

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK SAMPLES FROM CURRENT USER'S OF THE CIRCUS WORKS DEVORAN

FEEDBACK FROM YOUNSTERS AGE 7-16 YEARS PARTICIPATING IN CIRCUS - NAOMI'S AFTER SCHOOL SESSIONS @THE CIRCUS WORKS DEVORAN

Hope Smith age 14 Thursday after school

1. The chance to express myself in different ways and learn amazing new things.
2. The chance to learn new things and try things I have never done before.
3. I enjoy being able to hang from the highest of the silks and doing beautiful poses.
4. We have only just found you so let's please try and keep it going.

Naomi Williams age 14 Thursday after school

1. I love it because its a really positive environment and its a really good place to develop my skills and a good place for fitness and making new friends
2. I want to develop my skills on the silks and the trampoline not many other places in cornwall do silks or trampoline lessons to the good quality as this.
3. I really enjoy the new experience and doing things that i would never usually get to do and instead of sitting on my phone all day i can do something productive and have fun with my friends
4. I dont think that there is that many things missing maybe that we should do a wider range of tricks each lesson but i love what we are doing now and finding really good

From 8 year old Torin:

"I learn to get stronger from the exercise bike. I like the two long yellow ropes because I can learn tricks from them. I love the trampoline because I have fun bouncing on it and swinging off the trapeze onto the trampoline. The tightrope is good to work on my balance."

1. What do I need? An alternative activity that allows opportunities to develop self-confidence.
2. Opportunities to try new skills, test my ability and grow my sense of worth.
3. Working with lovely people, pushing my limits and feeling my self-confidence grow as I try new things and engage my mind.
4. **More classes! Circus works and all the staff are amazing! We are very grateful for all you do.**

RF & LF After school Circus Sessions Monday & Thursday

1. A sense of community, fun and adventure. There is nothing else at all like this locally and what you do is important to a lot of people.
2. A continuation of the workshops etc. Lili is getting more skilled and stronger and we want this to continue along with the sense of fun and community.
3. That they are fun and relaxed.

4. Lili wants to learn as much as possible, so continued and expanded instruction would be great! Herholt Family After School Sessions Thursday

From Alice

1: I find that I get stronger and stronger every week and every time it leaves me motivated to do more.

2: pretty much everything on 1

3: probably all the drops and cool stuff I can learn and do on the silk ropes

4: probably a longer special warm up routine for everyone at the start my opinion would be a good idea.

Hi here is feedback from Nico (9) and Eddie (7, nearly 8!):

1) What do you need/get most from coming to class/performing with us?

Nico: Having fun. It makes me feel more confident and like I'm getting stronger. It cheers me up when I'm feeling sad or annoyed.

Eddie: Climbing and getting stronger. Circus is fun and important!

2) What do you want/get most from coming to class/performing with us?

Nico: Getting stronger, having fun and learning things

Eddie: To be less droopy!

3) What do you enjoy most at circus?

Nico: Playing around and having a great time and learning

Eddie: Having fun

4) What do you feel is missing that Naomi could address?

Nico: Nothing

Eddie: They could make the whole circus into a rocket ship so you can do circus in space

This is from Arlo age 10

1. What do you need/ get most from coming to class - performing with us?

Physical fitness, confidence, balance, sense of fun, friendship, experience on specialised equipment, freedom to learn at our own pace.

2. What do you want/get most from coming to class - performing with us ?

Learning new skills, pushing my comfort zone, friendship and fun, confidence in performance.

3. What do you enjoy most from the same?

Doing things I never thought I could do. Having the space to do things in my own time.

Playing on the trampolines and trapeze

4. What do you feel is missing that I should address?

Nothing..... except parking lol x

Teian

I think that circus school is a very fun and interesting way to learn new things I believe that if it goes then a lot of people will be very sad. Circus school can be improved but only a little bit, I think that some kids who go there aren't doing any thing useful and just get in the way. Circus should definitely continue because it is fun.

Elowen

I love circus school because I have learnt so much and it makes me really happy when I practice all the moves I know. I think there could be more teachers so that I could learn even more but I love Naomi and Josh and all the teachers I have met.

