

## Introduction to Community Learning at Dartington

Since 1925, Dartington has been known for fostering a uniquely transformative, immersive, and deeply participatory learning environment. This pedagogy of wholeness is made possible by the central role of the *learning community* in which we all live and learn together. By integrating a range of practices, through the work of our head, heart, and hands, we seek to find balance between the practical, conceptual, intuitive and experiential.

Community members are invited to direct and embrace their own learning journeys through a diverse range of experiences. These approaches provide time and space for us to integrate our learning throughout our daily practices and contemplate and build relationships with one another and with the more-than-human world that grounds and connects us.

Rhythms of daily practice include community engagement in:

- Food & Farming
- Embodiment
- Meditation
- Reflection
- Creative action

It takes a community to create the container to hold space for each student's learning journey. This includes everyone -- volunteers, staff, students, visitors, and other members of our extended community.

As members of our learning community, we hope to:

- Understand the essential role of compassionate care of self and community
- Embrace curiosity and wonder to approach learning with a beginner's mind
- Practice skills of place-making, food, farming, and land stewardship
- Actively exchange ideas through shared, cross-disciplinary and collaborative processes
- Develop and explore connections to communities beyond your own

Residential volunteers and staff hold space for students to learn, but we acknowledge that both volunteers and staff themselves are on learning journeys of their own. Residential volunteers are essential to the learning environment as they actively participate in community learning and model practices with authenticity to help create a path for others to engage full-heartedly.

## Virtual Community Learning

Regular online meetings and platforms for us to share and deepen our learning and personal development practice.

### All times in Greenwich Mean Time (GMT)

Ordinarily, when students are learning in residence, we share community work together, forming work groups to practice gardening, food preparation, preserving and cooking as well as cleaning tasks to support the day to day functioning of the College. As students develop their learning practice during their residency we encourage them to begin sharing their research and offer leading practices for others to experience.

While we are learning remotely, students are invited to dip into an ongoing programme of activities to experience elements of this work from home whilst connecting with the wider learning community through online platforms and software.

We meet together for a live learning session each fortnight on a Wednesday to share a common space and have dialogue to create opportunities for connections. Collectively, we bring our attention and intention to engage ideas and each other in open space.

Each session will include an introduction to different practices guided by a member of our learning community. We will invite you to explore activities during and outside of the session that are experiential by nature. We ask you to create space for these experiences as part of your week, and to consciously spend time away from the screen to cook, garden, move, meditate, engage in creative action, and reflect on your learning journey by yourself, and with others.

### Community Backchannel

We encourage everyone to join Slack. This is the place where we can share resources, make announcements and ask questions. [Join the conversation on Slack](#) and start posting today. Open to all staff, students and volunteers.

### Community Check-ins

We are making space for human connection and creating a culture of checking-in. Biweekly meetings on Zoom during term time on **Tuesdays at 8:30 am and Thursdays at 4 pm** Open to all staff, students and volunteers. Share readings, popcorn-style check in, and participate an activity. [Join the meeting](#) - Meeting ID: 942 1574 7506 and Passcode: 233135

### Live Community Learning Sessions

**Spring Term - Save the dates - fortnightly on Wednesdays**

27th January, 11 am

10th February, 4 pm

24th February, 11 am

10th March, 4 pm

24th March, 11 am

Together we share skills as a community fortnightly through participatory sessions on Zoom, alternating between 11am and 4pm. Open to all staff, students and volunteers. This can include self-care resources and practical food and farming skills to help us live more sustainably and we being practitioners in our everyday lives. Through the practice, we learn how we effect the systems we are part of by being in service of each other and to the Earth. What are your beliefs? What are your values? What action are you taking? [Join the meeting](#) - Meeting ID: 942 1574 7506 and Passcode: 233135