

Message from GKN Aerospace via Lucy Pope

For all of us across the board I think you would agree that it has been a challenging few weeks and days have passed in a blur. However, I just wanted to take a moment to say thank you to both yourself and the wider team for the support that you have given and continue to give to our apprentices.

Maintaining progress towards our goals with some level of stability is key for all of us currently, and with experience I think we tend to deal with emerging situations and draw on such past experiences to maintain headway. For our young learners I am mindful that without this experience to draw on, they then look towards us to provide that support. Being clear when I say “us” I mean the collective of all those entrusted to provide this support and guidance to them.

With all of the above I would just like to say huge THANK YOU!!!! on behalf of GKN Aerospace for the way in which you, Weston college have adapted to this situation and the exceptional support that was put in place (in such a short time scale) from the IT infrastructure, Monitoring processes , Lesson plans , resources, and most Importantly the way in which your team as a collective (in every function) have adapted to this new world to ensure the delivery of all the aforementioned to enable the continued learning for our apprentices.

Your Employees are a credit to Weston College and should be commended accordingly,

Going forward none of us know what the short- or long-term future holds, but one thing I do know is that we are partnered with the right training provider (with a great team) to be able to face these challenges together.

Please can you ensure that this message of thanks is cascaded to your entire team across the college.

Mark Barnett

An excellent response from GKN a well-deserved recognition of the exceptional work undertaken by the Engineering team. Computing have enjoyed similar success with strong engagement across all programmes and levels.

I am proud of my teams, who have adapted to a new way of working, putting the learners first and ensuring that quality of provision has not been affected by these unprecedented circumstances.

It is at times like this you see people at their best and worst, but without doubt we are seeing the best of the best and I could not be more delighted with the effort of all staff over the last week. Click [here](#) for a video of tips from Matt Lyons.

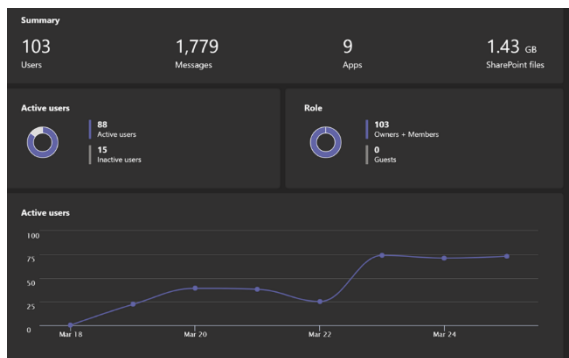
Shaun LaTouche

For our learners with special educational needs and disabilities the creation of a virtual timetable has been a real challenge for both staff skills development, not just in learning new digital skills but also creative ideas to teach virtually and for learners with little to no interaction with digital learning.

One of the key difficulties our learners have, is engaging with education and life, together with the need for a fully supportive environment. Very difficult to do in a virtual world. However, the Foundation Learning staff have all embraced and worked together as very cohesive team. We have ensured our learners needs have been accounted for and the Extension Studies team have produced a full timetable of weekly activities, running Monday-Friday 9:30 – 3:30 that has, as best we can, mirrored our previous in college curriculum. We have activities and sessions that support a full range of academic, health, life and skills.

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:30	Healthy Living	Employment Drop-in	Wellbeing	Healthy Living	Music
10:30	Shaun	Into Work	Nicky Reasons	Shaun	Paul
10:30 - 11:30	Maths Forum	Employment Drop-in	Individual Development	Study Skills	Reflective Journaling
11:30	Nick	Into Work	All tutors	Paul	Nicky
11:30	English Forum	What's Cooking?	Life skills	Digital Literacy	Art (daily doodle)
12:30	Keren & Polly	Becky and Zoe	Becky	Shaun & Paul	Debbie
Lunch					
1:30	Art	Spring Watch	Personal Social Development	English	Girls Group
2:30	Debbie	James	James	Polly & Keren	Sam
2:30 - 3:30	Animal care	What's Cooking?	Performing arts	Maths Forum	Zumba
	Nicky	Becky	Lorna	Nick	Sam

An example of one of our sessions involved warming up with the toilet roll challenge, then learners and staff were taken through a virtual fitness workout and the session was completed with a virtual cooking session. Whereby a live demo walked the learners through a task to cook boiled eggs on toast for breakfast!



This has been a very difficult challenge, for staff to structure, implement and provide for our learners, who need very high levels of support to just be able to access some of the simplest tasks most people take for granted. The learners have shown their resolve, determination and as Dr Paul likes to say 'tenacity' to work with staff and develop their skills and confidence in a digital and somewhat isolated environment. Being supported digitally through virtual video, text and voice options has been

tough and frustrating at times, but over the course of this week we have seen learner engagement with our online curriculum gain a staggering level of momentum and positive engagement.

