

## Emma Hoyal

Just wanted to highlight the hard work of the Engineering Apprenticeships team.

Without exception, all assessors and IQA's are working tirelessly to support our engineering apprentices, a number of whom are key workers. They have adapted well and very swiftly to reach learners via SMART Assessor and Teams, meaning that all apprentices can continue to progress and achieve well despite the changes they have faced at work and home recently.

I am really proud of the way the team have so positively worked with their apprentices and employers to be consistent in routine and expectations for learners, whilst ensuring stretch and challenge opportunities are always there!

Also, I was reminded of a quote this week as we welcome a new member to our Engineering Apprenticeship team. Colleagues have swiftly offered support and time to ensure that the virtual induction we offer Andrew is a helpful one.

This includes colleagues in AEC, ICT, MIS, HR and the Apprenticeship Hub. This has enabled him to hit the ground running and showcases our ability to work well together remotely.

Thank you everyone and welcome Andrew!



## Charlie (Ministry of Defence Apprentice)

"I am writing to let you know of the fantastic Dyslexia support that I've received from the Weston College learning support staff, specifically Annette Milburn. I am an MoD degree apprentice and have found this support invaluable both before and after the lockdown period began.

"When in office, Annette would drive to north Bristol and provide support to myself and other apprentices within the area, since lockdown we have continued sessions by screen sharing using Teams.

"Annette helps me put the content I know into text and helps me evidence my mental ability via written work. This saves a huge amount of time during written placement and NVQ tasks. She has also helped maintain mental health and wellbeing with a check-up period at the start of each session – this has especially helped me adapt to working from home during lockdown.

"I very much hope this support can continue as the working relationship we have with Annette and the support she offers really does help me to show my work to the best of my abilities."

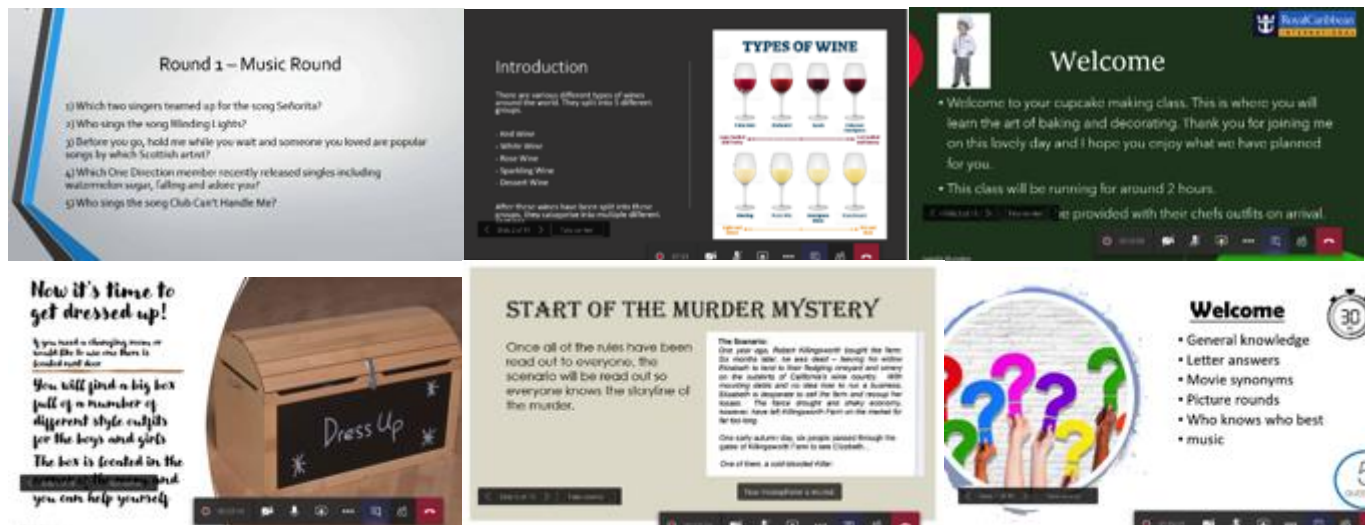


## Hannah Carstensen

I wanted to share what some of Business and Travel and Tourism students have been doing lately.