**CIRCUS-NAOMI OUT OF SCHOOL SESSIONS @THE CIRCUS WORKS DEVORAN
PARTICIPANT'S FEEDBACK**

J.P. TR5 0PZ, girl , 13 years old

- 1- help me keep my skills
- 2- learn new things
- 3- everything
- 4- toaster

Brooke Hawes. TR12 6SH. Girl. 15 years old.

- 1 - fitness and cardio
- 2 - flexibility and social interactions
- 3 - Using all the different bits of equipment and getting a feel for showbiz.
- 4 - Toaster.

SF 13, TR164QT male

1. Work out, sweat
2. Social, pushing me to get fitter
3. Flexibility, being free to explore and learn the way I want/ need to
4. Outside space

LF, 15 she/her TR164QT

1. Social, learning, fun, flexibility fun
2. More conditioning and space to dance
3. Safe space to be myself and enjoy learning in an alternative situation
4. Split machine and more time

- 1 I need reassurance , consistency and routine when I come to class each week. It is a break from home and a chance to build friendships.
- 2 I want to get fit ,strong and improve my flexibility.
- 3 I love fitness training and being taught by the teachers. I also gain lots more confidence when I perform with the circus.
- 4 More grey mat floor area and more of an outdoor space to train on.

Love
Cecily age 15

CIRCUS WORKS DEVORAN SPECIAL NEEDS KIDS 1-1 SESSIONS FEEDBACK

Esmonds answers -

- 1 I love being free to do what I want, to dress up and fly on the silks.
- 2 I want to get stronger.
- 3 I love wafting and flying.
- 4 I want to come all day again.

Love
Esmond

**CIRCUS NAOMI / CDC ADULT CIRCUS GROUP SESSIONS @ THE CIRCUS WORKS
DEVORAN PARTICIPANT'S FEEDBACK**

What I get most, is the chance to do something for myself in a way that enables me to be creative, gain strength, overcome challenges and be around supportive and like minded people. It allows me to escape the mental load of the other aspects of my life and channel my energy into something that I find profoundly positive and rewarding. The support and encouragement is amazing and allows me to push myself much further than I would under my own influence. I can't honestly think of anything that needs improvement 😊 x KM CN Wed PM class

AP

I'm so gutted for you that after settling into Devoran you are once again having to relocate. I'll do my best to answer your questions in hope they help to secure you new premises.

As a retired performer with no real creative outlet in Cornwall I got swallowed into a mundane job and felt like I was rapidly losing my identity. I was no longer a dancer, a performer, I was... nothing. Then I discovered Cirque Du Ciel.

Cirque Du Ciel allowed me to rekindle the little aerial I had done whilst dancing and reignite the passion within. With each class I grew stronger, more able, more confident, more flexible - more ME!

Cirque Du Ciel brought me a new friendship circle with like-minded people who helped, supported and laughed with me in a kind and caring environment. A Cirque family that celebrated all the little victories such as nailing a new move.

Most importantly Cirque Du Ciel allowed me to PERFORM! It had been years since I felt so ALIVE. A song, a routine, a costume, a venue and an audience - a dream come true.

My wish now is that I could afford to attend a weekly/fortnightly class with my 2 daughters as I relive a dream and watch them grow.

Cirque Du Ciel (and Naomi) has had such a positive impact on my life and I will wholeheartedly support it (her) to continue for many more years to come.

"1. The thing I get most from going to classes is enjoying a workout of every part on my body without the constraints of routine. The environment is always encouraging and challenging and I learn new skills all the time. My strength and flexibility is always at a optimum when I attend classes.

2. I want to be able to grow and develop my skills and have the relevant equipment available to always try new things. And a trainer that shows you 'the ropes' and technique and then allows you to keep trying.

3. There is nothing I don't enjoy about using you. There is always such an amazing relaxed, fun and encouraging environment and I get to do the only exercises that have work on my whole body and core.

