

## Sarah-Jane Lewis

Heart-warming email from a second year Health and Social Care learner struggling with technology issues (sent to Emma O'Callaghan, Tanya Hanney, Karla Mason and I):

*Hi all,*

*I do just want to make it clear how much I appreciate you all. As we all know I have no Wi-Fi so have been using my mobile data to access work and hand it in which has stressed me out as my 3G is very temperamental, but you all have been so understanding and are really supporting me and helping me to de-stress and I really appreciate it.*

*Thank you all again for being so understanding of my situation and giving me new ideas and ways of handling things, without me being stressed- you are all going above and beyond and did not have to be this nice and I really am thankful and appreciative of all of you.*

*I am a strong believer in showing my appreciation as it costs nothing to show and you all deserve recognition! I can't express how grateful I am.*

*I am so grateful once again, thank you so much.*

## Mark Barnett

Weston College have received a special acknowledgement from the MoD for the work of Annette Milburn in supporting a number of apprentices at Abbey Wood on the Level 4 NVQ.

*Hi Annette,*

*I have carried out two reviews this morning where praise for you was loud and clear. Charles Kitchen and James Murphy extol your input to their Level 4 NVQ work and that you have simply made the work easier for them to understand and interpret. Ben Truscott their employer representative said that '**you went above and beyond**' what was expected of you, for which he was very grateful.*

*I wanted to say a very big thank you for your unstinting continued support for the MOD learners that I work with at Abbey Wood."*

*Kindest regards  
Robert Smith IQA & VTA - Engineering*

## Alex Boyce

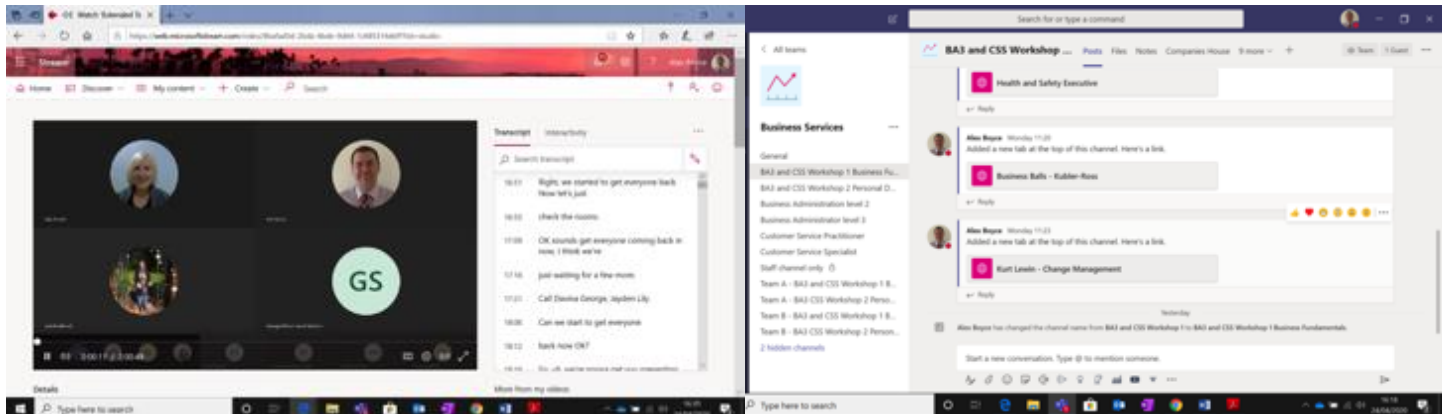
I wanted to share with you all how my first digital workshop went for apprentices enrolled on the Business administration Level 3 and Customer Service Specialist apprenticeships, this took place on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April.

At first, I was a little nervous, but with some great support from our Ed Tech Hub team, the team around me, and lots of planning, the session ran well.

We had 27 apprentices and my colleagues and manager also joined the session which was an all-day session on Business fundamentals and Legislation and Regulation.

I made full use of the tabs for each channel and set up break-out rooms so that the apprentices could work and contribute together within their groups. I was able to switch in and out of each breakout session to check their progress and provide support where necessary. Following the session, I received great feedback from the apprentices and my manager and colleagues.

