

## Vicki Moth



I would like to say thank you to the college for organising the digital health and wellbeing resources.

Myself and my daughter, who is back from Uni, are trying to do a workout every morning to set us up for the day. The photo shows our favourite one as it's filmed in a stunning location in New Zealand.

I've now signed up for the free Les Mills trial so lots more workouts to try!

## Charlotte Budzynski

I wanted to share some of the good stuff that is coming out of our current unusual circumstances.

CIS services are still operational, and customers are still receiving 'virtually' the same level of service they would have done (except of course for the face to face interaction). Staff have been wonderfully engaging doing all they can to ensure they not only do their jobs to the best of their ability, but also that they are supporting their colleagues and maintaining the tight team ethos we have.

We have been creating weekly newsletters for the team which contain everything from important information and tasks to social announcements and interesting words. These newsletters have really come into their own as they are a brilliant way of making sure all the team are kept up to date and feeling part of the team regardless of their location.

Since home working began we have started using the Teams platform more and more effectively; the admission team now hold a brief 'daily camp fire' each morning to check in on everyone and prioritise workloads, the customer service team have been making great use of the 'chat' functionality to answer customer queries, and the team as a whole has been able to hold virtual meetings where all can attend and simply dip out should our customers require us – this is certainly something we shall be carrying on when we are back to 'normal'.

My experience so far of working with various people cross college is that everyone is absolutely determined to do their best and is just so positive, which I think is a really good reflection on the college as whole.

## Laura Farr

I would like to share with you some great work from Ella Bunting who has made a significant breakthrough with a learner with very complex needs.

This particular learner would not engage with the online learning at all but with sheer determination from Ella he is now taking part.

Ella demonstrates perseverance and never gives up on students – a real example of best practice.

## Zoe Bodely

I wanted to say how proud I am of the way the Progress 2 team have adapted to virtual learning.

Our learners have significant barriers to learning and engagement, and staff have worked tirelessly to ensure they are able to access the online curriculum. Staff have been responding to learners outside their working patterns to ensure all vulnerable learners feel supported and prioritised.

We have found that some of our re-engagement learners respond better and have higher levels of engagement with a virtual platform.

Here's what the team have been up to:



Mitch with virtual HIIT workouts and training selfies!



Nicola with her photo a day challenge



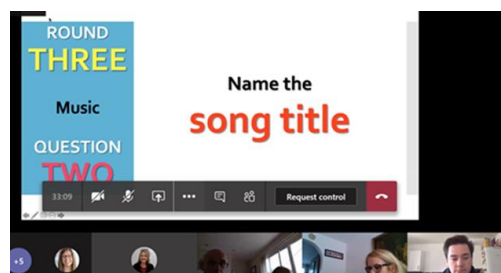
Home cooking with Karen!



James' virtual Duke of Edinburgh sessions



Gardening with Pete!



Chris boosting staff morale with his Big fat staff quiz of the week!

## Maxine Park

I want to give a huge shout out to the Animal Management and Access Teams, as despite being on holiday over Easter they all volunteered for a rota to make sure learners were feeling supported and to keep them motivated.

We have a lot who struggle with mental health issues, all made worse with this current situation and our team wanted them to have someone to check in with each day.

The students have really appreciated some sense of structure and normality.

Feedback from one learner:

“you all deserve some TLC for all of the hard work and support you have demonstrated for the benefit of the students. It does not go unnoticed and is truly appreciated 😊❤️”

## Charlotte Judd

I just wanted to share one of the many positive moments from Weston Bay. We work with learners on the autism spectrum.

We often find that students can be highly anxious when a routine must change and can find this very difficult to adjust to often resulting in disengagement.

I am so proud to say that all my students on Tuesday engaged with the session online. They were all so positive when achieving the tasks set (Even asking for more!). When I left at the end of the session, I was so proud to hear that the students continued to socialise and engage with each other for an hour after playing games online and interacting. This is a huge achievement for them.

Staff at Weston Bay also created this video to share positivity and a giggle...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iPwBJHNIv2w>

## Dave Crew

### Employer engagement update:

Employer engagement continues to gather pace virtually. Before Easter, the Business Growth team hosted a Virtual Business Forum, bringing together key regional business contacts to discuss the support required by employers. Attendees included Visit Somerset, Destination Bristol, Natwest, Lloyds Bank, HSBC, Somerset Chamber of Commerce, North Somerset Enterprise Agency, CITB, and the Federation of Small Businesses. We highlighted our provision including the digital learning offer, and how we are supporting employers and learners.

Weston College is now chairing regular online forums on behalf of business groups in the region, positioning us at the heart of the business community.

Feedback included – “Weston College has a strong network and is well positioned to act as a facilitator of broader business forums to share knowledge. A great way to support the region!” Paul Grantham, Natwest. “Really enjoyed the conference meeting today and we look forward to helping publicise the great work going on by you and your team.” John Turner, CEO of Visit Somerset.

Feedback from Claire Butler from the Department for Education following a conference call with Dr Paul, Jacqui Ford, Sam Mayhew, Jon Hofgartner, Fiona Waters, Michelle Boland.

"Thank you so much for sharing your #MyVirtualCollege feedback with us – I have really enjoyed reading it this evening.

Also thank you for meeting with us earlier today - Mark, Sam and I really enjoyed hearing about the fantastic work the College is doing and the innovative approach you are taking.