4. I don't think you have much missing since having a 'permanent' home in Devoran, but I struggle to attend classes more because of the times they now are and the extra distance to travel." **KP**

Single Mum & Full Time Accountant – Wednesday Class

"1. I get fun classes that help build my physical strength. It also helps me manage my endometriosis symptoms and gives me more confidence. These classes make me happy and get me exercising even when I feel like I don't want to or can't manage it.

2. To be able to come along to classes and have fun whilst building physical strength and confidence in myself and make friends.

3. Whilst I really enjoy the circus activities and training that are provided the thing I enjoy the most is the friendly, non judgemental and non competitive atmosphere. Circus Works is focused on mental and physical well being and it is a place where you can get support without question.

4. I can't really think of anything for 4 unless field trips to beaches/woods with outdoor equipment is a possibility with additional funding. Or a toaster... 🍞 " MC – Tuesday Class

1. Expert tuition, a safe place to train and learn new skills, a fab community and happy place!

2. Exactly that 👍

3. I love learning new tricks and being able to exercise and stay healthy in a way that is so fun!

4. Classes in newquay 🌊DM – Thursday Class

- CB** 1. Classes are a sanctuary for personal space, growth, and confidence. Not to mention the physical and mental benefit of exercise.
2. Classes have give space to be me and regain identity lost after having kids. After years of being terrified of performing / speaking in public I now feel proud.
3. There is a huge sense of community and support around classes. Opinions and judgements are left at the door. Kids classes have built Evelyn's confidence 10 fold since starting a few weeks ago.
4. Er nothing! Love it all, Nome you are a legend! Anything else we can do to support the future plans for Circus Naomi, Cirque de Ciel and Airfish let us know!

C Thursday Class 1. What do you get most from using us?

An environment to train with like minded people with an awesome supportive, positive instructor. For me its really valued as it's me time, I don't get much of it with work and having a 3 year old so it's good for my mental health to be able to train doing something that I really enjoy. Its lots of fun.

2. What do you want most from using a facility like us? To learn new skills, have a healthier mind and body, fun, safe environment.
3. What do you enjoy most from using us? I really enjoy silks it's so much fun, hard work but fun, I enjoy socialising with everyone there and seeing the progress made.
4. What do you feel is missing that we should address? Nothing you guys are awesome

GN 1. I suffer with emotionally unstable disorder which can stop me socialising as much as I would like. Everyone at class makes me feel incredibly accepted. It gives me very good energy and I would be very lost without circus school now. I've been coming for the last year and can't imagine it not being a part of my life.

2. I get a sense of freedom and acceptance I can't find anywhere else. I feel at peace when I'm in the air and upside down.
3. I enjoy the socialising aspect the most which helps me preform better.
4. I don't think anything is missing. We just need a building so we can keep on socialising and feeling good. Circus school is incredibly good for mental health :). Especially through these recent harder times.

BB 1. - The most useful thing I have learned training with you is that it's ok to make mistakes, to look silly and be embarrassed. Learning circus skills has taught me social and team working skills that I can use in my everyday life. It puts me in touch with my body and shows me that I am capable of more than I think.

2. - I want to continue building on my skills to help me become a more confident performer and able to perform at a higher skill level.

3. - I enjoy being part of a community of like-minded individuals who are all working towards a similar goal and help to lift each other up emotionally.

4. - The only thing missing is more circus every day!

Anon

A feeling of community and comradery alongside a creative outlet and a focus and motivation to get and stay fit!

2. What do you want/get most from coming to class - performing with us ?

As above! Plus a chance to play, be silly, feel like I have challenged myself and achieved something new. A feeling of overcoming my fears and getting stronger both mentally and physically.

3. What do you enjoy most from the same?

All of it! But ultimately the thing that makes circus particularly addictive for me is the feeling of being part of an accepting, supportive and creative community of people working on themselves and their personal goals.

4. What do you feel is missing that I should address?

Nothing really! I guess access to even more types of equipment and disciplines and the teachers to teach them (straps and Cyr wheel please!) would be epic but I wouldn't say it was missing - would just be a juicy bonus on top of the epicness already available.