I'm looking forward to my next one now.



## Emma Hoyal

I just wanted to share with you this fantastic feedback from Wessex water referring to the practice of Assessors **Francis Bardouille** and **Dez Jenner**. I am so pleased to see their efforts and hard work being recognised:

*At the Monthly contract review meeting with Wessex Water this morning we received very positive feedback regarding our staff, especially considering the changes to delivery methods over the past few weeks.*

## Karen Morgan

I wanted to let you know how our fabulous Early Years apprentices and part-time adults are doing.

Engagement from the 77 learners on programme has been 100% with most learners joining in online lessons.

Most of these learners are also parents and have therefore had to juggle lessons with home learning for their children. Their lecturer Lynne has been recording all the lessons so those who are key workers or who have had COVID symptoms can keep up at the best times for themselves.

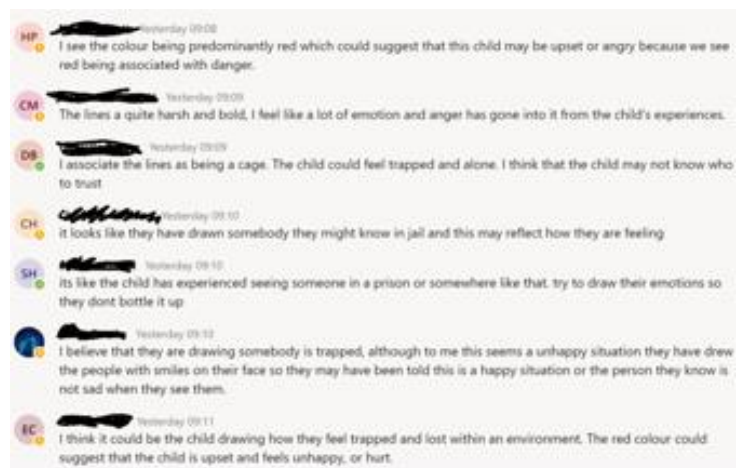
The assessor team have stepped up to design assessments to make up for skills that cannot be observed directly – they have increased the one to one support and carried out professional discussion (recorded on teams) which learners following up with reflections from the learners and witness testimonies where they can

Here's an example of an Early Years lesson researching the effects on children of having a parent in prison.

I loved how the lesson started with a picture that a child had drawn, and the learners had to think about what the picture was communicating.

The learners had no prior information that the lesson was about parents in prison, so it was great to see how analytical they were being and the incisive comments they made.

I love that the answers are available in the chat conversation and then the teacher and students discussed and reflected on these in real time in the lesson but it was also available for learners to look back on and use for future work.



## Chris Simpson

I would just like to bring to your attention the exceptional effort, support, stewardship of care and positivity that I have witnessed from the electrical department team.

Throughout our current period of remote learning they have demonstrated their flexible/can do approach and overarching pastoral care to every single learner in their attempts to ensure they are keeping up with their studies and working towards their aspirations and ambitions.

They appear unwilling to compromise on quality and expectations of their own teaching and learning whilst supporting learners whose personal and family circumstances have been significantly impacted by the current pandemic.

They have worked hard to teach additional sessions outside of timetabled lessons to accommodate for parents working at home, undertake pastoral support calls to learners and their families to alleviate worries and have been reassuring all full-time learners and apprentices that we are all in this together and nobody will be disadvantaged from this situation.

I am not known for heaping praise on individuals, but I do have to say at this moment in time how very proud I am to be the manager of this department at Weston College. I've been so impressed by the professional care, dedication, sheer commitment and positivity these guys have shown to their learner, managing their own families needs yet understanding their role and responsibility within the community.

This has been exemplified by the numerous emails I have received from both learners, parents and employers during this difficult period, grateful for the effort, continuity and purpose their teaching has given to their sons and daughters during such an unprecedented climate of uncertainty within society.

## Richard Hanney

This picture shows my wife and her dedication to her learners.

I was on a break and she was delivering a session on confidentiality in regards to the Care Act.

I wanted to share the post as I thought it showed the dedication of Weston College staff.



