

RESULTS WEEK²⁰ 13TH - 20TH AUGUST

Congratulations to all our fantastic students that received their results yesterday...



A Level Students Do It Again! Outstanding Results

Weston College has enjoyed yet another year of outstanding A Level results. For the fifth year running it has achieved a 99% pass rate; this year it has been demonstrated across the 27 subjects delivered with twenty of those subjects enjoying 100% pass rates. The highest grades were achieved by approximately 45% of learners although some data is still outstanding from examination boards.

The College has invested significantly in its A Level provision in recent years and offers the best Sixth Form experience in the region – as their results show.

The Principal and Chief Executive Dr Paul Phillips CBE said, "These results are impressive from a talented group of learners who received brilliant teaching and learning from the Sixth Form tutors."

[Read the full story here.](#)

To keep everyone safe students received their results this year via email – take a look at our Facebook Live hosted by Dr Paul Phillips as we congratulate some of our student on their doorsteps...



We are enjoying yet another year of outstanding vocational and technical qualification results too.... these started coming out earlier this week and will continue to do so over the next week, here are some from yesterday...

Congratulations to Zoe! Beauty therapy learner gets Triple Distinction*

We caught up with Zoe, from Portishead who previously attended Gordano School, who got her results for her Level 3 Beauty Therapy Diploma.

Zoe said; "It's a very exciting day, I feel like all the hard work has paid off."

"I have really enjoyed my college journey. There is a real community feel on this course and we manage to have fun while learning. I'm very thankful for the opportunities Weston College have given me."



Congratulation to Finley! Health and Social Care learner

On the morning of results day, Finley opened his results at his home and smiled from ear to ear when seeing that all his hard work had paid off with D*, D*, D.

He commented "I'd like to thank Emma O'Callaghan and Sarah-Jane Lewis. Both helped to get me through the course... they worked so hard for all the students.

"My favourite memory has probably been either the placements or the first time I walked into the Clinical Suite (at the Health and Active Living Skills Centre). I'd never been to a clinical suite before this one and it was amazing. Uni's haven't got as good facilities as Weston College."

Having obtained better results than he has expected, Finley is now progressing on to study Adult Nursing at Swansea University to follow his aspirations of becoming an adult nurse.

We also spoke with Finley's mum on the day who added: "Weston College had the facilities to allow Finley to pursue his dream of becoming a nurse. It's been amazing to see Finley develop and grow in confidence. I am so proud of him."



Congratulations to Ellen! Sport and Exercise learner gets Triple Distinction*

On receiving her results yesterday Ellen said; "I was nervous this morning trying to log in, but once I saw my results, I was so excited it was better than I expected.

"I really enjoyed my time at college. On my first day I didn't know anyone on the course, as I was from Portishead and most people were from Weston, but the class size wasn't too big, so I was able to speak with people straight away. Everyone was really friendly, we all got on so well and worked well as a group.

Ellen also had confirmation today that Swansea University are offering her an academic scholarship to continue studying sport and exercise science due to her outstanding results.



13 Aug 2020



BLOG: We are back- it's a
good feeling!

Dr Paul's Blog: We are back- it's a good feeling!

Official publications of A Level and other results, my first day back on site following a long period of virtual management and Welsh shielding- not actually over yet but quite frankly I could not wait any longer! The examination results are by and large excellent and as expected- I expect some appeals as that is the external culture at present but the majority of my learners have already probably achieved the grades they needed for academic and employment progress apart from two subject areas which will need appealing!

As I write this blog, I am waiting for 'Points West' the local BBC TV station to arrive at the College to cover our A Level results and I know the bulk of their questions will be around the process of grade estimation...

[Read the full blog here.](#)

More result celebrations to follow next week, including our GCSE students...

ELSEWHERE AT WESTON COLLEGE...

Heidi Oliver

Update from the Construction Training Centre (CTC)

At the CTC we have now been back in the office and action for 2 weeks, with new measures firmly in place and everyone cooperating brilliantly with these. It's a pleasure to be back together as a team.

We have seen the successful reintroduction of groups in scaffolding, logistics, plant and warehousing with circa 50 commercial candidates already passing safely through the centre.

Demand for training seems varied from sector to sector, with a new value and appreciation being placed on logistics drivers in a post lockdown world – rightly so! The world of construction is rapidly returning to normal too, with many new projects planned regionally and existing projects now in need of an injection of talent to catch up with lost time.

An exciting if somewhat challenging time to be in the world of commercial training.



Charlotte Judd

Last week one of the Weston Bay students set up his own volunteering opportunity with a pottery business and made these incredible pieces. He has had a difficult couple of months with his mental wellbeing and has really pushed himself to build employability skills. He is now looking for more opportunities including ceramics classes and planning his next work experience in September.



Tracie Leahy

Apprenticeship Wednesday Working Lunch Feedback:

"Hi Tracie, just wanted to say thanks for a great session earlier, so good to hear positive news stories in these challenging times, looking forward to next week's session. Thanks to you and the Team!" – Karen Watkins

"Thank you for yesterday's working lunch it was very informative." - Avon and Somerset Police

Emma Hoyal

I just wanted to make you aware of the outstanding work of PLD Coach and Assessor Megan Brookes. I conducted a Learning Walk earlier this week joining a 'Self-Awareness' apprentice workshop run by Megan. Here is part of the glowing feedback I received from a learner following the workshop: -

What would make my learning experience better?

In the situation we currently find ourselves in, Megan has gone above and beyond to ensure that we remain supported with our course and is responsive on emails and available for regular check ins on teams calls. So currently I have no complaints and see no way to improve the experience.