### Level 3 Year 2 Travel and Tourism

Remote learning created some challenges for a couple of modules I deliver, one of them being our Level 3 Travel and Tourism, who have delivered holiday entertainment activities over the Teams platform. They delivered a range of activities including; Wine (squash!) Tasting, quizzes, a yoga class, social club games, a treasure hunt, cupcake making, and a murder mystery.



*"I thought the online assessment went well and it helped me build confidence to be able to present in front of other people. It taught me to communicate more clearly the different aspects within the presentation and how to professionally describe the event I had planned"* – Learner Feedback

### Level 3 Year 2 Business

Students had a challenge to complete their event for their Managing an Event assessment. On Wednesday the group adapted their plans and held an online group quiz. The students worked in teams and created different rounds that they would manage individually. It was a great way to have some fun and the learners got to manage the event and develop online skills by managing the session/conference call.



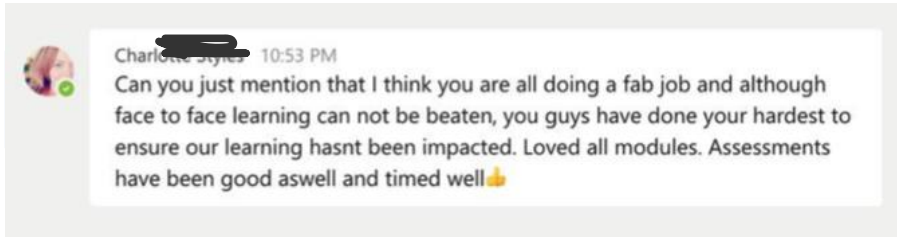
*"I think it was a great way to communicate and catch up with everyone due to everything that's happening at the minute and I think everyone would agree considering the turn out! It was really enjoyable"*

*"I found that the process of doing it was easier despite technical difficulties. I enjoyed the experience and thought that it went really well".* – Learner Feedback



## Maxine Park

Well done to Elena Borodina and Sarah Leaney for making sure that our Foundation Degree Biological Laboratory Sciences students are still getting a great experience:



When you don't have your anatomical models to hand, playdoh and post-its make a great substitute! Our ever-creative Sarah Leaney's biology lessons are always colourful, wherever she delivers them from!

Also see below the response from a local care home on receiving letters which animal management students have sent the residents to cheer them up during their isolation.

*"I have just had a look through the letters/fact files you sent. They are absolutely lovely! So nicely written, interesting and with great pictures.*

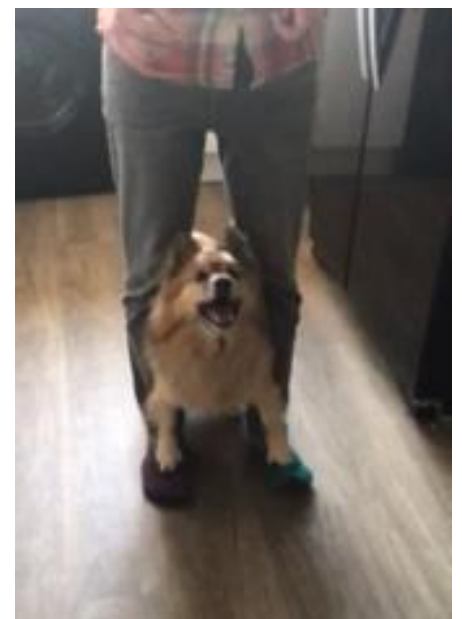
*"Our clients will really enjoy receiving these! A lot of them really love animals – particularly dogs, and had their one when they were a bit younger. So now they are unable to look after a dog of their own it will be nice for them to see pictures and details of other's dogs.*

*Say a huge thank you to your students from me. Great timing as well, today we are posting out their monthly newsletter and rotas for the next few weeks, so we can pop a letter in with those!"*

Also, I just had to share this video of a student who has been set an animal training task at home by Helen Hurley. We are so proud.