Richard Hanney

Just now · 🌐

My wife [Tanya Marie](#) and I are both teachers, we are expected to continue delivering lessons daily throughout this crisis, we expect it and want our learners to succeed more than ever. This image was taken this afternoon through the window, my wife was delivering a lesson on the Care Act whilst our daughter played. My wife is an amazing woman. Love you xx



## Rachel Wilshere

Last week in an Extension Studies Individual Development session, our tutees were asked to list 5 things that they could do at home and set a goal of achieving one of those things last week.

The idea behind it was to get our tutor group to be proactive and productive during this time and for us to be able to encourage and hold each other accountable. The tasks ranged from tidying bedrooms to fixing shower screens, learning make-up tutorials to washing bed sheets.

Our budding author tutee was set a task of writing a poem about time in lockdown. I think it brings some magic into this difficult time. Enjoy!

### **Lockdown Freedom By Krista H. West**

My body is allowed an hour a day  
To jog, to walk, to cycle, they say

I'm good with that, it's fine, I guess  
I can stay in shape, no need to stress

This lockdown is a physical thing  
My mind is free, my soul can sing

Freedom is a relative notion  
Not all activity is about motion

I use my brain, to create for me  
A world of magical possibility

Inside my head, there is no limit  
For I can go anywhere, it'll only take a minute

To the world of imagination, I shall go  
To a place where only I know

My freedom is in my creativity  
This lockdown does not define me.

## Lauren Pring

I thought I ought to provide you with a quick update from HE Early Years & Early Childhood Studies.

This week we have been busy cooing at Mark & TJ's gorgeous baby girl pictures, Mark shared the below message and photos with his students on Teams:



*Morning everyone!*

*Just checking in while I am on paternity leave. Some of you already know, but I have been privileged to welcome two girls to our family - Reine and Adelira. Both are doing extremely well, and we are enjoying using this enforced time at home to give them a calm and loving start to their lives. I'm sure there will be more pictures in the future!*



Also, the ever-supportive management team particularly Sadie, Sandra & Karen attend video meetings, send supportive emails and articles to read and provide reassurance to us regarding policy etc. as we return from the Easter break and settle back into the new term.

The Early Years staff team are definitely holding students in their hands, offering reassurance, orienting students and helping them to stick together. This week some of our student body rode out on their bikes to get exercise and share texts, there is a sense of community that I am very proud of.

Importantly please see some of the feedback collected at student staff liaison committee meetings this week regarding their experiences of remote teaching.

- The group felt that the transition to remote teaching has been smooth and has worked well. Praise was given to the team for how quick it was put into place.
- Students are grateful for the extra sessions that were given during the Easter holiday.
- Remote teaching has been good, any difficulties faced by students have been supported by the team.
- Staff have gone above and beyond and are continuing to do so during the remote teaching period. The group feel well supported.
- The team have kept everything consistent with a good transition from the classroom to online.

## Oz Cahill

Please check out the work that one of our students has produced since lockdown:

"I have started making 3 different tracks for my project.

One is a pop song; here is a link to the rough version of it on my soundcloud:

<https://soundcloud.com/user-816893496/pop2>

One is a folk song and one is an avant-garde 'song'

(Made with random noises, dog barks, brushing teeth, standing on packets, etc)"

## Neil Adams

I have used this tool throughout the year to allow for student self reflection of understanding and to also ensure that revision sessions in preparation for exams are focussed on the right areas and differentiated for individual learners.

In this time of lockdown, and the fact that many courses and units are drawing to a point where exams would be due and focussed revision undertaken, it is imperative to identify the areas that the learners rather than ourselves identify as areas of weakness, where they feel they have been challenged and are still struggling - some of the challenges of the virtual world is when the learners feel that there is potential loss of focus on them as individuals and revision can often remain generic. I have found throughout the year this survey approach to be highly beneficial and even more so during lockdown. The very visual look of the feedback makes it very evident where students struggle, and extra support is required.

I feel that the survey can also be utilised to put more control in the hands of our learners in what they can do as part of the lockdown and through virtual learning. We could have a list of additional learning opportunities and ask learners to undertake the survey to ensure we plan the right stuff for them and not necessarily for ourselves.