Feedback on Circus Works / Circus School with Naomi From Chloë Cyrus-Kent : adult student and parent who brings three kids to after school / holiday classes (Nico, Eddie, Martha sending separate feedback) 1. What do you get most from coming to circus? I've been coming to circus classes and training with Naomi since spring 2018 and have performed in two student galas. Naomi is an extraordinary teacher and coming to circus is always really affirming and uplifting thing to do. Circus helps me face fears, nerves and self-doubt and then overcome them and come out smiling and proud of doing something amazing and so different from the rest of life. Naomi has built the circus up to be a warm community and even in Covid times that sense of community has stayed strong and is one of its strengths. Students help each other out, sharing things we learn from Naomi (where relevant) the other professionals/semi-pros who train with her. At circus it's brilliant to freely explore a range of different equipment - silks, trapeze, hoop... and have fun learning to work with them under Naomi's caring and expert eye. Naomi herself has extraordinary, almost superhuman energy and compassion. She is a superb teacher who holds the space for all sorts of different students, and manages to help us get the best out of ourselves. She always stays focused on

“doing circus” and yet engages with each person from where they are, trusting in each of us to learn at our own pace and get a lot out of the process of learning through circus. I love that I can bring my children to circus and they absolutely LOVE it. My young sons enjoy the freedom and physical release at circus, as they can test their strength and courage to the limits and heartily enjoy being free to swing, jump, bounce and generally be expansive. Naomi is very good at teaching the children and also is passionate about stepping back and letting them just be free and wild when they are full of more energy to burn than will to learn. Naomi’s adaptability is a great strength and her ability to provide safe boundaries is a blessing to the kids that train with her. The three children I bring to circus (my two boys and a friend’s daughter who I look after regularly) all have challenging things going on at home that affect their sense of safety and self-esteem. Circus is a really healing and affirming space for them, and one of their favourite things to do, if not THE favourite thing! The little girl we bring was working with a social work for about a year and they were often telling us that circus was the high point of her week; she hasn’t been able to come for a while but is longing to come back from July 2021!

2. What do you need/want most from circus? I want circus to continue to be a place of welcome and a safe yet challenging learning environment to improve circus skills, especially (in my case) the silks. I need circus to offer time for open training and time to learn with Naomi or other pros one to one or in small groups. I need circus to offer after school or holiday classes for my kids. None of us, self or kids, have anything to do, or anywhere to go, that can match the joy, freedom and strength (inner and outer) that we get from coming to circus. I need circus to remain as a place to go and train, where we can forget about hard times or hard things going on in life, and climb up above it and just PLAY. Doing circus helps dissolve anxiety and stress, and that is so valuable these days!

3. What do you enjoy most at circus? I love that there’s always a warm welcome at circus and that students and trainers (especially Naomi) affirm that with perseverance I can do anything I set my mind to! I enjoy learning new moves on the silks and feeling that, when I’m able to train regularly, I get stronger and better with each passing week. It is a joy to climb up high and forget about everything else, sliding into a mindful mode where I feel a bit like Peter Pan, as though I could fly. I enjoy the feeling of mental uplift that comes from doing something well on the silks, however small or simple. I enjoy the process of having to rally all my strength and concentration and the magic of learning new skills, and sharing them with fellow students. It’s also super enjoyable to enthuse with fellow students as we learn and train together, and to learn from Naomi who is always super affirming and encouraging. Circus is a joy and food for the soul! Before Covid times I really enjoyed some silks workshops and the sense of fun and freedom at the evening classes, with a regular group. It is always amazing watching shy or self-doubting people arrive at circus and grow in strength, skill and end up glowing with confidence. I find performing exceedingly nerve racking but it has provided me with experiences that have changed my perceptions of myself and my abilities. I look back on student Galas at The Acorn with amazement and gratitude; it’s great that through performance we can celebrate our work with Naomi and share it with others. One day it might even help me overcome performance anxiety... It’s a joy that we can train again as Covid restrictions ease and I still find the thing I enjoy most is performing on the silks. It lifts my spirits and reminds me of my inner and outer strength, helping me find peace even though at home I have been struggling to deal with bereavement, mental health issues and domestic abuse affecting myself and my children. I’d say that circus is one of the things I do that has increased my self-esteem and given me the courage