When he first started college he could not speak to anyone, but his time in the SEND faculty prepared him well for level 1 Animal Care and now he has the confidence to regularly make videos of his progress.

[Click here to watch the video](#)



## Christopher Simpson

I just wanted to take this opportunity to share some exemplary flexible /can do practice of a team, which I think exemplifies and reflects the ethos, culture and expectation we have at Weston College of ourselves and our learners.

A large proportion of our electrical apprentices have been unfortunately furloughed/or temporarily laid off by employers and have gained part time work as delivery drivers, store replenishment staff etc and have therefore been unable to attend timetabled lessons.

In order to ensure no learner is disadvantaged, Electrical lecturers have been running additional lessons working with learners on a one to one basis via the Microsoft teams in the evenings. They have been keeping constant communication with learners, prioritising and ensuring those with anxieties, mental health difficulties, learning difficulties receive the same level of stewardship as they would if they were attending their regular classroom lessons or activities.

***" I'm not letting xxxxx not succeed with all the difficulties she has had to overcome to get this far. "***

The enthusiasm shared during team meetings of trying new ideas, enjoying the creativity and freedoms of remote learning, seeing shy learners positively contributing towards lessons - sharing ideas, opinions, feeling comfortable in contributing with shared files/projects has invigorated the teaching team.

It is personally rewarding to be part of a department/faculty that even in the most difficult of personal, professional situations, lecturers are enjoying what they are doing and ensuring their learners are having a positive, productive experience during their lessons - maintaining their educational progress, when so many things around them.

I also wanted to share some of the feedback I've received this week from learners, it has been so uplifting to the team that learners are appreciating their tutors' efforts and taking much more ownership and engagement with their studies. Whether they are furloughed apprentices or mature learners balancing the demands of remote teaching with family life, saying thanks has really made the sacrifices and effort by tutors worthwhile.

***" I am finding the online work brilliant and I am really enjoying the lessons with Gary online and Gary is always available to answer any questions which is good :)"***

Full Time Level One Plumbing and Heating Learner with profound learning difficulties.

***"I would say the teaching so far has been really good and effective. I am finding Alex's presentations then a video and a handout a really good way to learn because the teaching is very detailed and then the handout then makes it stick in your head meaning you retain more information. So, with that, I am feeling confident about what we have learnt so far".***

Second Year Electrical Apprentice

***"Just want to say that I think the virtual learning lessons have been good! Difficult at times but still helpful considering the big change. Personally, I have received a lot of support from Lee and Chris with my mental health and they couldn't of been better. They gave me extra time to complete lessons which took off a lot of pressure for me and has all round improved my learning and my home life."***

Full Time Electrical Level Two Learner

***"I would just like to give my feedback from the online learning I have been involved in over the past few weeks:***

- ***The quality of lessons has continued at the same standard as if I was at college and feel I have not been disadvantaged in any major way***
- ***The amount of support available (not just on my allocated college day) via teams and email***
- ***Resources available at home to complete my design assignment, I am able to access everything I need***
- ***The use of Teams has been an interesting way to learn but I think that my tutors have delivered lessons with professionalism and success throughout***
- ***I enjoy being able to complete my work at my own pace but with the ability to ask for support directly through teams.***

***I cannot thank Neil and Alex enough for the support and guidance through this difficult time but strongly feel they have both exceeded my expectations in delivering professional and efficient lessons. A special thanks to Neil, who, has been available to email and Teams chat to whenever I require additional support for my assignment. He has gone above and beyond to support me throughout this."***

Second Year Wessex Water Apprentice

***"Hope you are well and keeping safe, can I take this opportunity to thank you and all the team keeping this teaching going ahead at this difficult time we are currently facing; thank you all for all the effort you are putting in to keep our courses going and the learning very much appreciated."***

Mature First Year Electrical Apprentice

***"I thank you and your team and all the tutors for the effort you have put in for us, you really have gone above and beyond, I really like having access to the power points each week, and the effort to ensure we can get our education during these times; and in all honesty the fact that you have reached out for feedback from us learners I really appreciate that chance to have my say. It makes me feel valued, thank you".***

First Year Wessex Water Apprentice

## Jessica Vickery

I wanted to share this with you all.

