



WESTON
COLLEGE

17.12.20



MY VIRTUAL COLLEGE *christmas*



SUPPORTING BUSINESSES WITH SUCCESSFUL INDUSTRY PLACEMENT SCHEME

AMBER CLARK



Weston College runs a successful industry placement scheme which supports employer partners to identify potential future talent.

Industry placements are designed to bridge the gap between education and the world of work. At Weston College the ethos is creating brighter futures and this applies to both learners and employers. Industry placements are highly beneficial for both parties, with employers gaining the opportunity to find fresh talent, that they can develop and nurture into the future employees or even leaders of their business; whilst students gain insight in their chosen industry, as well as the opportunity to develop their skills, and prove themselves to an employer (many employers view this as an extended job interview, to truly understand the personality and skillset of a potential employee).

Employer feedback has also suggested that our learners provide vital support, enhancing business output through their diverse skills and fresh ideas.

The college is always looking to support businesses across all sectors through industry placements, and match skilled students to employers. Weston College has had great success through placements, some of the highlights have included:

- Employer's paying learners to work additional hours due to their quality
- Learners developing websites, videos and brands
- Learners gaining full-time employment on completion of their placement.

The college is now accepting requests from employers looking to offer an industry placement with learners, with students studying a wide range of subject areas from IT and media to engineering and animal care.

The college's in-house work placement team works closely with businesses to identify their needs and any gaps that could be filled by student placements, as well as continuous support throughout the placement itself.

More information is available from workplacementteam@westoncollege.co.uk

CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE MATHS

XENOS COTTAM

Weston College is 1 of 21 lead centres in The Centres for Excellence in Maths (CfEM) programme. CfEM is a national improvement project aimed at delivering a step change in maths teaching up to Level 2 in post-16 settings, with a focus on 16-19 year olds. It is funded by the Department for Education (DfE) which has chosen the Education and Training Foundation, the national workforce development body for the Further Education and Training sector, to manage and lead this programme on its behalf.

We have two projects running this year:

1. Motivation & Engagement
2. Mastery

Xen Cottam and Tom Longhorn are researching motivation and engagement, through the use of digital social media. This is being done in partnership with other colleges. Never has it been more important to be able to engage with students digitally. We are investigating the best ways to work with students using social media based platforms to increase their engagement in learning maths.

We will be looking at different forms of social media and investigating how they can be used positively. If you have experience of using social media within education we would love to hear from you. Please contact:

Xenos.Cottam@weston.ac.uk

Katheryn Cockerton and Julie Tench are working with Heart of Worcester College, Yeovil College, South Devon and New College developing maths lessons around the vocational subjects to motivate students and are trialling the repetitive use of the ratio table to improve learners' deeper understanding of proportional problem solving.

CPD Available - Developing your understanding of post-16 maths

You are welcome to attend any of these events. The CPD sessions are suited to all FE teachers from Weston College and their Network Colleges that are interested in developing their maths practice. [BOOK HERE: ETF CPD](#)
There are links to CPD already delivered with copies of information.

Mastery – Friday 20 November, 9.30am – 12.30pm

[Teaching maths for Mastery or ticking the boxes: are they mutually exclusive?](#)

Motivation and engagement – Wednesday 25 November, 9.30am – 12.30pm

[Developing community and identity for disaffected students in a maths classroom.](#)

Data and Technology – Thursday 3 December, 9.30am – 12.30pm

Harnessing the power of technology for teaching maths remotely

Contextualisation – Thursday 10 December, 9.30am – 12.30pm

How can we use context to teach maths with understanding?

All the sessions will include presentations from national experts alongside leading mathematics teachers with recent experiences of using the approaches in Further Education colleges.

Releasing new Potential



HEATHER ELLERY

From street homeless to working at Amazon – caseworker Matt Keyse

Matt Keyse started supporting D at a time when he was street homeless in March during the first lockdown and he was unsure of what to do next. Matt worked with him over six months, helping him find appropriate housing support which led to him securing suitable accommodation.

Once D was settled, he was then happy to progress with his next steps towards employment. Together they created a new CV, improved his understanding of job searching and interview techniques as well as giving him an understanding of when and how to disclose his criminal convictions.

Matt supported him towards being ready to work and learning how to sustain employment. With support from Matt, Dan applied for several positions before being offered a position at a major distribution centre. With the support of his caseworker, D went from street homeless to full time employment in six months. He is really enjoying his job and the opportunities he has been given.

From probation to a college course and then employment – caseworker Vicki Wilkins

R was still on probation when he was referred to Vicki and she helped him create a CV, a covering letter, supported him towards independent job searching and applying for jobs and motivational interview practice. Vicki supported him with all aspects of positively disclosing his conviction to an employer.