### Questions

### Responses

8

[View results](#)

 Open in Excel

1. Learning Outcome 1.1 - State the requirements of the Electricity at Work Regulations for the safe inspection of electrical systems and equipment.

[More Details](#)

<span style="color: blue;">●</span> Very Confident	0
<span style="color: orange;">●</span> Confident	7
<span style="color: green;">●</span> Not so confident	1
<span style="color: red;">●</span> Unconfident	0



2. Learning Outcome 1.2 - Specify the appropriate procedure for completing safe isolation.

[More Details](#)

<span style="color: blue;">●</span> Very Confident	3
<span style="color: orange;">●</span> Confident	4
<span style="color: green;">●</span> Not so confident	1
<span style="color: red;">●</span> Unconfident	0



## Lorna Whitford

We are back to our virtual learning in our home learning platform and there is continued good practice and great engagement from a number of learners in our live lessons.

Here are some examples of how the team have focused on learner wellbeing and life skills.



### Room with a View!

Good morning Extension Studies Home Learning

**Today's challenge: take a picture of a view outside of your window**

What can you see? Is there anything interesting outside?



**Bonus for arty people: draw or use a photo editing software ([Pixlr.com](https://www.pixlr.com) is free to use) and edit your view from your window**



And the winners are.....



Best presentation.....

and

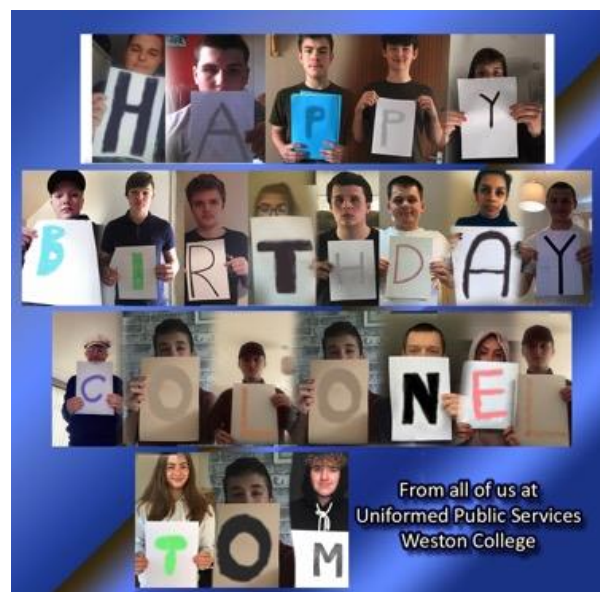


## Ashley Brown

As part of the Teamwork Unit (and as a break from assignment work) we decided to put together a small message for the inspirational Colonel Tom as a fellow public service member.

Our learners aspire to lead their lives and careers in the manner exemplified by Colonel Tom.

Congratulations on your 100th Birthday Colonel Tom.





## Sue Estcourt

I just wanted to share with you a few things Team North Somerset have been doing to provide support to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in our communities.

Many of our participants do not have smart phones or laptops, let alone the internet. We are calling and texting them daily/weekly according to their individual needs and are often communicating with their parents to offer them support too.