This is a puppet one of my learners have been working on as part of their final project this year.

It is still being worked on as part of CAD virtual exhibition this year.

So look forward to seeing this completed.

It put such a big smile on my face; I wanted to share with you all.

Such a great achievement, he has been struggling with motivation and enjoying his creative path this year but has really stepped up and produced some amazing work. Super proud.

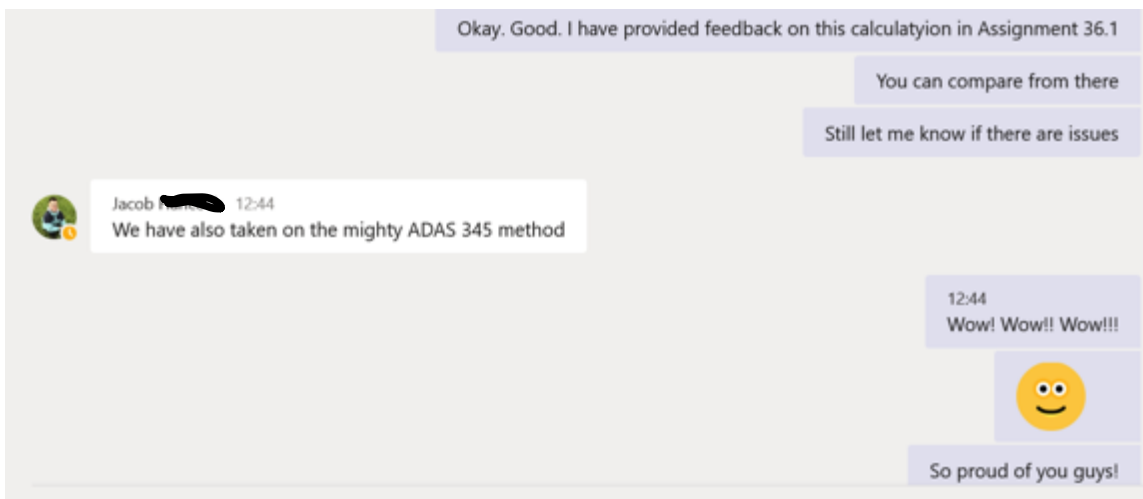
**Watch the video [here](#)**



## Francis Ekechukwu

I have been greatly encouraged by two groups of students today:

Some Level 3 full-timers created and invited me to a highways feedback meeting this afternoon (first of its kind), though I could not give them all the attention as I was still putting together my notes for the L4 session that just ended. They stunned me by attempting a design method I was planning to teach next week.



**The HNC group** were all present this afternoon and took part in a mock calculus assessment which was set up on forms (**all 16 learners**), lots of interactions and feedback to and from them in one lesson.

## Gary Durant/Ian Sweet

Good to see learners still securing apprenticeships even during the current situation!

I had a really good catch up with Shari today, who is the Manager at Butterfly House care home in Weston.

One of our Traineeship learners started working there just before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Shari and the team have been so impressed with her enthusiasm and engagement, that they would like her to start an Apprenticeship.

## Paul Gavins

Please see the text message below from a Level 4 Construction Site Engineering Technician apprentice with Amco Giffen.

***“Really impressed with the online classes we’ve been provided - the college are doing a great job of keeping things moving along. Definitely prefer it this way to the whole course being put on hold till we get back. Thanks Team Weston!”***

## Megan Brookes

I just wanted to share a resource that I have created that could be used to help with stress management and prioritisation. The presentation contains audio so could be used with learners, just by providing the resource (it is less than 15 minutes long) and then staff could talk through any questions if the learner had any. I hope it will be of use in these challenging and stressful times.



