

English+

Annual Review 2019



Language + Community = Integration

This has been an amazing year for English+: growth in student and volunteer numbers; two new conversation classes; new opportunities for students to volunteer locally; an expanded range of short courses to help people access work and volunteering; and the joy of watching individuals and families start to feel at home in Norwich as they begin their settled lives here. This year we have worked with over 260 people compared with 220 in 2018.

We are hugely grateful to our financial supporters without whom none of this work could happen, but like so many charities, securing ongoing funding for our work continues to be a significant challenge. If you would like to support us, or are aware of funds we could apply for, please do get in touch. You can make a one-off or regular donation at give.net/englishplus

Thank you to everyone who has been on this journey with us during 2019, in particular to David Wormald, who has been a wise and supportive Chair of Trustees over the last three years, and to Barbara Drake as she takes on the role from 2020.

Rosie Sexton, Charity Director

Training sessions



Up to 80 students join us for English lessons at our busy teaching sessions on Mondays and Thursdays. About ten groups, from absolute beginners to more advanced students, are taught by qualified teachers and assistants to help them learn and improve. Coffee breaks provide a chance to make friends and practise English conversation.



Our popular Wednesday conversation class at St Alban's continues to go from strength to strength, and we have been delighted to partner with King's Church and NCBC to start two new conversation classes this year.



The short course programme provides great opportunities for students to improve their confidence and employability. This year about 60 students have completed courses in driving theory, food hygiene Level 1, cooking, and swimming.

Volunteering opportunities



We are very proud of our links with local organisations who provide our students with opportunities to volunteer and have new experiences. This year more than 50 students have taken part in activities designed to give them a real sense of place. These have included copping, path clearing, and re-pointing a Victorian mill with the Broads Authority and Natural England. Students have taken part in learn-to-draw sessions in the beautiful Norfolk broads, and photography sessions in the Jenny Lind area. We have started a monthly Museums Club and volunteered as part of the annual museum deep clean with Norfolk Museums Service, giving students a greater understanding of Norfolk's heritage. Finally, students have gained valuable work experience volunteering at the Sanctuary Coffee Stop on Grove Walk.



Social & community activities

From our weekly Art, Craft and Conversation session at Holy Trinity Church, to visits and trips, our students and their families tell us how much they value the ongoing social events and activities that help them forge friendships and support networks.



Our programme of summer holiday activities continues to be a highlight. This year it included visits to the beach at Cromer, High Lodge at Thetford Forest, Gressenhall and Norwich's two cathedrals, with over 120 individuals and families taking part. The summer programme concluded with a fantastic day out at the Dinosaur Park for a small number of families whose children would not otherwise have had a summer treat. Asylum seekers tell us that the summer holidays are a particularly hard time for them and their families, when usual activities stop running, and there is no school for the children. They value opportunities to get together, to do something different and to see more of our beautiful county.

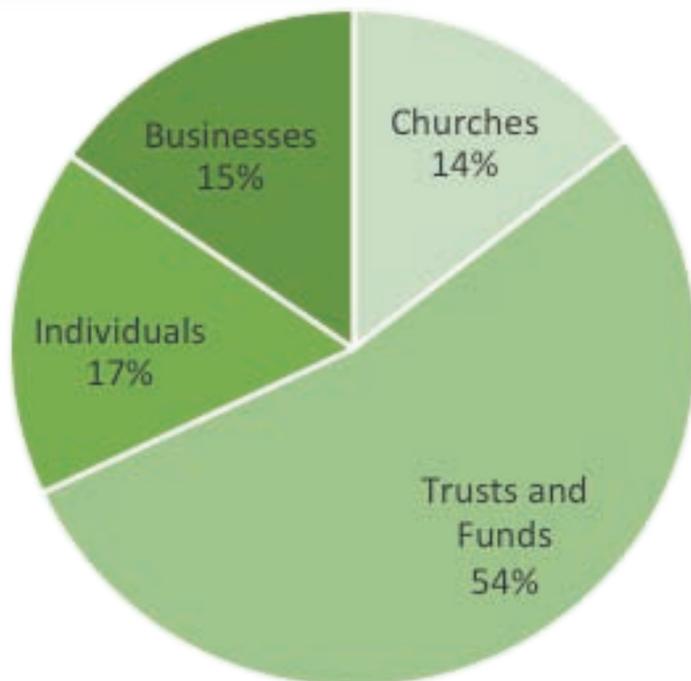
Working with other charities, we support students with the logistics of making Norwich their home, with practical help, advice and signposting to other organisations related to benefits, housing, immigration or education. From welcome packs and household items for asylum seekers moving into their first homes, to baby essentials for those welcoming new children, people tell us what a difference it makes to have trusted people to turn to for advice and practical help. This year we have again partnered with STN Trust and others to provide Christmas gifts and food for over 90 asylum seekers, refugees and their families. These parcels were a welcome gift at a time when families and individuals can feel particularly isolated.



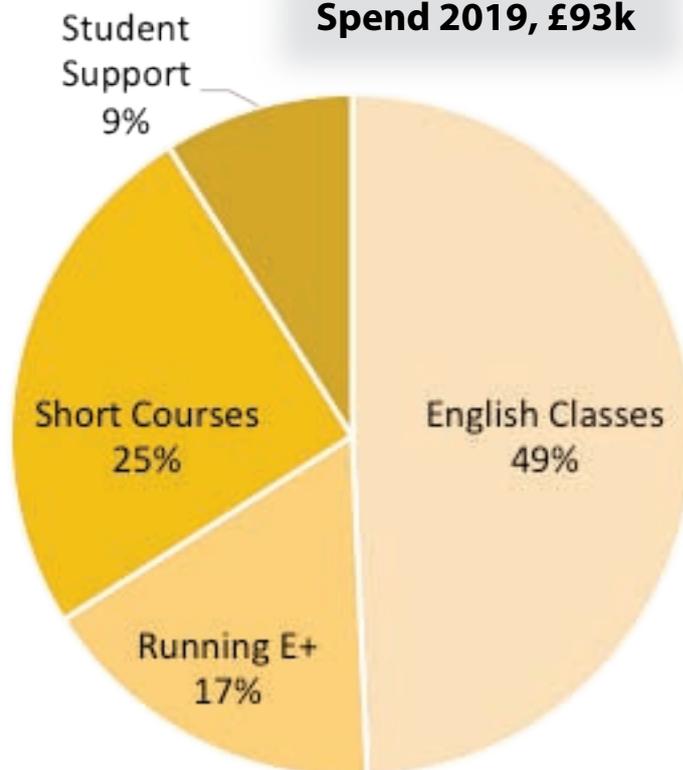
Our finances



Income 2019, £1110k



Spend 2019, £93k



Thank you

We are so grateful to everyone who has supported us this year, we could not have made such a difference without you:

- Our dedicated staff team
- Our wonderful teachers, volunteers and Trustees
- Our financial supporters: individuals, trusts and businesses
- The funders who made awards to us: Big Lottery (Reaching Communities, Awards for All), The Syrian Refugee Fund, KPE4, Water Mills and Marshes
- Our partners in the Norwich Integration Partnership, New Routes and Bridge Plus+

We are a Christian charity that is passionate about welcoming newcomers to Norwich. Through our friendly language and conversation classes, short courses, and programme of volunteering and social activities, we support new communities in Norwich to learn English, form friendships and to make this city a home.