What we have put in place is a work in progress, evolving and developing to the changing needs of our learners as we all embrace this new and very different way of teaching. The response and feedback from learners and parents so far been very complimentary and we are continuing to implement change in response to the voice of our learners.

Parent feedback:

"Just wanted to thank you both for the commitment to your work for our children They really do thrive on routine and structure and this new timetable is really helping with that I just wanted to send my appreciation to you both as it is really helping Millie stay positive and she is enjoying the interaction."

Jo Halladey

I had an idea for industry professionals who are self-isolating, to have input into some of our CAD courses.

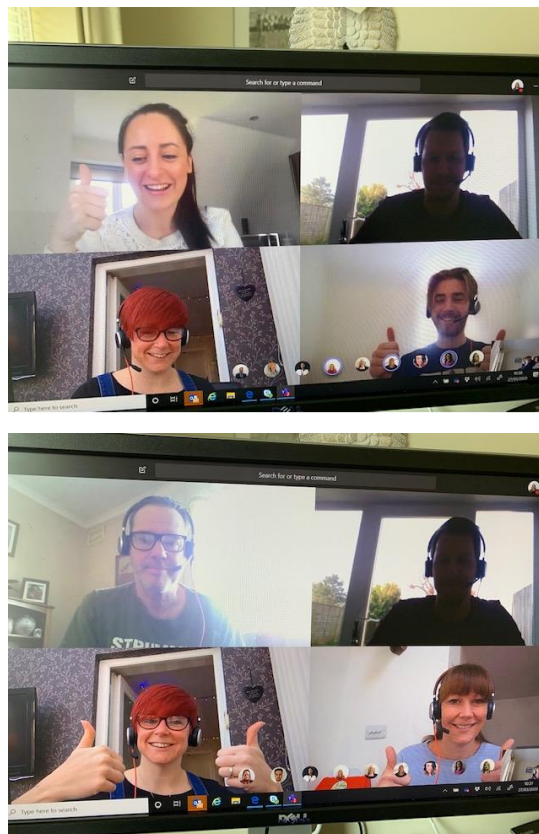
Two tv directors who directed Bake Off, Back in Time for School etc. are willing to do Q and A sessions with our Level 3 Media learners.

Mark King from Level 42 is going to do some Q&A and bass clinics with our Music learners. Lee Sullivan and Oz Cahill are going to work out the logistics with Mark.

I'm going to use social media to try and get other professionals involved. It could be good PR for them and for Weston College.

Tracie Leahy

Day 5 and still going strong!



**Ready to take the
Apprenticeship
calls..... Archie
(Hannah's dog)**

Chris Simpson

Please click [here](#) to find comments from a learner within the Plumbing Level Two full time group, who felt passionate enough to record his feelings and thoughts about his experience of his virtual learning/plumbing experience with his lecturer during this difficult circumstance.

Heather Davies

I support two students (twins) with high anxiety in my Prep for Work Department. While the college has been closed it has been difficult for them to readjust to their new virtual homeworking, increasing their anxiety levels.

One important breakthrough to help them reduce their levels of anxiety has been to keep their pet cat in their bedroom for extra company. Pets can play a very important role in people's lives, whether they may be housebound, or very active, stress and anxiety can be present in people in all walks of life.

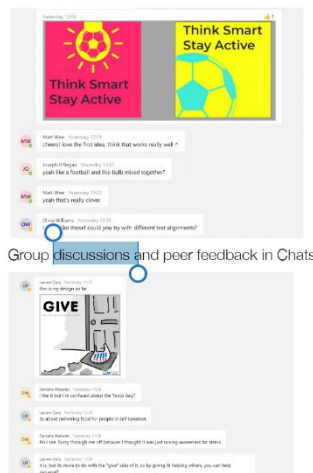
Vicki King

We've had some great remote learning success this week with a group project that my FdA Graphic Design Year One have been working on.

We're collaborating with the HEART team on a live brief creating a social media campaign for Stress Awareness Month in April (we need this more than ever in these times!). My students are in groups working around different themes; Connect, Give, Take Notice, Stay Active and Keep learning.

FdA Graphic Design Year 1 HEART Team Live Brief Stress Awareness Month

Collaborative remote learning - group work via Teams



Outcomes facilitated by Assignments, Meetings and Chat tools

They've had some brilliant chat discussions and video calls to give feedback, advice and support to each other, and the features of Teams have made it easy for me to meet with them via video, create their assignments and for them to submit their work as well. The flow of the day has been lively, and the students are really engaged! Please find attached some of their outcomes to give you an idea of how it went.

Helen George and Jane Vivian

We held the first IAB for Finance and Professional Services 'virtually' this week.

