

MY VIRTUAL COLLEGE

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SOVEREIGN CENTRE TAKEOVER



BY SANDRA BULL

The hospitality and catering; hair, media make-up and beauty; early years and education students put on a fun packed Halloween activity day at the Sovereign Centre at the end of October.

The day included demos which were planned and executed by students, this included:
Halloween themed cakes and pastries, spooky spider chocolates and fizzy butterscotch beer. Spook Yourself Silly hair and media make-up demos.

Halloween activity packs were on sales for children aged under 5.

Floristry demos explained the important elements of being a floral designer or florist.

SUCCESS STORIES



SAMANTHA KIER

Weston College has received some lovely feedback from Wessex Water regarding Samantha Kier who is our new lab technician apprenticeship assessor/trainer.

“The learners feel so much more supported and are really pleased to be working with Sam. They feel confident that the programme is being managed really well”

UWE has also left the college similar feedback and has let us know that Sam is an absolute pleasure to work with.

MARCOS HILL DE AGUILAR

Marcos has been working closely with Vicky Haycraft and Ericha Upton in the Traineeship team to prepare him for the working environment.

The Apprenticeship Recruitment Careers Team offer support to Traineeship learners by conducting mock interviews on MS Teams to prepare them for the ‘real thing’.

Marcos was interviewed and the interviewer was so impressed with his presentation and preparation that it was suggested he applied for one of our live apprenticeship roles at Agilysis.

He was successful for the role and starts his new apprenticeship in November.

BUSY IN BRICKWORK



BY BEN HODDER

What an outstanding first half term we have had in our Brickwork department, John Ryan and Tim Dabenett have had an amazing start to the year and business is booming!

We have had a record number of learners been accepted on to the course. They have almost managed to treble provision in size, we now have the biggest amount ever in the history of construction at South West Skills.

This is a result of John and Tim's dedication to their learners and their passion for their craft. Both members of staff have embraced blended learning and now manage most of their provision online with great success.

The quality of teaching has been superb and the delivery team have taken advantage of the building work happening on campus engaging with suppliers and contractors to enrich their programme.

We are all looking forward to what the next half-term will bring!

STUDENT FINALIST IN FESTIVAL OF LEARNING AWARDS

ANNA PALMER



University Centre Weston (UCW) graduate Anna Palmer, a 30-year-old, who lives in Clevedon was a finalist for the Return to Learning Award at yesterday's national Festival of Learning Awards 2020. The awards celebrate learning and showcase the wide-ranging impacts adult learning has on individuals and their families. Anna was nominated for this award as she turned her life around following her marriage breakdown, when she decided to return to learning at Weston College.

"After my marriage separation I found the strength, with the help of my friends, to enrol on an adult course. The Level 2 Hair and Media course was an adult course at Weston College. It consisted of 3-days a week in college, so I could comfortably work part-time and be a hands-on mum with my 2 children. I absolutely loved this course and after completing it I immediately enrolled on a Level 3 Theatrical Hair and Make-up course which was also timetabled over 3-days a week so worked well for me.

"With the support of Weston College and my tutors believing that I had the potential to complete a university course, I decided to start the BA (Hons) degree in Hair, Make-up and Prosthetics for Production at UCW, and alongside this I started my own hair and make-up business called Anna Palmer's Hair/ SFX Make-up & Prosthetics." "The thought of going to university had never crossed my mind before my journey at the College, however I have now completed a BA Honours degree! "My friends and family are so proud of me. They've seen me in my darkest place and have watched me grow in determination, confidence and maturity."

Programme Coordinator for Hair Make-up and Prosthetics for Production, said: "I've taught Anna throughout her time at Weston College and UCW, and I'm so proud of the professional and personal journey she's been on and all of her wonderful achievements along the way."

FROM MEDIA STUDENT TO MAKING IT



TourLife | THE
TOURING
COMPANY

HARRY PARSLOW
Q & A

Whilst still studying at Weston College, Harry Parslow started his own business "TourLife" and went full-time after finishing a Level 3 course in Media in 2015. TourLife has since grown from a YouTube interview show into now providing a "360 solution" for touring artists across the globe.

How did the idea start for TourLife?

TourLife started with a love for live music. I used college equipment to launch a YouTube channel that would interview touring artists when they came to town. I quickly realised that I wanted to work directly with artists instead of interviewing them. We've been in business for 5 years and now provide a 360 solution to touring artists so they can use us for everything from merchandise to video production, luxury transport to live streaming.

How has TourLife and the industry adapted during the current situation?

