



**fircroftcollege**

# Impact Report

2024/2025

Learning To Become  
A Better World

[www.fircroft.ac.uk](http://www.fircroft.ac.uk)

# About Us

**Fircroft College is the only independent residential adult further education college in England, delivering life changing learning, situated in Selly Oak, Birmingham, close to the city centre.**

The college is a vibrant place welcoming learners onto a range of 3 day, and longer, residential courses from Entry Level 3 to Level 4. Courses including Access to Higher Education diplomas, personal and social development, academic taster courses, green skills, maths, English, IT and skills for work and volunteering. Funded largely by the West Midlands Combined Authority, our learners mostly live in the West Midlands county and are often eligible for fully funded or subsidised courses.

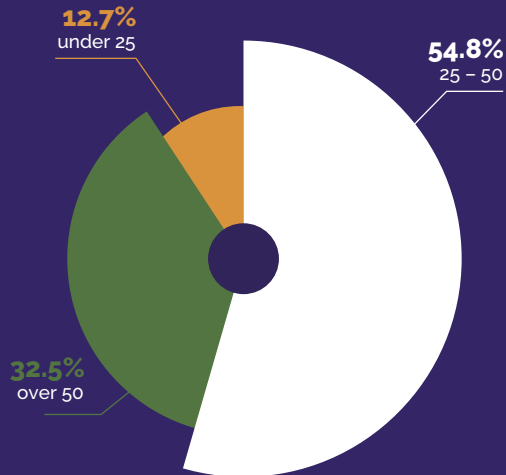
Our Level 2 Adult Skills: Pre-Access programme starting January is a great introduction to academic study and prepares learners for our Access to Higher Education Diplomas in September. Learners enrol onto these courses often following a learning journey at Fircroft of shorter courses, building their confidence and giving them a positive experience of education.



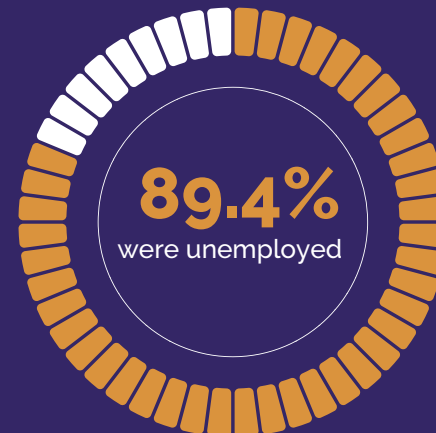
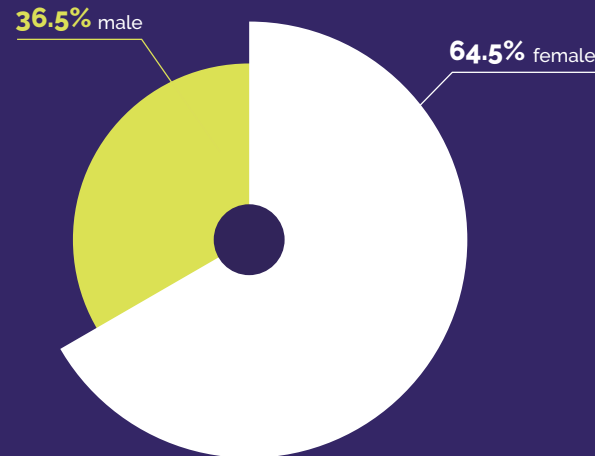
# Our Learners In The Academic Year 2024/2025

“ I thoroughly enjoy the holistic experience of staying at the college, the building, the surroundings, the people, the safety and reassurance, the warmth and the chance for a break and peace and quiet from the outside world ”

Age:



Gender:

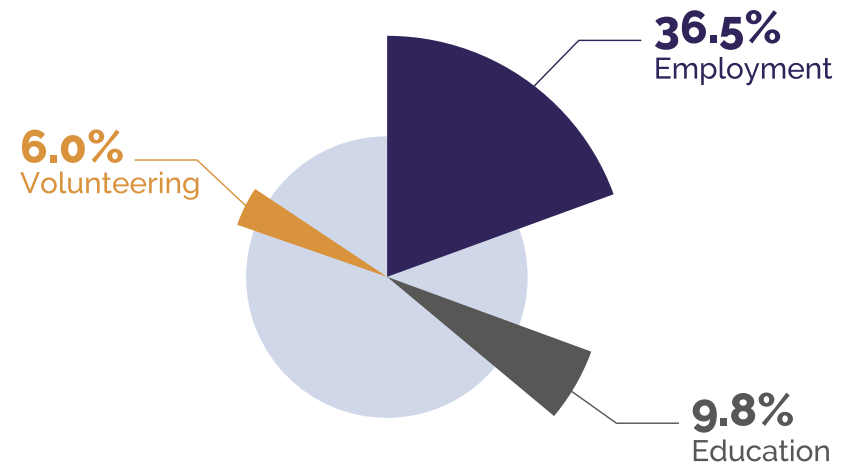


# Achievement, Retention and Progression

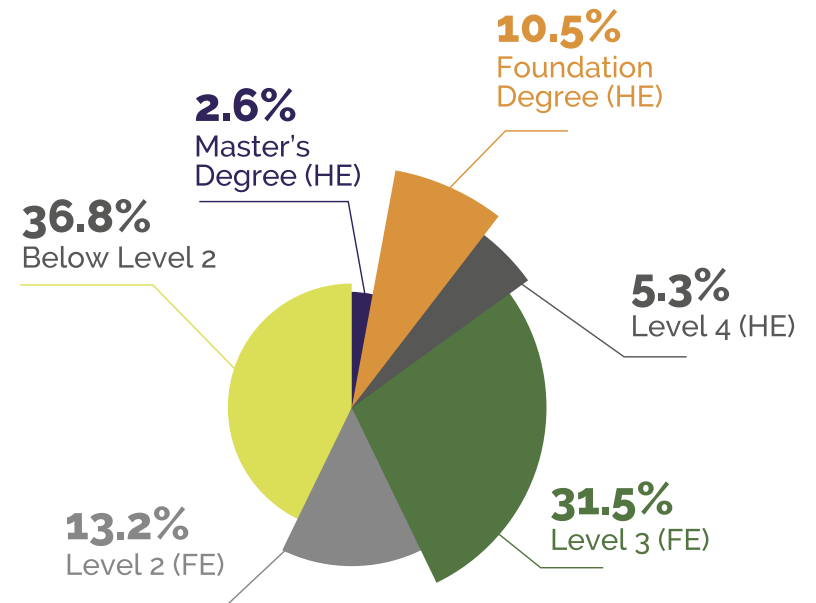
	Achievement Rates	Course Retention Rates
Short Courses	93.8%	95.2%
Access to Higher Education Diplomas	72.7%	86.4%
Tailored Learning for Skills Progression	91.9%	93.6%
Personal and Social Development	90.9%	93.5%
Sustainability	93.4%	94.5%
Health and Wellbeing	89.1%	91.8%
Progression into Further Learning or Employment	90.9%	93.5%

“residential learning enables you to study without any hassles”

## Progression



## Further Learning Progression



# Contributing to the Creation of Global, Sustainable Citizens



Fircroft College helped me to socialise and make friendships, also to explore everybody's talent and creatives and get inspired from them



## Health and Wellbeing



**60.6%**

of learners agreed that attending a course resulted in feeling less anxious and more confident

## Good Work



**74.0%**

of learners agreed that they had a greater willingness to progress in work or education

## Community and Civic Engagement



**58.8%**

of learners felt they would be more likely to take part in local community activities and/or are better able to support family, friends and neighbours



# Green Impact

- 🌿 176.1kg of garden produce was harvested
- 📊 Saving £1,212.29
- 🍽️ 2201 meals were produced
- 🌱 290.78kg CO2 saved

**2023**

**2024**

**2025**

- 🌿 414kg of garden produce was harvested
- 📊 £2485.87 saved
- 🍽️ 987 meals were produced from ingredients grown onsite
- 🌱 510.25kg CO2 saved

- 🌿 362.8kg of garden produce was harvested
- 📊 Saving £1889.22
- 🍽️ 4535 meals were produced
- 🌱 369.9kg CO2 saved