- The Finance and Professional Services Industry Advisory Board (IAB) met for the first time on Wednesday 25 March. Despite it being a 'virtual' meeting, 12 participants from across the industry joined including: ICAEW (Institute of Chartered Accountants England and Wales), Tridos Bank, Lloyds Bank, Natwest Bank, SoilAssociation HR Manager, TaxSavers, FinTechWest, Albert Goodman, Reed Global Recruitment and Handelbanken.
- The discussion was very constructive with members sharing industry intelligence, ideas, suggestions and pledges of support for both during this time but also looking ahead.
- Despite the meeting taking place virtually, a clear list of priorities and an action plan can now be developed by the Weston College team. Next meeting planned for July 2020!

Via Tracie Leahy from Manor Park & Clevedon Court Nursing Home to Amanda Cottrill

Just received an email from Kelly Allen – Training Manager at Manor Park & Clevedon Court Nursing Home, to say thank you for the Guidance Statement for Employers with Learners.

We have 3 HSC Learners at Manor Park and 5 HSC Learners at Clevedon Court – all doing well 😊 Kelly wishes all the staff at Weston College well and to thank us for the support they have received.

Daniel Hobbs

The PEF quality team have been busily making plans and contingencies using MS Teams during the first week of a virtual college delivery in prisons. Along with admiring each other's home decor!



Hannah Raines

As an academic development practitioner supporting higher education students at UCW it has been an interesting week supporting students virtually, but actually I think it is helping us provide clearer support for our 1-2-1 part of the Higher Education LibraryPlus (HE.LP) model.

Before the Corona-virus crisis we had been trialling using teams to summarise our 1-2-1 sessions with HE students and maintain dialogue with those who were struggling, so we could signpost support and resources. It had been working well so now this new way of working has meant this has now branched out to all HE students.

A typical 1-2-1 this week for me has happened through teams chat - mostly asynchronously as some students have been a little shy at video calling! This still works well, it gives me time to look at their support needs and ensure a considered response that meets those needs head on!

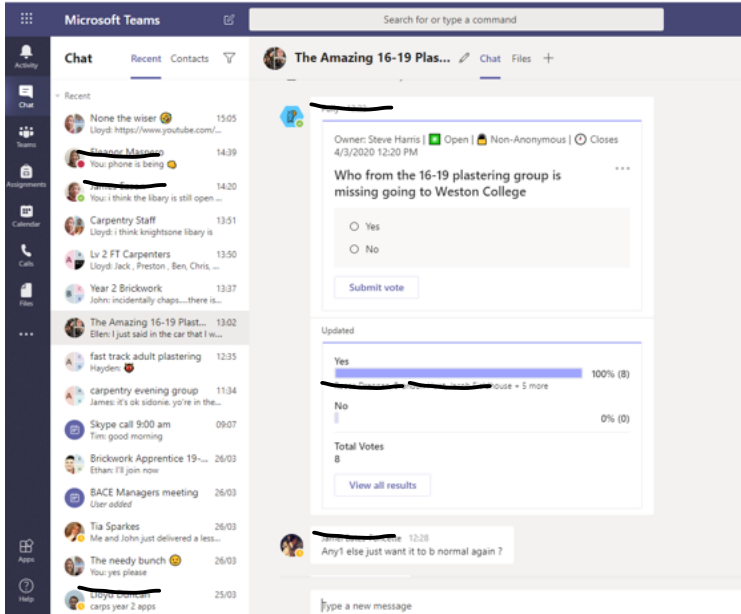
In between these support sessions I have been working on our digital support and have created a new section of our HE LibraryPlus pages to provide support, advice and ideas for UCW students and staff as we work and study from home.

This is very much a work in progress and is known for now as our [home-working hub](#) and brings together Digital Support from the Learning Tech Team, Health and Well-being from Weston Sport and the Digital Student Union along with our own initiatives such as book reviews from LibraryPlus and HE academic teams, food recipes for cooking whilst some supplies might be unavailable and a section dedicated to support for our lives in lock-down with top tips from the team, ideas for activities, crafts, indoor gardening etc.

This part of the project is growing, mostly at the present time from the things we've been doing as a team to keep busy in our homes after work but the intention is that we can provide students with a place to go for support and ideas outside of the traditional academic development remit in our job role. It is certainly keeping me focused and busy after work as it gives me a meaningful goal to my time!

So that has been my week – it's been a strange one but I'm super proud of all those I work with for being innovative and flexible - I feel more connected than ever right now to both my students and colleagues!

Ben Hodder



I was looking through the Teams pages and came across this survey. I thought it reflected Steve Harris as a tutor!

Also, I have been going through my brickwork Teams pages and come across some good things I think are worth showing off. Attached are a few screen grabs of the Teams page. Learners are showing their appreciation to their tutor John Ryan. In addition, Ray one of our learners has sent in a clip on how he is doing during the lock down and how he is using the virtual classroom. Take a look [here](#).