We've pivoted in many ways during this time. From live streaming football league matches to launching a sister company called 'ChurchStream' to broadcast ceremonies at Places of Worship. We've worked on brand partnerships with chart topping music artists and created Covid safe promotional videos for retail stores to ensure their customers feel safe.

Looking back at your time at College, was there a moment that stood out for you/inspired you?

The freedom that our tutors instilled in us to follow our dreams outside of the classroom was incredibly important. I vividly remember Dan Andrews telling me that I was "Welcome to use the college kit like it was my own" - without the kit, I wouldn't have been able to start TourLife.

MEET MEG! SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICER



MEGAN SAID

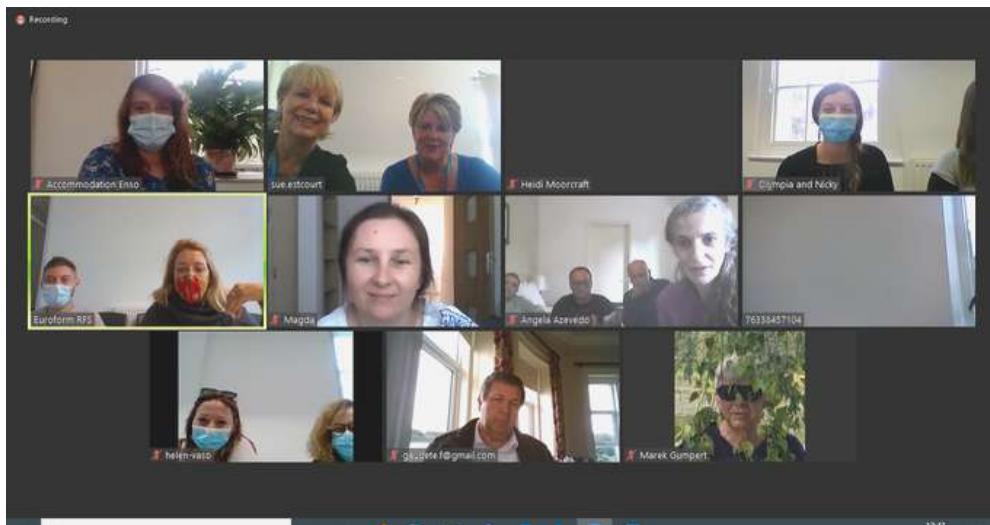
We're pleased to welcome the newest member of our School Liaison Team (SLT): Megan Said!

The SLT support students through their transition from school to college and provide them with the right knowledge to enable them to make an informed decision for their post-16 studies.

This is done by providing information, advice and guidance to schools in the form of different types of activities and events that meet the requirements of the Gatsby Benchmarks.

Meg, who joined the team earlier this month, added: "I'm most looking forward to meeting and talking to future learners." "I'm excited at the prospect of hopefully making a difference and to get them excited about their next steps in education!"

TEAM NORTH SOMERSET GO INTERNATIONAL



BY SUE ESTCOURT

Team North Somerset (TNS) were invited to attend a virtual meeting with ENSO in September. ENSO supports educators from across the EU with their upskilling pathways to support adults at risk of unemployment or low paid jobs due to the lack of basic skills. ENSO had heard about the work that TNS have done to support such people and were interested to hear more and invited us to share good practice.

The meeting was attended by representatives from ENSO along with EU educators from Poland; Greece; Portugal and Italy.

The whole meeting was inclusive and interactive. Lots of questions were asked as to how they could set up the type of provision that we deliver. We discussed funding opportunities and raised the profile of networking and collaboration, further explaining how by working together they could achieve more. We were able to provide practical tips on engagement with their local communities and how to raise their own profiles.

We shared some of our case studies with them to demonstrate how much they can achieve from supporting people on an individual basis and what that has meant for our participants.

EVENTS



<https://www.weston.ac.uk/news-and-events/events>

DON'T MISS UPCOMING EVENTS FOR EITHER YOURSELF OR YOUR STUDENTS.

OR PLEASE SHARE WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS WHO MAY BE INTERESTED IN STUDYING AT THE COLLEGE OR BECOMING A BUSINESS PARTNER.

10 NOV 2020



"WHY APPLY FOR APPRENTICESHIPS OR DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS."

INFORMATION WEBINAR

11 NOV 2020



MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING IN FE

THE NEW LANDSCAPE WEBINAR

17 NOV 2020



VIRTUAL OPEN WEEK FOR SCHOOL LEAVERS

23-26 NOV 2020



"HOW DO I LOOK FOR FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT?"

INFORMATION WEBINAR

WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE **NEXT EDITION?**



**PLEASE EMAIL YOUR UPDATES, REASONS TO
CELEBRATE AND NEWS TO SHARE**



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