When lockdown was lifted, they were able to meet face to face and she referred him to the Pre-Employment Warehouse and Forklift Level 2 course, which he found 'invaluable'. He said he learnt a lot from it including employability skills and passed his forklift test with flying colours. He was then successful with finding employment with an agency and Vicki supported him in the early days. He got on so well with his new employer and they were so impressed with him, that they decided they would pay the agency their fee of £4,500 to be able to take him on directly. He has continued to thank Vicki for all her hard work and feels that he wouldn't have achieved this without the help of Releasing New Potential.

UPS DELIVER VIRTUALLY

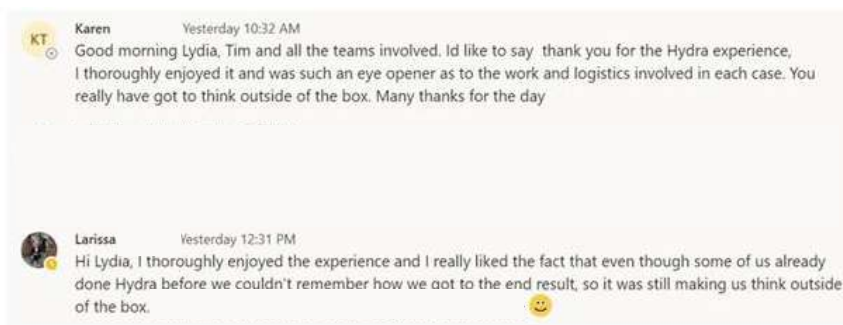
LYDIA ZAMPELLA

This week, Year 1 and 2 students engaged in an immersive training suite for simulated exercises.

The Hydra suite is used to test multi-agency partnerships (as part of their Emergency Planning and Incident Response module), and to develop problem solving and decision-making skills. After a briefing about command structure and police resources, the students separated into their syndicate rooms in small teams and were responsible for managing a missing person scenario and terrorist incident.

UPS has run this exercise previously, but this was the first year it was conducted remotely. Whilst it initially provided some challenges to organise logistically, students were able to partake in the exercise safely in their bubbles, in addition to those self-isolating logging in from home so no one was excluded.

Here is some of the feedback received from students so far:



Our last virtual guest speakers were local PCSOs Nik and Neil who spoke to our Year 1 students last month. They covered everything from recruitment pathways to the impact of coronavirus on policing.

We enrich learning regularly with guest speakers to share their career experiences, industry knowledge and job-related skills virtually in a classroom and we have numerous guest speakers scheduled for the remainder of the academic year.

This year has proven difficult for Year 2 to secure work placements, which is a requirement of their degree as part of their Work-based Learning module.

As an alternative and new this year, a mock assessment centre has been developed including a genuine job advert which students have applied for and having been successful with their applications, will be undertaking a virtual interview in order to gain valuable insights into public sector recruitment processes. Year 3 are also invited to join in order to prepare them for when they graduate from UCW next year.

As well as myself and HE Careers Consultant Zoe Miller on the panel, we also have an industry contact with 30 years as a Police Constable and assessor in Avon and Somerset Police. Students will be given detailed feedback following their interviews that they will use to reflect on their experience.

SUCCESS STORIES

MARK BARNETT

Amazing feedback from from Bruce Reed - Director at Sen5e IT regarding one of the computing students on placement.

"I wanted to put in writing how pleased we are with your recent efforts in helping to solve an ongoing technical issue, you have shown a level of aptitude which has allowed you to overcome a technical issue which has up to now not been solved by other technicians or one of our world wide business partners IT departments. So well done and keep up the good work."

DAVE CREW

Apprenticeships - A Partner Approach

Weston College were asked to deliver a presentation on 'Quality Apprenticeships' at the South West Apprenticeship Ambassador Conference to 60+ levy employers today. Myself, Barney Willis and Tracie Leahy prepared the content, which was an online workshop delivered in partnership with Exeter College, good for regional profile.

"Absolutely brilliant presentation! Thank you for sharing."

"For someone who has newly joined the world of recruitment and apprenticeships this really has been so helpful, so thank you!"

"Incredibly detailed presentation, thank you so much for sharing, so inspiring"



SUCCESS STORIES

SUE ESTCOURT

Positive feedback regarding Claire from Team North Somerset

Claire supported Isaac to build his confidence and helped him to develop independent and personal living skills. Isaac spent a lot of time in his room and had few friends and no role model to look up to.