[Click here to access the full document](#)

Also a personal update I am trying to help in the community as much as I can:

I am shopping for a number of my neighbours who are in the vulnerable or at-risk category, the oldest is 103 this year.

I am also helping to provide a 24-hour service to the NHS. I volunteer for the charity, Freewheelers Emergency Voluntary Service (Or the Emergency Blood bikes). We have increased our provision and are now providing a 24-hour service to all hospitals and hospices in the South West and both Wiltshire and Great Western Air Ambulance. We have been moving whole blood, plasma, samples, breast milk, medication, etc as we do within our regular out of hours service, but in addition are delivering things like PPE and collecting Covid-19 samples and taking them for urgent testing. We provide this service completely free so are able to help the NHS save tens of thousands of pounds every year.

Both myself and my husband have volunteered for the off-duty rota. This means that if there was anything that needed to be moved from or to Weston General Hospital and the on call rider was too busy or too far away to complete an urgent job within the timeframe required, then chances are one of us would be called to complete the urgent job. I am also on standby to cover 12-hour co-ordinator shifts every day from 18<sup>th</sup> May to 5<sup>th</sup> June if required.



## Karen Jenkins

Karen's Kitchen has been busy this week with the Progress2 learners getting active in their own kitchens. I've even been given my own apron to wear during my live online sessions!

Last week at the request of one of our learners, we made Banoffee Pie and it was delicious.

Next week Mitch Spencer will be showing us how to make steak, chips and onion rings. Mitch is going to demonstrate his air fryer and I will be trying twice cooked chips and we will be comparing the results.

Here are some photos of recipes the students have been making at home. They have been wonderfully creative with their store cupboard ingredients.



## Claire Dark

I would like to share a picture of my wonderful Admissions Team (and myself!) having our daily 'campfire' (Teams meeting).

These 3 amazing ladies have been working hard to enrol all the distance learners and make sure all our applicants for September are being contacted for interviews, and processing their offers of place.

They are always smiling, never complaining, and being so diligent in everything they do. They have been sharing best practices, coming up with solutions to problems and generally making sure that the application and enrolment processes are running smoothly.

They are also assisting with taking calls to the switchboard and dealing with all sorts of enquires. They have been providing an outstanding customer service remotely, just as they normally do when working from our office.



## Chrissandra Boxley

Please find attached a poem that one of my Pre-Degree (Level 4) Art and Design Foundation learners has written 'What is Value'.

This poem is to accompany her mixed media outcome for her Final Major Project, her tutor Rachel Clayton has shared this with me and the learner has agreed I'm able to share this with others, as I feel that it is a beautiful though provoking response to the current situation:

**What is value?**  
Those grieving  
Those relieving  
The lives its thieving  
The communities its weaving  
Those still unbelieving  
Others dreaming  
We are still breathing.  
Deaths are increasing  
The virus is breeding  
Vulnerable reaching  
Life it's leaching  
Figures misleading  
Equipment deceiving  
Resources depleting  
The brave are treating.  
Hearts are bleeding  
Zoom we're meeting  
Sun is gleaming  
Nurses redeeming  
Pain relieving  
Quarantining  
Cobra convening  
Answers we're cleaving  
Hands we're cleaning  
Past luxuries weaning  
Daily walk careening  
Food banks feeding  
Masks concealing  
Heroes defeating  
Truth revealing.

What is value?  
Inhale the new  
Breath the view  
Yes, the virus is true  
The pandemic that threw  
Join the queue  
Treasure the few  
Nurses' salaries taboo  
Those who pursue  
13 hour shifts through.  
We can only review

Reflect that we knew  
Too late we withdrew  
So the virus grew  
Can't admit it's true  
Until Boris fell too  
Latched by the flu  
Symptoms turned blue  
Rushed to ICU  
This isn't the few  
It could be you.

