KOESTLER ARTS



Kingfisher', Bournemouth Probation, Craft, 2021

MENTORING

What is the Koestler Arts Mentoring Scheme?

Our Mentoring Scheme provides support to those who have left prison who would like to continue with their creative activities post-release. Koestler Mentors are experienced writers, artists, producers, musicians and craftspeople who will work with you to help you achieve your creative goals.

Goals are specific to the individual but might include applying to college, receiving feedback on work, gaining work experience, attending an event or exhibition, performing or building a portfolio.

Successful applicants will receive a year's worth of mentoring support from a specially trained Mentor. Over the course of the mentoring year, Mentors and Mentees meet between 7-10 times.

Mentees can have their travel costs and entry to events and exhibitions covered for meetings with their Mentor.

Who can apply?

Anyone who has a creative interest can apply to the Mentoring Scheme, no matter how far along they are in their creative journey. We welcome applications from everyone who has experience of the criminal justice system.



'Another Chapter', HM Prison Peterborough, Gold Award for Themed Category: Interlude, 2019

'... since my play was so positively received, I felt that the Koestler Mentoring Scheme would be a great way to further explore how I could use my creativity to help make positive change [...]

I met my fantastic Mentor and we have attended many fantastic shows, galleries, conferences, speeches and events. My Mentor, and the activities I have participated in with her have ultimately just led me into a brand new job that I am really enjoying [...] I am grateful to my Mentor and Koestler for their encouragement and inspiration to achieve all the things I have achieved.'

- Lee, Mentee and Writer

'Being released was a very daunting thought and I knew that I wanted and needed something positive in my life, to help me manage my thoughts and emotions. The mentoring scheme gave me so many incredible opportunities that I would never have had, or even thought I could do, meeting new people, working with Koestler Arts, having someone to support me and help me grow as an artist, a new found confidence and self belief despite the anxiety and judgement that I was facing. Giving me something to channel all of those thoughts and feelings allowed me to grow as a person and as an artist and most importantly gave me the strength and courage to find my place back within society. It has been a life changing experience and one that I will be forever grateful for.'

-Sam, Former Mentee and Artist

How do I apply?

In order to apply you will need to fill out an application form, which you can complete at any stage of your sentence. Once we receive your application we will write to you to confirm we have received it. We will then seek a referral from your given contact on the application form. Please note this must be either an Offender Manager, Probation Officer or Offender Supervisor.

You can request an application form or get in touch with any questions about mentoring by writing to us at:

