Seashell. Andy worked relentlessly throughout the whole of the day to ensure the conference ran smoothly- he truly was amazing." - Melanie, event organiser

Our spaces can be hired individually or in combination to create large-scale, impactful events. The Margaret Mason Hall can be configured for theatre style seating, or left clear to allow 250m square for your customisation. Our Heart Space is ideal for exhibitions and networking, and connects to our dining space and kitchens. Finally, in the warmer months our Courtyard is a great place for breakouts, and hosts sports activities as well as being a place to serve food and drinks.

To discuss your event, or for more information, please get in touch with:
andy.macauley @seashelltrust.org.uk

We are so hopeful for Arthur's future...

Arthur was diagnosed with ASC (Autism Spectrum Conditions) when he was three years old - he is largely non verbal.

At his previous school he was very frustrated and overwhelmed. He was isolated a lot due to his behaviours, only being able to attend school for two hours a day. His anxiety was reaching such levels that he was self harming.

As a family we were desperate to find a better solution for Arthur. **No local authority schools were able to meet his needs.**

When I was first shown a classroom at Seashell I nearly burst into tears, because I just thought '*this is what he needs*'. The second he walked in his new space, you could immediately tell he felt at home.

The most important thing for us was that you could see how the staff were relating to Arthur. I could see it from the initial assessment he had. They had him interacting better than he ever had with someone he had only just met.

I can see him building his independence and confidence. He is mentally stimulated, and the staff have looked at what motivates him, and they use that to scaffold his learning.

If he is more independent in the future, that is beneficial to absolutely everyone. I can't imagine where we would be without Seashell.

Neryssa, Arthur's Mum

You can now set up a regular gift to Seashell!

We are thrilled to share that for the first time in over 200 years, you can now set up regular donations to support Seashell.

Regular donations are vital to help more children and young adults like Arthur have the best experiences and outcomes.

Donation form 2024

We're so pleased you'd like to help children and young adults with the most complex disabilities. We'll use your details to fulfil your request.

Please return your donation to Seashell, Stanley Road, Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire, SK8 6RQ.

Title:_____ First Name: _____ Surname:_____

Address:_____

_____ Postcode:_____

Email:_____ Phone: _____

I would like to make a single donation of: ☐ £20 ☐ £50 ☐ £100 ☐ Other: _____

☐ I enclose a cheque (please make payable to Seashell Trust)

☐ I would like to donate by credit/debit card

I would like to make a regular donation of: ☐ £5 ☐ £10 ☐ £15 ☐ Other: _____

☐ Please call me to set up my regular donation

You can also donate/set up regular giving on our website **www.seashelltrust.org.uk /get-involved/donate/**

To donate by phone, include your number above and we will call you to process your donation or call us on **0161 696 9384.**

Scan to donate!

Staying in touch

We may contact you again by post or phone to tell you more about our services and other ways you can help, including opportunities to donate, volunteer or fundraise. Please let us know if you're also happy to hear from us by email and text.

☐ Yes I'd like to hear from you by email

☐ Yes I'd like to hear from you by text

We promise to keep your details safe and never sell or swap them with anyone. Our privacy policy explains how we keep this promise. If you don't want to hear from us, or change your mind about how we contact you, email info@seashelltrust.org.uk or call 0161 610 0171.

If you are a UK taxpayer your donation will be worth 25% more!

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☐ Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed as a current UK taxpayer. I want to Gift Aid my donation and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to Seashell. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amound of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that taxt year it is my responsibility to pay the difference. (please tick box)

Support Seashell your way...

We're all about supporting each other and doing our very best to improve the lives of children and young adults with complex disabilities. So why not help us on our mission and fundraise so that we can keep doing what we do best!

Take on a challenge...

Everyday our students face significant challenges. We have a host of challenges for you to get involved in. From the Tour de Manc, to a challenging hike in Wales... or perhaps you have an idea of your own that you would like to try.

Volunteer with us...

Whether it's as a one-off day with your work colleagues, or a regular slot supporting our CADS holiday programme which provides inclusive sport for children, we appreciate each and every one of our volunteers hugely!

This year we have been grateful to have the support of...

337 amazing individuals who took on a challenge for us

28 organisations who chose Seashell as their charity partner

673 individuals who visited our campus on a corporate volunteer day

With your support, we can achieve truly life-changing opportunities for children and young adults with the most complex disabilities.

Visit our website for more **information** and **inspiration**!

Be part of **generations of change makers**

Leave a legacy that will benefit thousands of children and young adults with the most complex disabilities.

Have you ever thought about leaving a gift in your Will? Donating to Seashell in your Will is lifechanging for future generations of disabled children and young adults.

We have been at the forefront of disability education and care for over 200 years. During this time, some aspects of our support has changed. The biggest of which, is the complexity of the needs of our students, and we now transform the young lives of those with the most complex disabilities from across the country.

As we look to the future, we know there will be more changes in the specialist field we work in. Your legacy can make sure that Seashell remains at the forefront of giving children and young adults with complex disabilities the opportunity to live their best lives.

Even a small amount of your estate could make a profound difference to many lives.

Here are some of the things your legacy could make a reality....

1% of a £100,000 estate could fund a specialist sleep workshop for families who are in desperate need of guidance and support.

2% of a £500,000 estate could fund Eyegaze technology to support non-verbal students to communicate for the first time.

7% of a £750,000 estate could fund a year's supply of physiotherapy equipment to support students with mobility needs.

Get in touch with **legacy@seashelltrust.org.uk** for more information

What's on dates for the diary in 2024/25

Fundraising events

Tour de Manc
4 May 2025

Strictly Seashell
17 May 2025

Great Manchester Run
18 May 2025

Oggie 8 Challenge (in wales)
26 June 2025

Have an idea for a fundraising event or challenge? We'd love to help support you! Contact **fundraising@seashelltrust.org.uk**

Seashell External Services

In the last year, we have delivered training and advice to almost **200 organisations** and more than **300 professionals** to enable them to be more inclusive. Not to mention supporting over **300 families** of children and young adults with SEND.

Find out more about our wide variety of services on our website **seashelltrust.org.uk/external-services/** and for more information or for bespoke training and support requests contact **outreach@seashelltrust.org.uk**

Seashell Active

Inclusive Community Cycling
Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:30-5:40pm

Our active team host a number of sessions for disabled young people and their families to access including swimming, yoga and cycling. Check out our website for more information, **seashelltrust.org.uk/seashell-active/**

Seashell Lottery

...an exciting way to support us!
Play weekly for £1 for your chance to win up to £25,000.

From just £1 a week, you can enter into a weekly lottery where you can win up to **£25,000**!

Every Friday, a winning number is drawn at random. Match your digits to win up to £25,000!

For more details about the lottery and how you can play and support Seashell, visit **seashelltrust.org.uk/fundraising/lottery/**

Keep up to date by following us on social media, visiting our website or you could sign up to our mailing list!

seashelltrust.org.uk