What is value?  
Barriers that divide  
Pain worldwide  
Tears you've cried  
Number dying hits 20 year high  
26,771 have died  
Systems untied  
Gratitude for life  
You are alive.  
Higher needs aside  
Reevaluate the 'prize'  
Heroes unidentified  
Swallow your pride  
Selfish desire purified  
Travel is unjustified  
Societal division only magnified  
The immigrants are qualified  
We wouldn't survive.  
These care workers save lives  
Hands of the unified  
Work of the diversified  
Future unclarified  
Life must override  
We were too occupied  
To value the qualified  
Now it's you who must hide  
From contaminants of the world outside  
This virus isn't satisfied  
The weak are terrified  
This is mass genocide  
How can this be rectified?

What is value?  
These are the infected  
They can't be neglected  
Those who have been injected  
With a virus detected  
Finally accepted  
Few people being tested  
Doctors unprotected  
Further transmission expected

Like the silk roads of the past that connected  
Network of deadly disease that infected  
East and West it affected.  
Air born droplets detected  
The apex of disease is suspected  
Daily deaths must be documented  
New hospitals erected  
Lockdown extended  
Modern lifestyles inspected  
Polarization projected  
Discrimination to be ended  
Death toll finally ingested  
Warriors of our NHS to be respected  
This love is objective  
We're not disconnected  
Together our power augmented  
These bonds are cemented  
This is unprecedented.

What is value?  
Those around we hold tight  
Our most treasured provide the light  
Unified in fight  
Clap Thursday night  
Determined despite  
This noxious fomite  
Transmittable parasite  
Nourished by hope in sight  
A vision so bright.  
The darkness of despair  
The hands that care  
We must repair our precious world.

What is value?

## Sarah-Jane Lewis

I wanted to share a really positive message that we have received about Health and Social Care lecturer Emma O'Callaghan on Facebook, from one of your students:

*"I want to thank Emma O'Callaghan, for being an amazing Personal tutor and for all of the support she has given to me.*

*"I work at Weston general hospital and Emma has been more than understanding and has supported me with my college work and has been there for me whenever I needed a chat. Emma is an amazing teacher and deserves appreciation."*



## Tracie Leahy

The recruitment team are making sure we are as visible as possible on social media and accessible to students as well as parents by promoting on our social media that we are available for advice and guidance all week by phone or online chat to suit their needs.

Apprenticeships are working closely with the Aspects Team and have just put a narrated presentation together which will be shown to all level 2 and 3 learners from W/c May 11th- this has given us an opportunity to learn new digital skills ourselves while ensuring that all learners are made aware of the range of options available for them after they leave College, and that we can support in their next steps towards an apprenticeship.

Application numbers from Gov.UK remain fairly steady overall, and are extremely high in some areas, meaning we are dedicating a lot of time to contacting applicants for phone interviews and to support them with their Cvs. As an example, we have had in excess of 160 applicants for a variety of construction roles with Persimmon and over 110 for a Design Engineer role with a large engineering firm so this is keeping us very busy! Now is a great time to apply for an Apprenticeship!

## Joe Miller/Lisa Frost

So once again our FE students have been amazing us with their talents and professional commitment this week by performing an online run through of our musical Thoroughly Modern Millie.

Here is a short 5 min montage of their progress! I hope it brings joy and entertainment during these difficult times.