I love the green space, so calming



# Achievements



Arrangements for the building of our Eco Classroom began



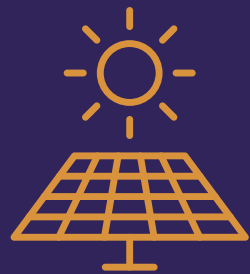
**93.4%**

achievement rate for green skills courses

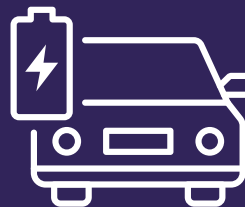
**Site changes made to reduce Carbon impact:**



We made a reduction in our supply chain and promoted a local first approach



Installation of 160 new solar panels



Introduction of Electric Charging Stations on site



The college won its second Green Gown Award in the "Digital Futures" category



I enjoyed it. I love the grounds, and appreciate how lucky we are to have a place like this in an area as large and busy as Birmingham



# Personal and Social Development

Attending Fircroft has allowed learners to:



Fircroft gave me a new view of college and education



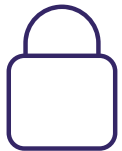
**84.7%**

Pursue their goals and ambitions



**82.6%**

Become more involved in society  
(i.e. voting, volunteering, politics)



**82.6%**

Protect themselves online and in real life  
(i.e. from scams, extremist views)



**77.7%**

Learn, work or study independently and make independent decisions



**74.6%**

Socialise, work and communicate with others



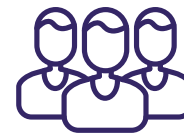
**58.5%**

Prepare for working life?  
(i.e. the transition from education to employment)



**82.2%**

Keep themselves physically and mentally well



**250+**

We have over 250 different referral partners from DWP, mental health services, recovery services, community projects and employment partners.

# Information, Advice and Guidance



**79.9%** agree the course they studied was relevant to their future career path



**78.0%** agree that careers advice given by advisors, tutors or other college staff helped them to discover their goals and ambitions



**75.2%** agree the course they studied was relevant to what they are doing now



**82.5%** agree that college staff helped them to understand the different paths they could take to achieve their goals



It's massively beneficial to be within a space with likeminded people learning and to feel accepted as we are and to have our own space to learn



# The College Experience



**96.2%**

How was your experience of teaching rating?



**83.7%**

How was your experience of food and catering rating?



**93.6%**

How was your experience of course content rating?



**95.4%**

Have you felt safe while at Fircroft?



**88.2%**

How was your experience of learning support rating?



**91.4%**

How was your experience of facilities rating?



**98.7%**

Did you achieve what you were hoping to achieve on the course?



# The Residential Experience

## Learner feedback:

“

Helpful gives you a chance to separate away from outside factors and really ground yourself to be able to study better

”

“

Helpful – it gives you a chance to separate away from outside factors and really ground yourself to be able to study better

”

“

Gave me time to fully engage in the course and escape my usual routine

”

“

Just keeping calm in a stress free environment, making me think better for my mental health, which helps my wellbeing

”

“

Fully able to focus on content which is very difficult in home or work environment

”

“

Fully immersed in the experience of the learning

”

“

It's been nice not to worry about things that I would be thinking about if I was at home, and helped me focus on the course and myself

”

“

It has made it a lot easier by far and also enabled me quiet time to reflect with beautiful scenery

”

“

Gave me a safe space to learn

”



## Our Referral Partners

We are proud to work with almost 300 referral partners in the West Midlands, including charities, local council services, community interest companies and networking/membership groups, who refer their service users to Fircroft when they are ready to move on in their lives, through education.

A large number of our referral partners are from the mental health and addiction sectors. Other sectors include mild learning and physical disabilities, housing, employment support, youth work, older adults and domestic violence.

Through our green skills courses and the innovative ways we maximise the use of our 6 acres of grounds, we also work with many local gardening and sustainability networks to expand staff and student learning, exchange ideas, offer and receive support. Being a part of a large network of sustainable organisations supports our mission "To promote social and climate/environmental justice by providing adults with an excellent learning environment for personal, professional and political development".


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