

# MY VIRTUAL COLLEGE

# PERFORMING ARTS "PETER PANDEMIC"

JOE MILLER

Our students in Performing Arts have been working extremely hard during this lockdown period and producing some incredible work, showing dedication, professionalism and enthusiasm.

Our Level 2 learners are in the middle of their pantomime project of Peter Pan and have been so adaptable when changing the show from stage to screen, renaming it to "Peter Pandemic"!

Here are two short clips of them in action during their musical numbers "Big Spender" , "Drunken Sailor" and a snippet of one level 3' group's approach.



<https://www.dropbox.com/s/tm91ycdu8ha1cku/Big%20Spender%20FINAL%20EDIT.mp4?dl=0>

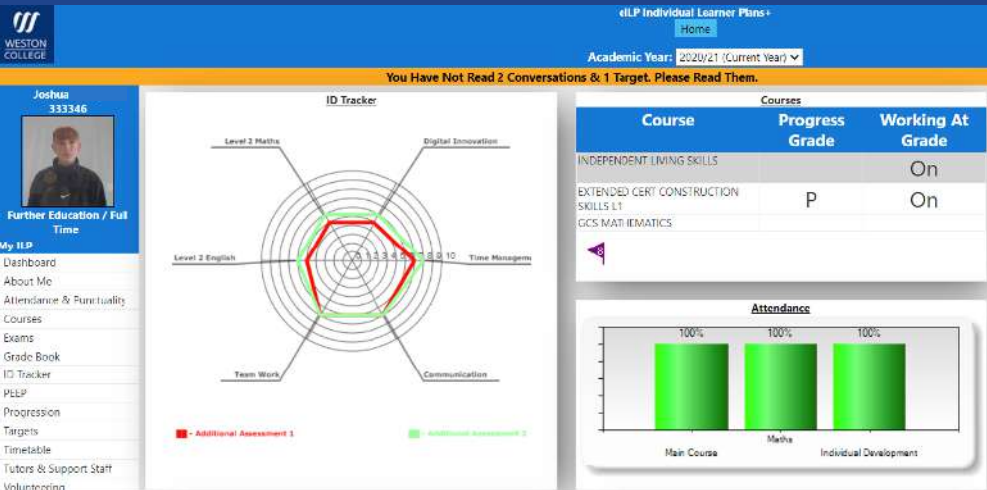


<https://www.dropbox.com/s/z7ojtk3p3nz201v/Drunken%20Sailor.mp4?dl=0>



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vpFEP5\\_Zsg&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vpFEP5_Zsg&feature=youtu.be)

# CARPENTRY FROM HOME



**RICHARD HANNEY**



On the 18th January, student James and I set up a poll to ascertain what carpentry tools or equipment learners had at home. Some learners had many tools, other just a few, but unfortunately Josh did not have any.

As an extension to the session we challenged learners to send in pictures of any practice they had undertaken over this lockdown period.

It would be fair to say, without tools, many level 1 learners at this point would have given up, and elected to not engage with the task, however, not Josh!

Josh could not produce any physical woodwork joints but used the resources he had available, his XBOX.

Please see the pictures created by Josh in Minecraft of Carpentry Joints he has made in College. Not only does this show that Josh has an excellent comprehension of carpentry joints, it also demonstrates resilience, and an entrepreneurial mindset.

Furthermore, Josh really struggled at school with negative behaviour, and attendance. As you can see from his Eilp he is currently on 100% attendance and is on track to not only achieve his Carpentry qualification, but a Grade 4 in maths.

Josh has shown an excellent attitude from day one of his enrolment, I feel he has Weston College values running through his veins and deserves recognition for efforts.

# MOTOR VEHICLE STUDENT UNIVERSITY ACCOMPLISHMENT

ADRIAN PITT



## Corrado is off to University

Whilst several of this year's Level three Motor Vehicle cohort have applied to study University degrees, one particular student's achievements have demonstrated outstanding enthusiasm and drive to succeed.