Sandra Bull

Thought I would share this lovely student feedback received via the group communication page. Great results for HBC but as usual really appreciated by many are the tutors we have in the area:

Jenna is an excellent tutor and curriculum lead. I think this says it all.

Nice one Jenna and thank-you for your continued passion and enthusiasm during this different year end.



Sandra Bull

Today our cake decorating learners came in for a day of catch-up as their course was stopped short of two weeks delivery in March.



Sue Estcourt

Please see the letters below which I have received from two of our Team North Somerset Participants about their Wellbeing & Work Coaches, Claire and Lisa

I just wanted to share this as it shows we are still making a difference! Being flexible and adaptable to the changing situation has enabled us to continue with our work and being innovative has made it happen to the advantage of the people we support.

These participants sent me the letters following a recent participant forum that I set up over the phone. It was a great opportunity to keep participants connected. They had all met whilst attending our Solutions programme pre-lockdown and were all feeling isolated. Unfortunately, they do not have digital access, so I set up a conference call instead. It was heart-warming listening to their excitement as they heard each other's voices again, it really helped to lift their spirits. We were also able to ask them for ideas of activities they would like to do remotely as well as brain storming new activities they could undertake as we come out of lockdown. Jointly designing their journey is so important to ensure engagement, their progression and to help our participants achieve their aspirations.

Here's the feedback:

I really wanted to take time and express my deep gratitude to all of your staff and the work they do helping people like myself. It brings value to those participants who enter the project and it is always a positive outcome however small. Though it is an on-going journey for me I feel I am moving forward with the support that the organisation has provided especially from Lisa. In the last year since I have been involved with TNS I have begun to think about work again and set sights on getting back into a working environment whether paid or voluntary which is something I never thought would happen.

Since I started with TNS and Lisa in May 2019 the support I have received has been professional, passionate and caring. Which brings me on to Lisa Smith and her support. Lisa has provided in my opinion the most vital support in my journey. Why you may ask, as I have had so much support for my mental health which may be deemed as the most important.

Lisa dedication and lively, strong attitude is her greatest strength. The way she has continued to support my recovery from a wellbeing approach is truly outstanding. Over the COVID -19 period of lockdown I became unwell and my mood dropped quite substantially. I felt over that time I was going backwards again and my anxiety began to increase at the thought of being depressed as I was in March 2018.

Since then I have improved, and I have had time to reflect what was different during that period. My success over the last 12 months has been helped in part by my GP, counselling and threptic services. However, the



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main reason behind my continuing success was the input and support from Lisa. Over that period, I realised how important seeing her was every 2-weeks to talk and plan a way forward for me.

Lisa is incredibly patient and understanding and really gets how my mental health impacts in my daily life and the decisions I make. Talking to Lisa about the factors that act as barriers to work and wellbeing has been fundamental to my progress to date. I was glad when Lisa started phoning me over the lockdown period as I believe that contact was so vital in keeping what focus I had remaining. I do not under estimate how important that contact was for me during that time. Though Lisa is not counsellor and never has been; she understands life and how people cope in the real world. Our goal has always been to try and improve my outlook and confidence around getting back to a more stable life which involves work not the other way around. The dedication that Lisa has shown to me is incredible and I am sure that the support provided by TNS and Lisa was the biggest loss for me during lockdown.

Lisa has been a calming positive influence on me and the help she has given has taken on a new value and understanding from myself and my family since lockdown. I truly think she has already achieved what is required by your service which is change in attitude, especially towards work and being part of a community. I will always be grateful to both TNS and Lisa especially for what you have achieved with me and the difference this has made to my journey.

Thanking you always.

Kindest regards,

Darren

Sue
Since joining team North Somerset
I have found that I have had
more structure in my weeks and
have found it easier to stay positive.
My Work Coach (Claire) has a
good understanding of how my mood
can affect my mood and has
given me lots of techniques for
improving the way I feel.
Attending Solutions has allowed me
to socialise & meet new people -
rather than being stuck at home by
myself. Claire has given me
lots of ideas about certain
groups or training courses that I
could join - which excites me for
my future & gives me something
to look forward to.
During the lockdown Claire has
stayed in touch (sometimes daily)
to make sure that I am ok
and has been sending me lots
of activities to keep me busy
and I have found that doing them
has kept me feeling really positive
and I have done my first bit
of d.i.y since living on my own.
Sue



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The Support I have received from attending the Solutions Programme with Team North Somerset, has helped me build my confidence this has been brought about through group discussions and being in a relaxed friendly environment. Through attending the Solutions program I was given an opportunity to try some different volunteering, for which I had never tried before. This helped me because it gave me an opportunity to try something new, it also helped me put structure in the day and it allowed me too meet new people as well.

What I like about the solution Program is every ~~week~~ session we learn something new.

Having Claire as a work adviser has been awesome. The reason I say this is because Claire has an amazing personality that really shines through. When attending the Solutions Sessions, Claire will always greet you with a friendly smile and make you feel very welcome. Claire makes everybody feel comfortable and brings a sense of calm and very much an enjoyment factor to the Solutions Session. Claire has been really supportive and very encouraging and so approachable. You feel really relaxed around Claire. Claire also has a brilliant sense of humour. What I really like about

Claire the most is that, Claire will give you a hundred percent help with anything and I think this shows through the fact that Claire not only wants people to succeed but also Claire genuinely wants to help everybody to succeed. Claire is really helpful because when I was going to volunteer at goblin Coombe. I had no idea about how to get there. So Claire not only sent me a map of how to get there but also gave me a detailed written description on how too get to my destination which really helped. I personally think Claire is the right lady for the right job but sure I think you deserve a lot of credit as it was you who employed Claire.