Isaac was living in supported housing and Claire built rapport with his case worker. Claire recently supported Isaac to enrol onto the Changes for Life course at the college. Isaac has almost completed the course and this has given him an appetite to learn more and he intends to return to the college in the new year to further develop his skills.

The Service Manager from Alabare said what a difference she has seen in Isaac's progress since Claire started to support him through the West of England Works programme.

It is with great sadness that we will be saying goodbye to Claire on Christmas Eve as she leaves our team to return to educating children. She said that she has learnt so much supporting adults with complex barriers to help them achieve their aspirations and now she wants to utilise the skills and knowledge she has developed to help young children to head into their future with a clear focus to educate them in making the most of their education to ensure they put themselves in the best position possible when they leave school.

She has gone above and beyond in her year with the college and has made a difference to so many of our participants, she will leave a huge void in our team, we will miss her greatly but are happy that we had the opportunity to work with her. We wish her all the very best as she returns to St Martins school.

NICOLA SMITH

How Daniel continued to learn in isolation

I wanted to share with you one of our fantastic learners work whilst we are unfortunately in isolation and having to work from home.

Daniel always puts in 100% to his learning and has really impressed with this video demonstration of a short gents haircut at home. Despite all that is going on the learners in hair and beauty continue to show enthusiasm and passion for their chosen trade.

Below is a link to Daniel's video.

<https://youtu.be/Qk-Ud1XFiUA>

SUCCESS STORIES

NYIKA SUTTIE

Amazing email from one of last year's Weston Bay Learners. Joe, who is autistic completed a Traineeship and joined us full time when we went into lockdown in preparation for University.

"I wanted to send you a wholehearted thank you to you and all of the staff at Weston Bay. I've finished my first semester at Bath Spa and I'm currently home for Christmas, having managed to survive for two and a half months living away from home with a bunch of film and acting students. And it's been an absolutely amazing experience. I've managed to excel in my studies, keeping up to date with all my assignments and using the academic writing and referencing techniques I learnt from Tara, and also managing to feed myself and do my own laundry, no doubt thanks to the independent living skills classes you gave me. And on top of that, I've met some truly wonderful people who I'm happy to now call some of my closest friends, become the President of the Student Union's Film Society, and developed a lot in my self-confidence, budgeting and general living skills.

It's not always easy and there are times when I feel like it can be impossible, but I'm always moving forward, and I cannot thank all of you enough for what you've helped do for me. I hope you and all of the staff at Weston Bay are doing well, and I hope that one day I can come back and visit and share my growing collection of stories.

In a year as turbulent as 2020, I'll be eternally grateful to Weston Bay for helping me develop the confidence to take the biggest step I've ever taken."



TRAINEES ENGAGE IN EXCITING PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

EMMA HOYAL

Evoni joined the UHBW (University Hospitals Bristol and Weston) Traineeship cohort in September and this is her story so far!

My name is Evoni, and I have always wanted to become a Sonographer for baby scans. I thought that a Traineeship would not only help me to gain experience with using ultrasound, but also to find out about the skills and behaviours that I would need to work within the NHS.

Following our six weeks employability skills with the Traineeship Team, I began my placement in the Vascular Science department, where I have been for the past five weeks.