Corrado is a Level 3 student in the Motor Vehicle department, he came to Weston College at the start of the 2019-20 academic year to study a level 2 Qualification, straight from completing his schooling in Italy. Italian is his first language, but he speaks excellent English thanks to his Mother.

He continually works hard at his studies and has updated his Maths and English to GCSE level.

Corrado has also been working part-time for a local Motorsport team (Thatchway Motorsports) who prepare and race a range of vehicles at national level.

Corrado has applied to five Universities through UCAS - three in England and two in Wales - and has already been offered two provisional places (one in England and one in Wales).

He is awaiting further offers before he chooses which course is best for him.

# HOT TOPIC CAFE

DAVE LE FEUVRE



**bam**

## Climate Positive

*Reducing our emissions to zero, and providing products and services that help others reduce theirs too*

**What we do:**

- **Reduce the energy we use by digitalising our business and improving the efficiency of our operations.**  
Q - How can digital technology be used to reduce Energy?
- **Use as much power, fuel and heat from renewable or non-polluting sources as possible.**  
Q - Can you name 3 types of renewable energy?
- **Bring low or zero carbon products and services to market to scale our positive impact.**  
Q - What materials can be recycled into new products?

This week saw another guest lecturer take part in our “hot topic café” This is an initiative supported by BAM Construction, and this week saw one of their Environmental Officers Anthony talk about how the construction industry can help to reduce carbon emissions and look after the environment.

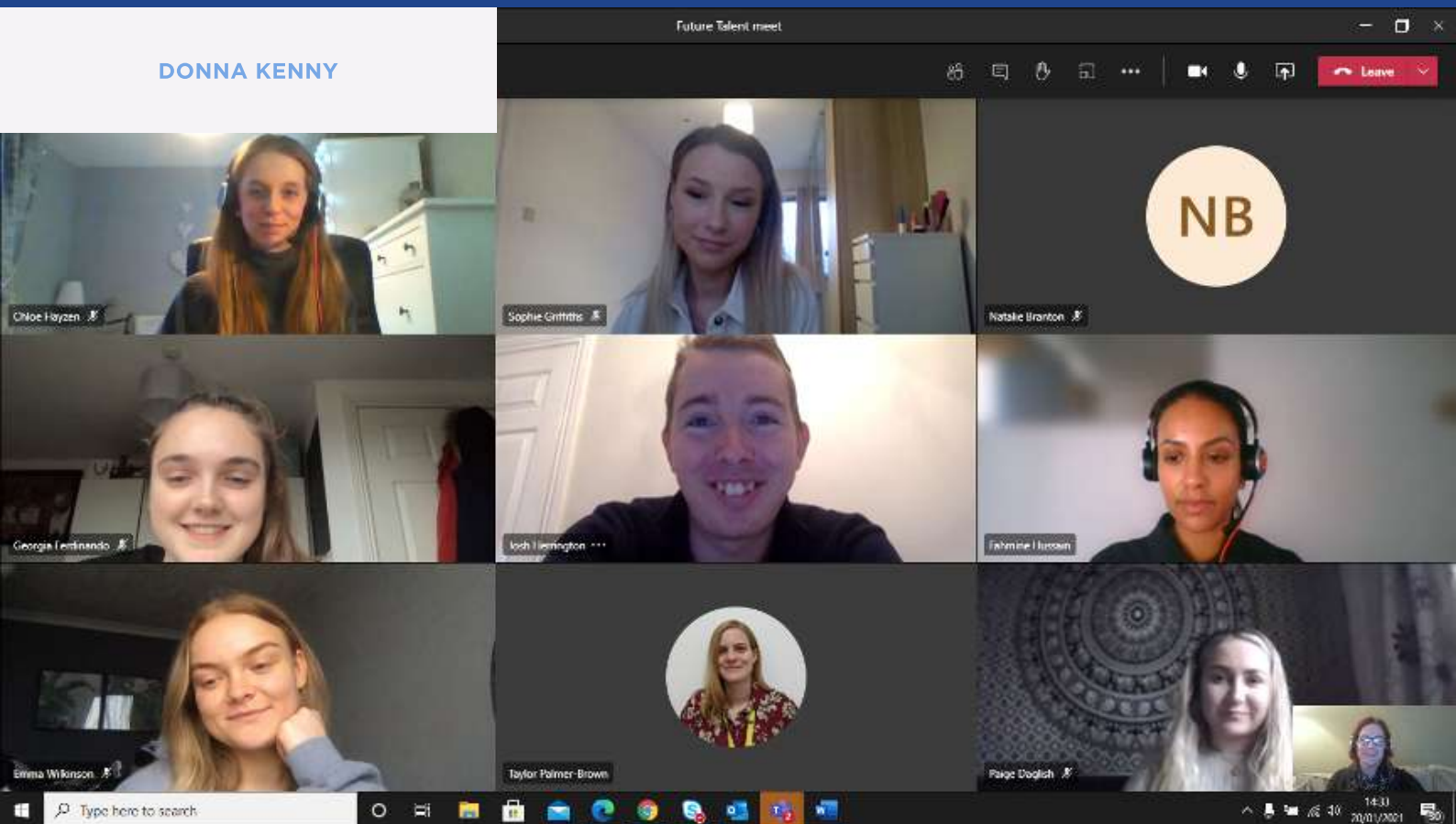
We’d made the session longer after feedback from the learners last time, and we still ran out of time, such was the level of discussion.

