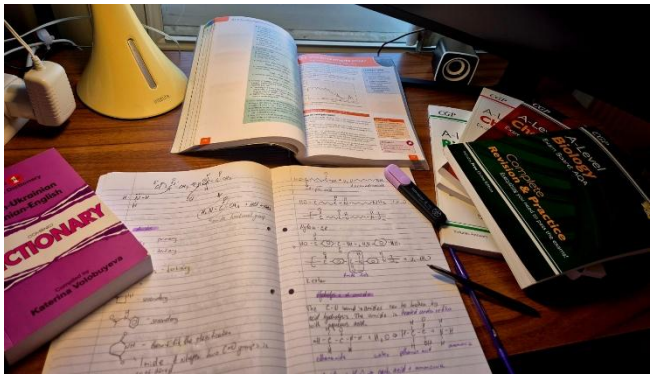
WASTE NOT WANT NOT
CREATING COMFORTABLE HOMES AT AFFORDABLE PRICES

FRESH START CASE STUDY: POLINA

Eighteen-year-old Polina was referred to our Fresh Start programme by Chippenham Borough Lands Charity.

Polina arrived in the UK in July 2025, having left her native Ukraine due to the on-going conflict.



"I was born in Luhansk Oblast, Ukraine in 2008. When I was six years old Russia annexed the region. My Mum, Dad, older brother, and I were initially forced to move to Kharkiv where my father was able to work. We then moved to Vinnytsia which is closer to Poland.

The Ukraine/Russian war started in 2022. I want a good education and last summer I was lucky to be able to move to the UK under the Homes for Ukraine Visa scheme with my sponsor living in Chippenham. I lived with them for a while and enrolled as a sixth form student at Sheldon School where I am now studying "A" levels in Chemistry, Biology and Maths.

In March of this year, through an agent I was able to find private accommodation. At the time I was feeling really lost. I had never lived alone and had no furniture, so I wrote to many organisations to see if they could help me. The Head of 6th Form at Sheldon knew of Waste Not Want Not, and through Chippenham Borough Lands Charity I was referred to Waste Not Want Not's Fresh Start programme.

I was really impressed, Julie in the shop was really nice, she offered me lots of stuff, including a desk, all for nothing. The delivery drivers even put my new furniture inside my flat. I am really thankful for all the support I received.

I struggle with ADHD and have Autism, so being able to have the freedom to sit and study when I want, with no distractions helps me concentrate. I am planning to continue my studies here in the UK and will be applying to university to study chemistry with computing, I like analysing and investigating data.

Once I go to university, I will be in furnished student accommodation, so will give back to Waste Not Want Not all the furniture they gave me, so someone else can benefit from their support."