to finally deal with some of those more difficult things in my personal life. Knowing that circus is there, for me and my kids, keeps me going when everything else in life is not so good. I am hugely grateful for the inspiration and support of circus, and can't imagine being without it. 4. What do you feel is missing that could be addressed? It would be great if Naomi had one or two extra helpers when teaching the after school and evening sessions, so there could be a bit more focused learning time, especially in the kids sessions where there are mixed ages and needs and when the adult sessions get busy. It's perhaps less important in adult classes as students can share with each other, and I'm aware often the small kids need to run around and be free more than do focused learning, but maybe some clarity about teaching time versus play time, so outcomes are clear and students big and small feel a sense of progression and get the most out of the unique opportunity that circus provides. Just a thought... The short version: Circus is brill! We can't do without it. Naomi is brill! We can't do without her. Thank you for finding a new venue for us. We can't wait to train there :-)

1. One of the most important things is that aerial silks thought me how to love my body again. It enhanced my body positivity so much! It also, helps me during these difficult times to stay positive and look forward to my weekly classes. It awakens my inner child & let me be creative again. More over, Nomes classes thought me how to do things recreationally. As I used to be a high class athlete, I was playing sports professionally only. It is challenging at times to fail when performing tricks, but it still makes me smile and makes me want to do more! I am so much stronger too! My upper body strength and stamina improved massively! Last but not least, I found so many new friends, that I can share my interest with.
2. The dopamine, adrenalin and happiness that I get from aerial silks. I leave feeling happier and "wanting more". I feel like silks give me hope for the better future.
3. Feeling stronger in my body and in my head. Feeling elegant, but strong at the same time. The difficulty of the tricks and being able to perform them. Hanging out with people and sharing our positive emotions with each other.
4. I wouldn't say you are missing anything. Everything seems to be perfect for me. We just need more silks in order to get more go's! But its not an issue! In overall, THANK YOU NOME! You are amazing! **AO Thursday pm Class**

1. I suffer with emotionally unstable disorder which can stop me socialising as much as I would like. Everyone at class makes me feel incredibly accepted. It gives me very good energy and I would be very lost without circus school now. I've been coming for the last year and can't imagine it not being a part of my life.
2. I get a sense of freedom and acceptance I can't find anywhere else. I feel at peace when I'm in the air and upside down.
3. I enjoy the socialising aspect the most which helps me perform better.
4. I don't think anything is missing. We just need a building so we can keep on socialising and feeling good. Circus school is incredibly good for mental health :). Especially through these recent harder times. **GN Tuesday pm Class**

1. I get a great satisfaction and joy from your classes and the community of them.

2. I get great tuition, a friendly face always and have an amazing time every time I come.
 3. I enjoy the variety of equipment and skills you are able to work on whilst visiting the circus school.

4. It's not close enough to me 😊 No I feel it has everything you need there. I would say one thing for me personally would be some more specialist workshops would be amazing that are like half a day or something so I could come and spend a good few hours on some structured learning. AP Wednesday pm Class

1. An environment to train with like minded people with an awesome supportive, positive instructor. For me its really valued as it's me time, I don't get much of it with work and having a 3 year old so it's good for my mental health to be able to train doing something that I really enjoy. Its lots of fun.
 2. What do you want most from using a facility like us? To learn new skills, have a healthier mind and body, fun, safe environment.
 3. What do you enjoy most from using us? I really enjoy silks it's so much fun, hard work but fun, I enjoy socialising with everyone there and seeing the progress made.
 4. What do you feel is missing that we should address? Nothing you guys are awesome!
CR Thursday pm class

FREELANCE PRO COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

Freelance Artist – Professional Local Circus – Theatrical – Dance Company Feedback

RE The importance of being able to utilise Cirque Du Ciel Ltd's – Resource 'The Circus 'Works Devoran' – Also highlighting additional needs lacking in current resources

Maya Peters Pokya Entertainment

- 1. matted training space.**
- 2. Professional training facilities for circus artists in Cornwall.**
- 3. Affordable friendly and flexible hours to train in.**
- 4. A fully matted floor would be amazing 😊 (but not essential)**

National Straps Artist Garyn Wiggins

1. Circus Works Devoran gives me the facilities, support and opportunities I need as a professional performer to continue to train and develop my work as an artist.
2. The most important part of the company to me is the capacity to rig my equipment and train as an aerialist and maintain and improve my strength and skills.
3. I particularly enjoy training with Circus Works Devoran as they have a really strong and supportive community. It feels like a family and everyone is treated with respect and professionalism.
4. Personally I feel they might be missing some extra equipment they would benefit from particularly in terms of rigging.