Click [here](#) to watch

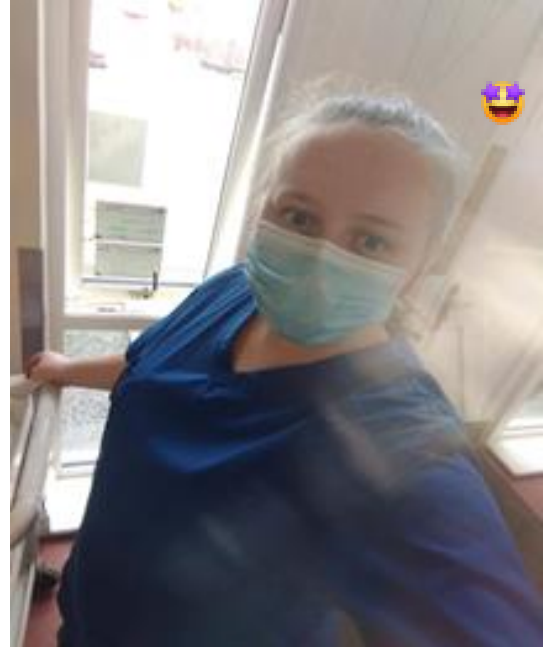


## Mandy Offer

In this picture one of our new apprentices is preparing to deliver meals to suspected COVID -19 patients in a local care home. She joined the college in 2017 she completed a Level 2 Childcare programme as well as an Aspirations course at Weston Bay and Traineeship programme. Her level 3 apprenticeship is in early years, she also works bank shifts at a care home.

Next week, she will as part of her apprenticeship role be a key worker at an early year's school. In addition, she faces her own daily challenges having a diagnosis of Autism spectrum. All of her roles demonstrate her empathic abilities and her willingness to help others. In a recent 1-1, I asked her how she felt doing her role in a high-risk area. She responded **"If it was my nan in a home, I would want someone to deliver her meals, even if it was for just a matter of minutes"**

I would like to thank this apprentice for her dedication and resilience in such a testing time for all.



## David LeFeuvre

This week I thought it would be more useful to hear how one of our learners is finding the experience. This is from one of our HE Civil Engineering learners. I asked him to let me know how things were going with working online, and this was his response:

***"Weston College were able to seamlessly make the move from traditional face-to-face class sessions to online learning. They were able to quickly adopt the new learning style to a standard where I did not feel like my learning quality or ability was being hindered. Since, I can still easily access classwork material and communicate with my teachers using other methods of communication such as messages and video calls."***

## Ben Melhuish

I just wanted to pass on some excellent practice being carried out by one of my team members. Hannah Carstensen has shown some great flexibility by adapting assessments with her learners, whilst also recognising methods of developing some key skills and using the online environment to her/her learners' advantage.

The feedback I have had from the learners regarding the above activities has been remarkable and I have never seen them so keen to get involved. Our level 3 business learners have now asked if they can lead a weekly quiz as they recognised the benefits to both their learning AND their well-being.

All the more remarkable is that she is doing these great things in her first 6 months of being a teacher despite all the challenges we face - she herself admits this has been a pretty big learning curve!

## Matt Griffiths

Please find attached a link to a music video one of my second-year level 3 music students produced as part of their FMP.

The student has written and produced the song himself and worked in collaboration with his contacts out of college to produce it. It's very upbeat and myself and the rest of the team are impressed with quality of what he has produced and would like to share it with My Virtual College.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0uE9hRZT-3w>



## Steve Caldwell

Some lovely feedback from an apprentice in Civil Engineering who works for SWECO. He was so positive about how great the College had been not just with college work but the care staff give.

*This has been quite a strange time for me as an apprentice, unlike many of my mates, I haven't been furloughed as the company is still busy with government-based projects so its been a case of having to adapt quite quickly.*

*Have to say though that the College has been brilliant in helping me to work remotely not just for my college work but also how to set up my own home office, so I am settled into remote work. I have been quite surprised how normal this all now all feels, Dave Lefeuvre has been brilliant in setting up so much through TEAMS and he has mixed up his teaching with loads of different types of sessions so we don't get bored.*

*Getting guests from industry to join the Teams sessions really works as they sort of bring the information into reality as they do it day in day out so it makes more sense, he is even setting extra research and revision task for us who want to push on in lockdown.*