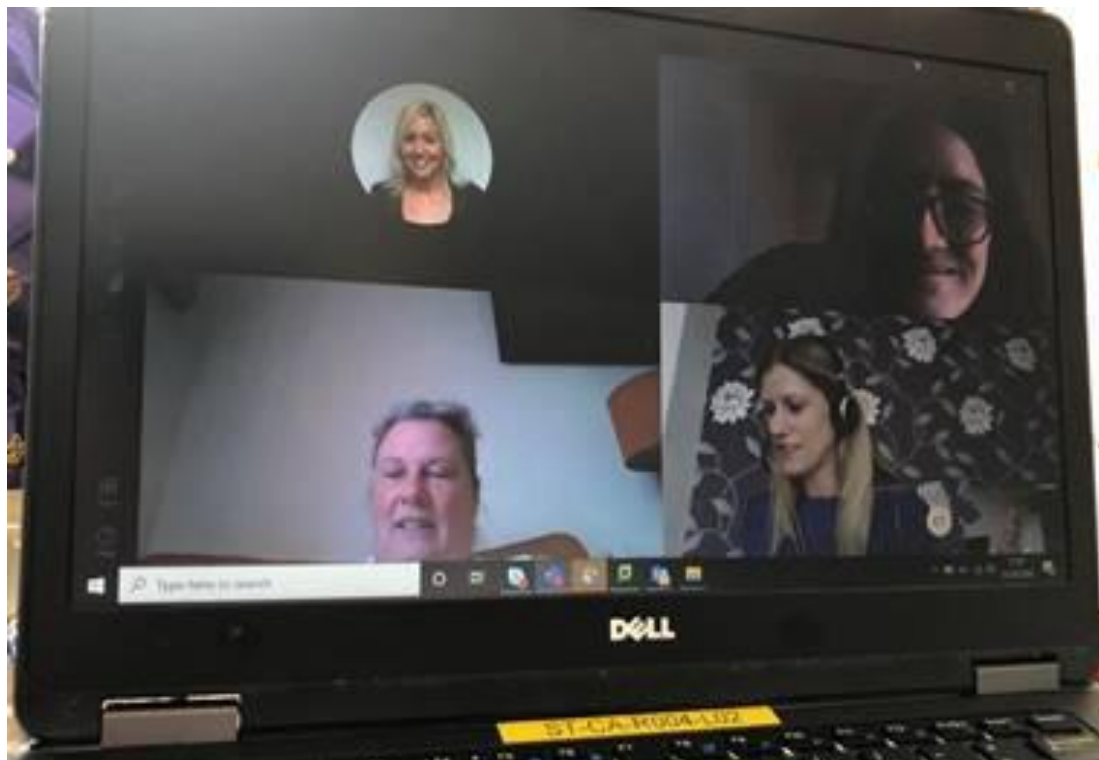
One of our participants said: *"I am not able to see my mother or sister as they are in care homes and my usual routine and activities are all on hold - I am a shadow of my usual self... Your calls are forming the basis of my mental health support during this lockdown"*

We have re-designed our marketing posters with Coronavirus updates and have designed a completely new activity to add to our suite of Solutions programmes, called Solutions for Isolation, copy of the new poster is attached.

In this programme we have incorporated everything we normally offer to our participants but in different formats, such as printing and posting, to ensure it is fully inclusive and accessible.

Nearly all of our participants suffer poor mental health along with many other barriers. The situation we find ourselves in is exacerbating these conditions.

This week we are sending sunflower seeds to our participants so they can watch them grow, whether in their garden, a window box or in their local open space.



## Sandra Bull

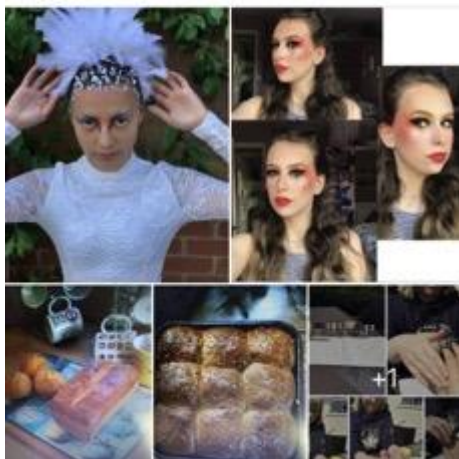
Debbie is recording her demonstration videos whilst her baby is sleeping. For some her voice is so quiet but these are going down a storm across hospitality. I think as a mum teaching her virtual course she is doing an amazing job.

Level 3, year 2 Early Years learners have also created an imaginative and creative play website. They have worked extremely hard on this during lockdown; utilising and extending their knowledge and understanding of these play types. The site is written with parents in mind:

<https://creativeandimaginativeplayideas.weebly.com>

New week- new work achieved online. 🙌 The Service Sectors faculty again has been busy-themed makeup, bread making ,children's sensory games ....below is a sample from the Early years, hair and Beauty and hospitality learners. 💖

#myvirtuallearning  
#westoncollege  
#continuetoinspire  
#vtct  
#cache



Sandra Bull  
Dean of Study at Weston College  
53m · 📍

More cakes made and delivered to neighbours on their own Level 2 Professional Chefs 🙌 looking after their local communities.