David Greeves here so responding from an individual standpoint and as Director for Yskynna Aerial Dance

1. Providing a professional training space with a community feel, not just from the people training but the atmosphere of the training space is inspiring. A safe, dry, warm space that is accessible through the day and evening and is affordable. Local artists have only a limited financial; resource and the training space and charges are supporting our practice.
2. The chance to train, the chance to collaborate and talk through current issues, concerns and opportunities.
3. The sense of camaraderie and mutual support for training, sharing skills and best practices
4. A streamlined rigging system where no one has to climb up a rope or silk to change the rigging over. Best practice would enable all of this to be done from the floor, am happy to offer a design for discussion and implementation

Ross Wheeler – HotchPotch Performance Spokesperson

1. Facilities and Community; Cornwall lacks all sorts of infrastructure compared to other parts of the UK, it's just incredible the Circus Works is here in little old Cornwall and has such a range of facilities in one space and we feel like we've met more local artists through Cirque du Ciel and the Circus works in the past year than the five years we were based in Cornwall beforehand!
2. Wider Facilities; there is so many specialised facilities for aerial, fitness and acrobatics at the works which is brilliant, but I wouldn't mind more space to juggle! I also find it really exciting how fast Cirque du Ciel and the Circus Works in coming along, it really believe as they develop they will put Cornwall on the map and lead the way for others to follow.
3. A Creative Supportive Community; being a street performer working in Cornwall we work a lot of small events where we will be the only entertainment/outdoor artists booked and have felt very alone and disconnected in the past. After being away for a couple of years and coming back, I'm glad to say it seems like the Circus Works has changed all that. Further to that it has connected Cornwall's circus youth with amateur, semi-pro and professional performers in community shows. We've met new artist to work with through these events and they have been really inspiring for all involved.
4. Growing up in Cornwall I had the difficult choice at 16 years old to move to Bristol to study circus but chose to stay in Cornwall to do performing arts. It would be great to develop more educational choices for the young talented people of today so that they don't have to choose between following their dream and moving away from their family and friends at such a young age.

More circus for younger ages too please, can't wait till my kids are old enough to start classes!

**PARENT – GUARDIAN FEEDBACK
RE THE CIRCUS ‘WORKS DEVORAN – OUT OF SCHOOL CIRCUS SKILLS
PROVISIONS**

G.P., TR5 0PZ 45, female,

1. A safe, fun, space for j to enjoy and learn. Social mainly for me. A neutral, fun space to teach in and a supportive environment.
2. as above
3. Happiness,
4. Outside space, parking, maybe separate wellbeing space for classes

JGL, tr147RX female 35

1. A safe space to train, keep fit, be social.
2. A safe space to be, fun and welcoming.
3. meeting like minded people and learning new things!
4. Outside space, shower facilities

RJ 46 she/her TR164QT

1. Safe space to train, to teach and learn
2. Security, fun, welcoming and friendly
3. Non judgmental and supportive environment with a wide range of different types of people.
4. Outdoor space, parking, nice neighbours, local support, creative hub

RA she/her child in Thurs After School

I am so sad to hear you have to move. It is a vital lifeline to have the circus in Devoran. So unique and good spirited. My daughter is so excited to come and learn from you as well as you helping her confidence at a festival a few years ago. I always see a buzz around the venue of adults and children and I hope it finds a new home near by!

MRS Y

I am replying on behalf of my nephew and daughter

My nephew Dan has mental health issues and social anxiety. Dan enjoyed the non-judgemental environment, encouraging staff and skills he gained through trapeze, it was a place he could be Dan totally relaxed.