We were particularly impressed with the dedication you and staff at Weston College are showing to ensuring that your learners, particularly vulnerable learners, continue to be safe and engaged in learning.

The meeting was really beneficial from our point of view and has helped us to develop our thinking about continued engagement of vulnerable learners in FE."

## Sandra Bull



MIBA LTD

Beauty Academy & Salon @Manchester International  
Beauty Academy

TODAY



MIBA LTD • 4:43 pm

Hi Sandra,  
Hope you're well!

Just have to say, your beauty students work is  
amazing! Very inspirational! 🥰

Feedback from a Beauty Training academy in Manchester.

This is just one I have received, and I have spoken to many.

Academy's and FE colleges that generally I have little contact with but in a few small messages or a short conversation have discovered we can support each other through this time.

I have spoken to VTCT, City and Guilds, NCFE and Cache awarding bodies with VTCT now hosting their own #continuetoinspire national marketing, led by Weston College.

In fact, it's clear that Weston is leading and supporting others to see the light. All through small updates on LinkedIn!

Let us hope our campaign and our online learning inspires so many more to stay confident and ride the wave.

## Mandy Lee and Heidi Milner

Feeling very proud and thankful to be part of Team Weston!

Just wanted to share that our amazing learners need support from us all at this really difficult time. Please remember we are all here for each other too.

It hadn't sunk in how much this is impacting our learners; we have some that were working part-time as key workers and are now working full-time and still trying to do college work. What a fantastic bunch of learners we have and how grateful they are of our understanding and support.

## Corrin Reilly



Here's a template for our social media bingo that has received a widely positive response on our @ucw\_dance Instagram account.

We have had responses from not only our current and graduated students, but also from prospective students!

I am looking to create more interactive templates such as this one to continue to encourage a wider outreach via social media.

## Anna Holton



Georgia has taken to the Socials to record a message and get it out to her schools to reinforce the message that we are still available to help with queries and questions not matter how big or small.

We are continuing to be a point of contact for schools, parents and individual organisations that are supporting their young people to feel reassured in their transition to college at this very anxious time. As usual we are continuing to deal with queries and concerns regarding individual course applications, course choices, school reports, learning support, travel, bursary and looking ahead to planning engaging events and activities for the rest of the year.

## Joe Miller

During this first week back, we have engaged our learners to get them back on track and once again they have been astounding us at their focus and progress in all aspects of performing remotely!

Amongst other exciting tasks, we have done a [quiz](#) and Natalie who starred in the UK professional tour of Thoroughly Modern Millie kindly took part in a zoom [Q&A](#) with our learners.



## David LeFeuvre

I just wanted to share how positive the start of this new term has been – I was a bit worried that having had some time off and a few Easter eggs, learners would be sluggish to get going again this term, and they would need some motivation. But how wrong was I?!

Over the weekend running up to starting the new term I had over a dozen of my learners making contact to ask when lessons were back on, what time we were getting started and if there was anything else, they needed to be reading up on in readiness! I was also taken aback how prompt all the learners were on Monday morning -raring to get going!

What has followed is two really good days of solid engagement with the learners, great conversations flowing on Teams and lots of interaction.

Learners who have been behind are now starting to catch up, and re-engage, and those learners have been problem solving their IT issues so that they can fully access the live lessons.

## Sue Brown

Some of our Apprentices who are keyworkers in healthcare...



## Chris Haines

Today the Civil Engineering department held a virtual briefing with a guest speaker from the Institute of Civil Engineers (I.C.E) to brief the second year Level 3 Civil Engineering Technicians and Level 4 Construction Site Engineering Technicians Apprentices how their End Point Assessments for their Apprenticeship will be carried out and what they will need to do to prepare.

With a lot of these students still working with their employers to carry out vital functions like keeping the roads open safe this was a great way to keep them on track for a timely finish.

Nothing, not even a Virus stops Civil Engineering!

## Gary Durant

Feedback from a former Traineeship learner who is working at Bristol Hospital.

Sent to Ian Sweet:

“Hope you’re getting on okay and keeping safe! Just a little update for you. I am working on the children’s emergency department in Bristol now and I am enjoying it so much. It is such an amazing place to work!

Thank you to you and George and everyone at the Hospital for all your help throughout the Traineeship.”

## Maxine Park

I just had to share this – look what an animal management student can do with time and knowledge!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5H8BO-80IOE>

## Jo Philpott

I would just like to make you aware of some of the innovative work that has been developed by Matt Lyons and his team in Computing to encourage new and prospective learners to engage with Weston College.

They have set up a Weston College Computing MS Teams site for new and prospective learners for the division. They have invited prospective students who have either attended taster days or open evenings, or who have made applications for courses within the division.

They currently have 71 young people who have signed up and the number is growing daily – prospective learners are sent an invitation to join and engage in the Teams site currently using their personal email address. Once they have had an interview, they are then using collegiate WS numbers.

Channels have been created for each course and staff and young people are really engaging in meaningful conversations about the components of the courses, the careers it could lead onto, WEX opportunities and the wider Collegiate offer. They are developing online taster sessions as well as activities/workbooks etc which young people can engage with.

They are also planning to run Q and A sessions as well which parents/carers could attend. This was presented on Wednesday to the curriculum leadership team and divisions have now been asked to produce a similar model for new and prospective learners.

Engineering is progressing well on their site and we are developing content for new and prospective learners which can be uploaded.