#myvirtuallearning  
#westoncollege  
#continuetoinspire  
#vtct  
#stayhomestaysafe



🌟 STARRY NIGHT 🌟 "looking at the stars always makes me dream" ~Van Gogh 1889 ~Demo for today's lesson (done last night) on influential art #onlinelearning #virtuallessons #teachinglifeinlockdown @treasuremakeup #mehronmakeup #kryolanprofessionalmakeup @ucweston



## Ben Hodder

One of our plastering students, who started at Weston College in September, has decided to use her spare time during isolation to put into practice what she has learnt.

She brought some moulds, made some plaster ornaments and decided to paint them and sell what she has made.

As well as becoming a student rep for the group, this enthusiastic student's passion has been inspiring for the rest of the class and many have looked up to her as a role model.





The Level 1 carpenters were asked to think about the positive environmental impact we were having by all being isolated and having limited travel arrangements.

They considered how can we could make changes in our everyday lives and positions to limit our carbon foot print when we all return to a normal.

One student thought about his transport arrangements and came up with very simple changes to his car that would help the environment in the long term.

It is very good to see learners thinking about their impact in the environment and simple changes to modern life that can have a big impact.

## Sylvia Lane

I just wanted to take the opportunity to express my pride and thanks for staff and students in both FE & HE Performing Arts.

The creative work that is coming out from the virtual classrooms is something that I would have never considered possible - teaching is going really well and learners are engaging with very high attendance.

Students have taken it particularly well in terms of adapting performances that were meant to be featured at the Playhouse Theatre, the Tropicana, the Tobacco Factory in Bristol and the Pleasance Theatre in London, which are no longer possible.

Students are becoming experts in their own virtual film studios and are quite apt with camera techniques, lighting and editing!

Teaching staff will publish and share some of the work when projects are complete by the end of May as part of the CAD virtual summer festival.

A huge thank you to Jon Hofgartner, who has helped set us up with everything we needed to make this possible and successful.

Here is a link of a little clip of me being able to coach pirouettes in ballet:





## Hattie Sharp

Year 2 chemists enjoyed their lesson last week!

They were giving feedback on questions identifying chemical environments in nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy. I'd been worried how this would work digitally as opposed to face-to-face as it's one of the hardest topics in the specification. I didn't need to worry!

Thomas [redacted] 25/03 13:28 ❤️ 4  
this is actually really fun

Sona [redacted] 25/03 13:28  
dom is really missing out on this

James [redacted] 25/03 13:28 ❤️ 2  
this is the most ive enjoyed myself allday

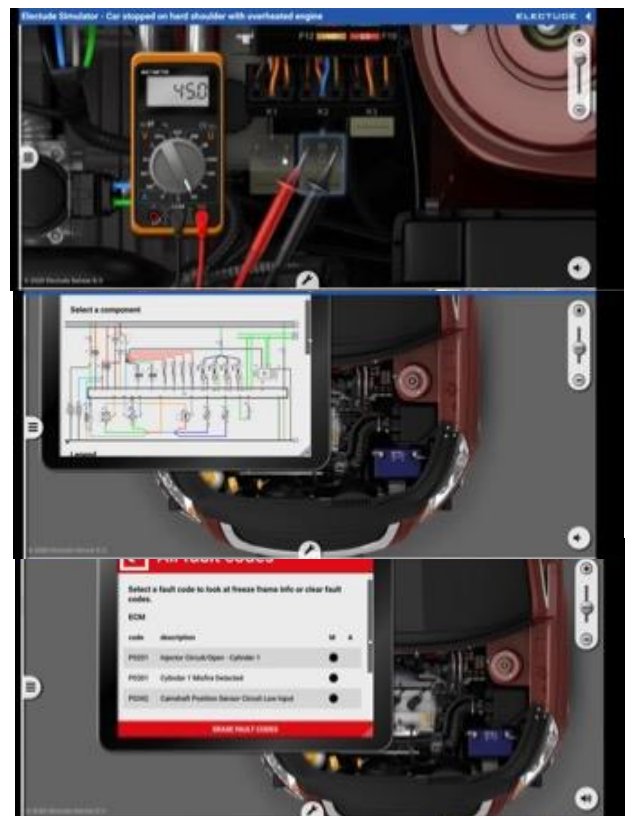
## Chris Priest

I just wanted to share with you some detail regarding a really engaging and potentially challenging session I witnessed today from Adrian Pitt, part of the motor vehicle team.