My daughter Lily enjoyed the unique skills and confidence she learned from trapeze lessons. The classes are warm and welcoming. Lily gained confidence, improved her physical and mental health.

Airfish Circus Community Arts Collective Feedback

Amy Cooper

1. *What do you need/ get most from coming to class - performing with us?*

Coming to class and building strength and confidence in the air over the last 8 years has changed my life. I have so much to manage in my everyday life but I forget it all when I'm an Airfish.

2. What do you want/get most from coming to class - performing with us ?

I want to be able to fly when my circumstances allow, I love the supportive community and environment that Cirque Du Ciel provides to everyone that comes through the door. Having opportunities to perform is wonderful, terrifying and a dream come true for me.

3. What do you enjoy most from the same?

The freedom, the pool of shared knowledge, the community and the hysteria!

4. What do you feel is missing that I should address?

Flying Trapeze? ;-)

Q1. What do you need most from being part of Airfish Circus? Q2. What do you want most from being part of Airfish Circus? Q3. What do you enjoy most from being part of Airfish Circus? Q4. What do you feel is missing that we should address?

1. What i get most from being a member of Airfish is an amazing community of like minded performers from all walks of life, of all abilities to work with, making people happy! Plus I get a great place to train and lots of inspiration to improve my own skills. 2. What i want most from using any training facility is a nice well equipped friendly environment, a nice place to meet other jugglers & train my skills. 3. I enjoy most the amount of friends i have made and how supportive everyone is of each other. I enjoy performing & stretching myself as a performer.. Airfish Circus gives me the chance to experiment with new ideas in front of a live audience, as a clown that is essential throughout your development. I love workshopping ideas with young people too, their enthusiasm is infectious! 4. I dont think anything is missing so far **Matthew Vanstone – Juggler – Clown – Fire**

ESSENTIAL NHS WORKER FEEDBACK

Dear Naomi,

I just wanted to write to you to let you know how much I appreciate and value Airfish and Cirque du Ciel, both as organisations and especially as the facilitators and providers of the Circus Works Devoran, an amazing physical space to offer learning and support to the local community.

When I moved to Cornwall, I had no social circle and it was a difficult time. Airfish took me in with open arms and has given me so many close friends. I can't begin to say how much this has meant to me and how important a role it still plays in my

life. It's such a big part of who I am today and I count myself so lucky to have been a part of this movement.

My time working with Cirque du Ciel was incredibly rewarding. I've always loved teaching and getting to play a formative role in the growth of young people is a very privileged position to be and one I still take seriously.

After moving on to working in intensive care at Treliske hospital, circus has been an even more important part of my life in many ways. The working environment is so emotionally demanding and there are so few ways to escape it. Once it becomes your everyday, it becomes very hard to avoid taking work home with you. It starts to take over your mental state. Circus has provided me with respite and mental escape, a chance to be silly and just explore things I can do and learn new skills. Art and music are important precisely because they aren't important. It's a good if cheesy line from Dead Poet's Society:

"We don't read and write poetry because it's cute. We read and write poetry because we are members of the human race, and the human race is filled with passion. Medicine, law, business, engineering, these are noble pursuits and necessary to sustain life. But poetry, beauty, romance, love, these are what we stay alive for."

Replace poetry with circus and that is close to what I feel at the moment. I hope we can continue existing and growing for many years to come and I will try and help whenever I can and whenever any opportunity arises.

Thank you so much for all your hard work, you are amazing

Lots of love,
Josh Tongue

Wider Community feedback

Mrs K Dicker of Devoran Village

I haven't been to one of your classes or The Circus Works before but I would like to support your business, having made a summer school enquiry, so this is really just to say that venues and opportunities like this are vital to rural regions such as Cornwall.

I can imagine that young people (and adults too) build confidence, make lifelong friends, enjoy the focus of a physical/non-academic skill, and the joy of learning new skills in a caring environment extends to other aspects of their lives too.

I know that compared to city life, rural communities offer fewer opportunities and variety of experience, so groups like yours are more important than ever.

I hope this adds to other comments that you receive in a helpful way.