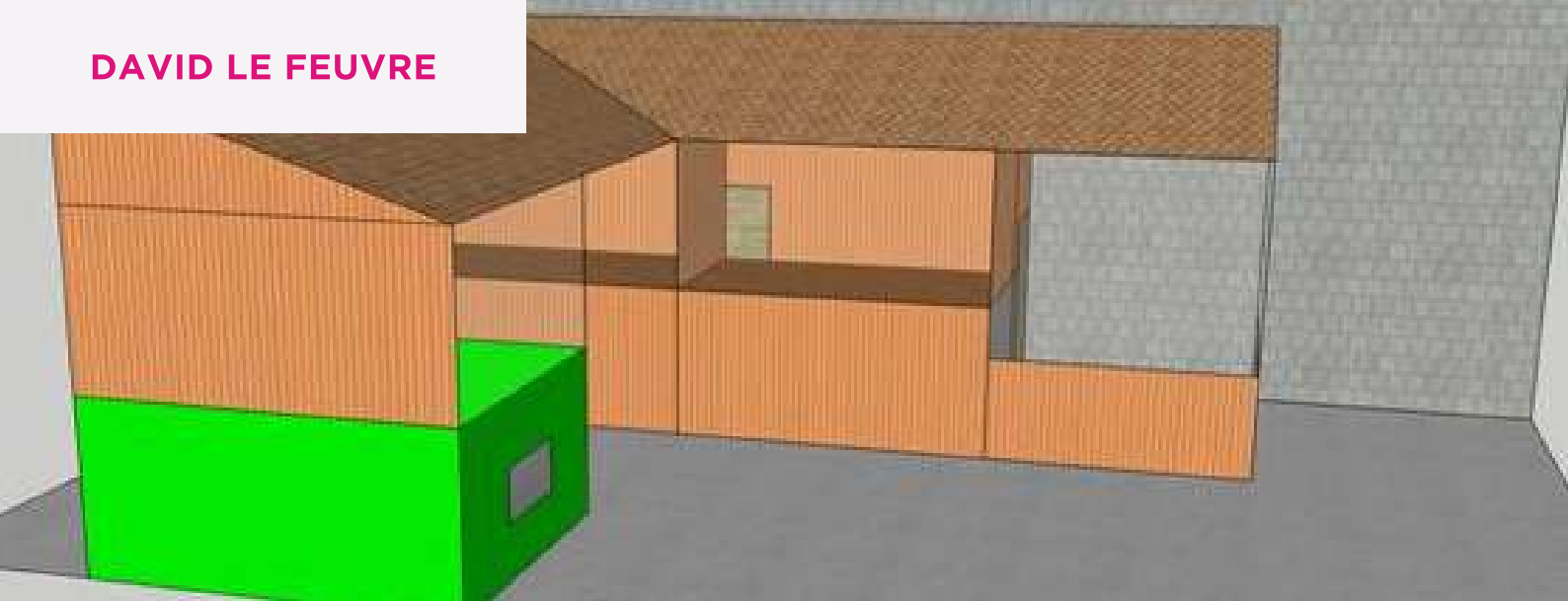
At the beginning of my placement, I was worried about how I would get on in an environment that is dealing with patients, staff members and the public. All that changed on my first day, as everyone in the department was so welcoming, friendly and supportive.

On my first day of induction, they made sure that I knew where everything was such as Health and Safety arrangements, emergency exits, fire assembly points and where everything was kept in the department. They also gave me a PowerPoint to watch, with lots of different information including, what scans they use, why they use them and how they take place. This helped me massively, as I understood what was going on whilst in the scan rooms and what to watch out for.

In my role in the Vascular Science department, I now collect patients from the waiting rooms and take them through to the scan rooms. This may involve helping people who are limited in their movement, so I have received Manual Handling training to help me do this correctly. I also do ID checks, reporting, hourly database checks, booking in patients and calling wards.

AN UPDATE FROM CONSTRUCTION

DAVID LE FEUVRE



The nights might be drawing in, but that doesn't mean our working day has got any shorter over in the construction professions team! We've been working like elves in Santa's workshop to make headway on a few exciting projects..

BAM Construction: Hot Topic Café.

Following feedback from learners, the discussion at the next "Hot Topic Café" in January will be on how the construction industry can support going carbon zero by 2050. This is a theme which our learners feel is important to them, and we are looking forward to hearing in the new year from our guest lecturer on how BAM Construction are aiming to meet these targets. Alongside this, talks have been ongoing with BAM about other support they can bring to our level 3 programmes, and we are hoping to roll out some mentoring session to industry professionals in the new year to enable them to support and coach our learners on placement. As always, I'll keep you updated.

Puxton Park Poultry Project

For the last few weeks we have been working with Puxton Park to help create a new attraction for the public – a space where they can see the journey from egg to chicken. We've hand picked some of our level 3 learners who have a keen interest in design and construction to help manage and oversee this project, utilising their industry placement to support the project. The plans are coming along well, using the 3D design software Revit, and construction should start in the new year so that the area can be launched in time for Easter.

Finally, I'd like to sincerely thank the incredible teaching team of Ade, Bakr and Francis for all their hard work this term. I will be stepping back from managing them in January to focus on HE delivery and T-level's, but looking forward to working alongside them still. They have coped with numerous timetable changes (sorry!), self-isolation, radically adjusting practical's, delivering superb virtual lessons and all without missing a beat!

Merry Christmas everyone!

LOXTON LIVE

JONNY DIBBLE



The impact of Covid-19 has meant that live music events and performances have not been able to take place for many months now. This has been particularly challenging for our staff and disappointing for our learners as the 'live' experience is an integral and enjoyable part of their learning and development.

The Music and Media team have come together to create an excellent production, performed and recorded as 'live' to ensure that every learner has this unique experience this year. You will see musical talent, professionalism across all levels from level 1-6 and tons of confidence and courage! The staff have worked around the clock to deliver this for the learners and the result is absolutely fantastic and something very unique!

Both FE and the HE Livestreams are available to watch on the Weston College YouTube channel [here](#)

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.



20 JAN 2021



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**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**
everyone!