Keeping practical skills and techniques current and developed is proving to be a real challenge for vocational training staff in this current climate. However, Adrian is using the technology of the Electude simulator to ensure that his learners can practice their skills in the virtual environment.

The Electude Simulator is a fully functional simulation of an internal combustion engine with control modules, sensors, actuators and CAN network.

Learners can click into the toolbox and use multimeters, oscilloscopes and other diagnostic tools to measure and analyse the system. It is a virtual learning platform that enables tutors to install faults for learners to diagnose, remove and replace components and wires to fix problems.



## Ray Stewart

As the Work Placement Team are working on case studies I have asked students for a quote which we can use. I received this from James an A Level 3 Year 2 Student studying IT/Digital:

*"My experience at Eloquent was nothing short of excellent. I felt welcome, supported and challenged for the duration of my time there, both as a developer and as an employee."*

*"While the programming experience itself was amazing, my time there also revealed aspects of myself and my work that I needed to improve. I was regularly checked up with and encouraged to do so."*

*"The placement has been an absolutely vital part of my education for the past year, and I feel like it has helped me grow not only as a developer, but as a person."*

## Nicola Stent

A few weeks ago, I set a sewing challenge on Facebook where I nominated 50 friends to make/sew 10 items and then nominate 3/4 friends to do the same and so on.

My challenge (as I missed out on the London Marathon) was to sew for 24 hours to complete as many surgical masks as possible for our NHS staff and care workers. I then split this into 2x 12 hours shifts due to my 3-year-old son. I absolutely loved it, sewing through the night is fantastic! Think I've reached 130 now and still going!

Since the nominations my recent and ex-students have made me so very proud, sewing headbands and uniform bags.

We've now been informed 300 bags have been requested for Bristol's Nightingale ward.

I couldn't be any prouder of my guys at the moment. Many of them have really stepped up despite the impact that the pandemic has made to their own lives.





## Prison Education Update

During this difficult lockdown period PEF staff have been creating numerous 'learning packs', to be circulated across the PEF network. These packs are generated under strict quality processes and involve staff working across all 19 prisons, who in some cases have never worked with each other before.

Unlike at the college, there is no online learning and support system for our learners. As such, staff are having to greatly adapt the key learning content they would normally use for face to face teaching and amend it to ensure that learners are able to complete the coursework without support from Peer Mentors and/or Tutors present.

We would like to thank all those staff involved in this process and also the wonderful caretakers and facilities team who have provided much needed support.

Thousands of Learning packs and activity packs are being produced. These include key subjects such as English, Maths, ESOL and various vocational subjects such as Catering, Horticulture, Art, Customer Services, Construction



### Oficiais / Funcionárias-os - Officers / Staff

Preciso de ajuda, por favor ( I need help please )	Eu gostaria ( I would like )
Você pode me ajudar por favor ( Can you help me please )	Posso ir plesse ( Can I go please )
Preciso de ajuda de imigração ( I need immigration help )	O que são faixas ( What is TRACKS )
Retornar à célula ( Return to cell )	Eu não entendo ( I don't understand )
Eu estou lutando ( I am struggling )	Posso fazer isso ( Can I do this )
Preciso de ajuda com a papelada ( I need help with paperwork )	Fique na ala ( Stay on the wing )
Eu gostaria de trabalhar ( I would like to work )	Eu gostaria de ( I would like to )

## David LeFeuvre

Despite us all not being able to meet in person, the external verification of NVQ work continues.

Having spoken with a colleague from a college in Cornwall yesterday, they revealed they are currently struggling to provide work for sampling as they still use paper based portfolios!

However, our strong use of Smart-Assessor has opened up the option for our SV to dip in and out of folders without the need to travel down from the Midlands.

Not only this, but our assessor Chris has been carrying out remote observations on apprentices who are still in work, using Teams.

The SV was guided to some of these videos and said that what he saw was "absolute best practice in the circumstances" and that using Teams in this way to ensure assessment was continuing was "something he would encourage his other centres to do".