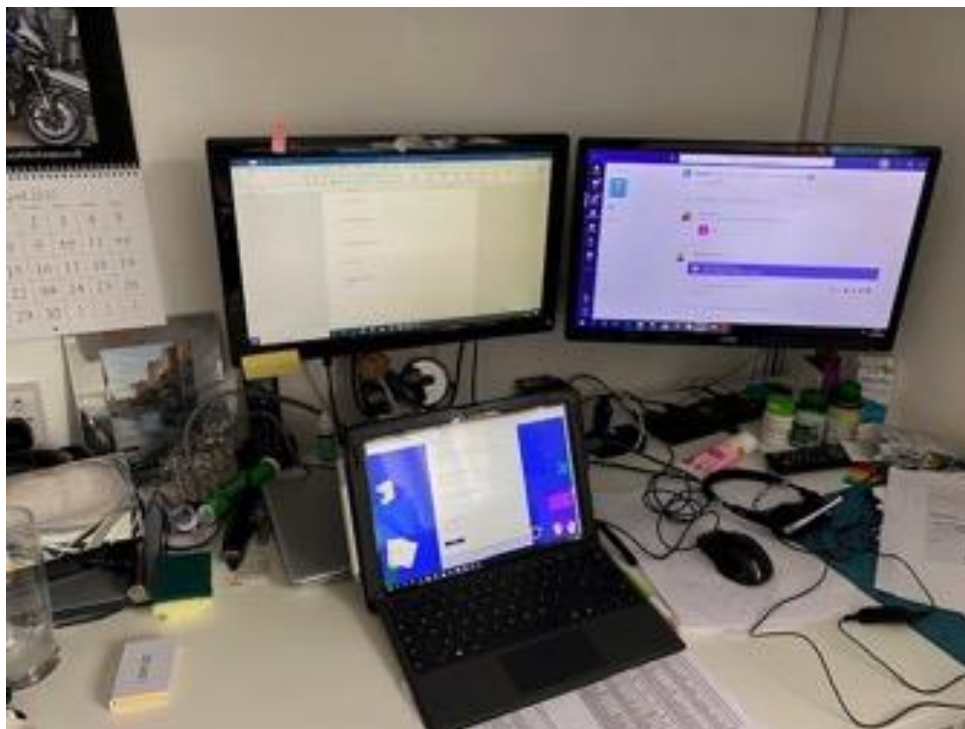
*I also feel like the college has been really supportive and has tried to understand what it must be like for us students in lockdown, checking if we have good computer access and IT and generally keeping in touch, a few times a week I will get a call or message from Dave to see how I am doing which feels really supportive.*

*Not sure when we will be able to come back to college but can't think of anything more the college could be doing right now to support me in my apprenticeship.*



## Sarah Smith

Engineering are continuing to find new ways to support learners; Sara Slade has created a home electronic labs so she can demonstrate aspects of electronics and develop virtual practical labs during lockdown. It does involve the creative use of a several linked devices but has proved to be a bonus in being able to cover practical elements. This way learners are still able to combine theory and practical lessons and maintain momentum on their courses.





## Weekly News Round-up

**College creates how to video to make personal face masks to ease pressure on PPE demand following PM's advice.**

<https://weston.ac.uk/news/college-creates-how-video-make-personal-face-masks-ease-pressure-ppe-demand-following-pms>



**BLOG: Connecting industry with education during Covid-19**

<https://weston.ac.uk/news/blog-connecting-industry-education-during-covid-19>

**BLOG: Connecting industry with education during Covid-19**

**Dave Crew**  
Head of Business Growth  
& Employer Partnership  
Weston College



**Weston College**

Published by Jonny Dibble [?] · 4 May at 13:00 · 🌐

Last week students our Level 2/3 Media courses accompanied HE learners on a guest Q&A with director of Star Wars: Rogue One, Gareth Edwards! 🎬

Seems fitting to share this news on May the 4th...

What an incredible experience 🙌



**University Centre Weston**

Published by Christopher Gill [?] · 1 May at 16:37 · 🌐

THIS IS SO AMAZING!!! 🎬 🙌

There are masterclasses, and then there's Star Wars Rogue One, Godzilla and Monsters director Gareth Edwards doing a Q&A from his home in LA with our Film and Media Arts Production students RIGHT NOW!!!

Thank you so much to Gareth - this is such a privilege for us all to be part of and completely fascinating...

**Weston College**

Published by Jonny Dibble [?] · 1 May at 14:18 · 🌐

Georgia from our School Liaison Team has a short message for school leavers... 😊

✉️ [schoolteam@weston.ac.uk](mailto:schoolteam@weston.ac.uk)