As a result of this sample today, we've maintained and expanded our range of courses that have direct claims status, and allowed us to achieve apprentices in a timely manner, despite the current restrictions!

Well done Chris Haines for your hard work in pushing ahead with using Teams in this way.

## Dan Andrews

Our Media students are making the most of the lockdown, by using this unique opportunity to get involved in remote Q&As with a range of different Media Industry professionals across the UK.

These industry experts would normally be too busy or too far away to get involved, so this is an excellent opportunity for our students to talk to people in different media fields and learn from their knowledge and experiences.

It also opens up options to deliver Q&As to a wider range of students all at the same time.

The students have engaged well with it and have enjoyed the experience (as have the guest speakers).



**UPCOMING**  
**Guest Speakers**

**28 APR**  
**2pm: Rich Watts**  
The wonderfully charismatic Rich is joining us online for a Q&A. He is going to talk about all things PR and his experiences working with TootLife and all his influencers.

**29 APR**  
**3.30pm: James Parfitt & Chelsea Aldred**  
James is currently working for MTV as an AP on eye opening shows such as Geordie Shore and Teen Mom UK. He has also worked on shows such as the BRIT awards, RuPaul and the SMTA Awards.  
Chelsea has worked her way up from a runner, to an assistant editor and is now a freelance motion graphics designer, she has worked for a London production house called 'Droight' and the BBC.

**30 APR**  
**10am: Ross Bliss**  
Ross will be delivering a degree taster session exploring the language of Cinema, in order to better prepare you for making your own films at University & beyond.  
**2pm: James Johnson**  
James was a Media production student at Weston College 5 years ago and is now living out his dreams working as a Freelance Creative. He has worked with many clients including, Netflix, Amazon Prime, Marks & Spencer, L'Oréal Paris, KFC and many more, creating social and marketing content.

**01 MAY**  
**2pm: Claire Martin**  
Claire is a freelance producer/director/edit producer with 10 years experience in broadcast television, working on a mix of docs and factual entertainment for a variety of channels. She also used to self shoot and sound record too.

Brought to you by  
**Weston College**

Presented by Dan Andrews  
Supported by the WIN programme

## Weekly News Round-up

### Bass legend and Level 42 frontman Mark King virtually meets Music students

<https://www.weston.ac.uk/news/bass-legend-mark-king-virtually-meets-music-students>



### College works with TV star Martin Roberts to adapt industry placements in lockdown

<https://www.weston.ac.uk/news/weston-college-works-tv-star-martin-roberts-adapt-industry-placement-opportunities-during>



### Working on the front-lines - Interview with Healthcare Apprentice

<https://www.weston.ac.uk/news/working-front-lines-interview-healthcare-apprentice>

CELEBRATING  
KEY WORKERS  
Ashley-Rose Wright





## Weekly News Round-up


Dr Paul recently wrote an article for FE Week “There’s a new breed of college in town”

**“The pandemic is forcing us to adopt new ways of working, and if we remain flexible, we have much to learn from the emergency procedures we have had to put in place.**

Meanwhile, my staff have gone above and beyond looking for new openings every time a door closes.”

Full article: <https://feweek.co.uk/2020/04/28/theres-a-new-breed-of-college-in-town-as-we-learn-to-adapt/>



Association of Colleges (AoC)   
@AoC\_info

“An inspiring and thought provoking article from a fantastic Principal with a amazing team at a brilliant college.”  
- Steve Frampton MBE, AoC President.

@DrPhillipsCBE discusses how the FE sector is learning to adapt during the pandemic. @WestonCollege  
[feweek.co.uk/2020/04/28/the...](https://feweek.co.uk/2020/04/28/the...)



Olly Newton  
@ukEdgePolicy

Great article in @FEWeek by the awesome @DrPhillipsCBE @westoncollege showing how our amazing FE sector is stepping up @AoC\_info - 'Covid-19 is not an excuse for finding ourselves in a difficult situation: it is the catalyst for change' - absolutely!

### FE Week Opinion

**DR PAUL  
PHILLIPS CBE**

Principal and chief executive,  
Weston College Group



### FE Week Opinion

**DR PAUL  
PHILLIPS CBE**

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