It was fascinating to hear about new technologies being introduced, but also simple things like considering the impact the canteen has on emissions for large construction projects.

Thanks as always to Lauren Squibb for her co-ordination behind the scenes, and Jess Morgan and Anthony Heaton from BAM for their expert presentation and knowledge. I know the learners will really benefit from these discussions and look forward to the next one where we tackle Brexit and how this will impact on major construction project.



# UPDATE FROM FUTURE TALENT



The Future Talent team had our monthly meet this week where we discussed all things marketing!

National Apprenticeship Week is around the corner and our Future Talent Team are putting together some Blogs/Vlogs to contribute towards spreading the positive apprenticeship message.

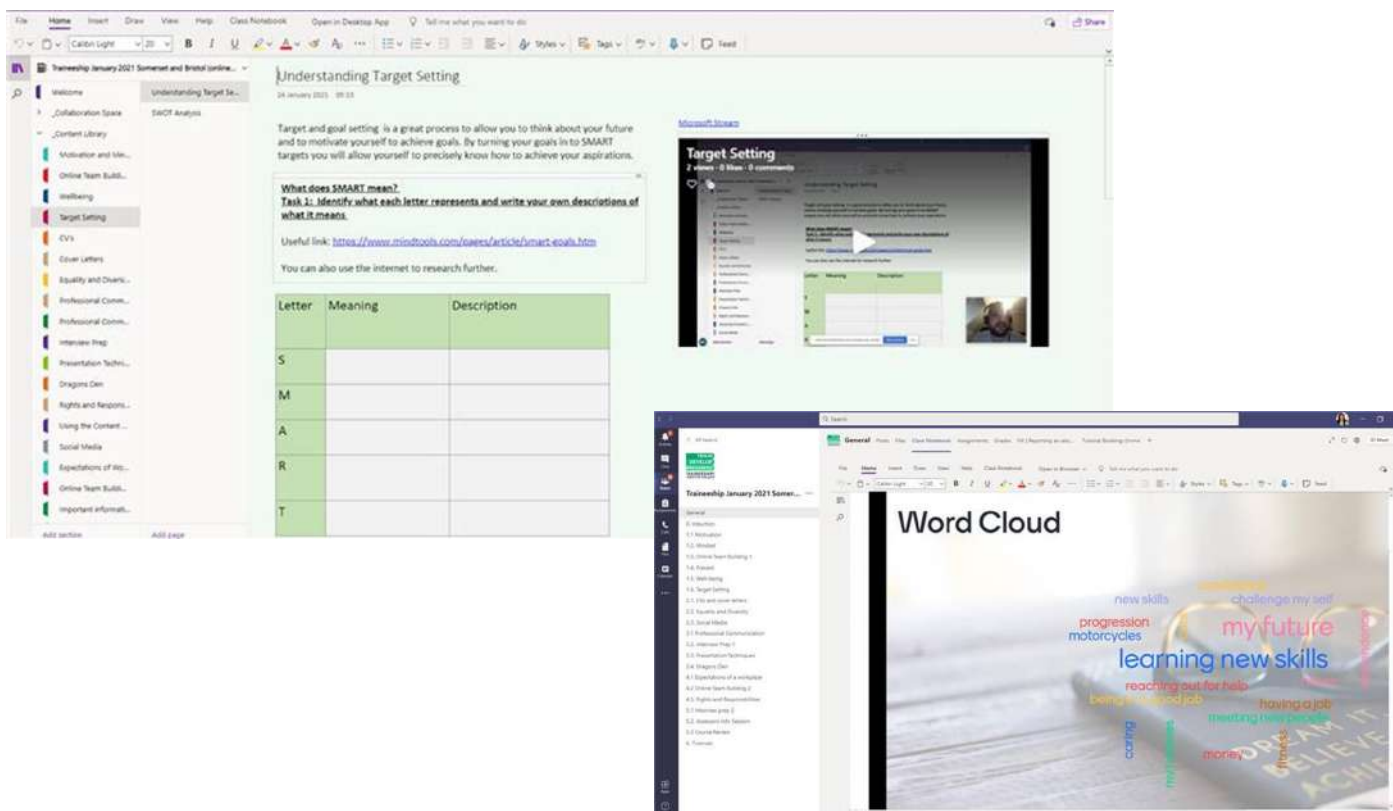
This is led by 2 of our very own apprentices Chloe Hayzen from Business Growth and Harriet Pearce from Marketing. Adding to their apprenticeship portfolio while building new skills!

Thanks to Josh Herrington from the marketing team for joining us.

As a training provider we understand the importance of providing high-quality training, but as an employer we recognise how equally important it is to provide support, guidance and opportunity to the apprentices who join us to raise aspirations #buildforthefuture and provide as positive an apprenticeship journey we possibly can!

# AN UPDATE FROM TRAINEESHIPS

EMMA HOYAL



This week, I am really pleased to highlight our fantastic Traineeship programmes in Bristol and Somerset. Emma, Dan and Matt have worked together to create and deliver an online programme (due to Covid restrictions) which is creative, unique and impactful.

Online engagement from this first week of delivery has been encouraging and the team are utilising One Note and Microsoft Teams to the max to support our Trainees well. For example, Matt has pre-recorded the Target Setting session (see image below) but will still live teach at the start of the session too – a brilliant example of interactive teaching and learning!

Support from Somerset and Bristol councils have been invaluable also to ensure that all our Trainees have the digital equipment they need to engage with the Traineeship programme. We're grateful for this support and we continue to work in collaboration with them moving forwards. Great job team, let's keep it up!

# UCW STUDENTS PRESENT DIRIGO 7TH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

RICHARD EDKINS

**We would like to invite staff and students to Dirigo 7th International Student Film Festival. The festival is directed by FdA Film & Media Arts Production students from [University Centre Weston](#). They have curated a stunning selection of student films from around the world, which we excited to share with you.**

Our main Film Festival Programme will be streamed Live on the [Film UCW Youtube channel](#) on Thursday 28th January (7pm - 9pm) followed by an awards ceremony, Q&A with festival directors and filmmakers on Zoom (from 9pm).

Please register for this event (Free) at: Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dirigo-7th-international-student-film-festival-tickets-136955927867>

We are also doing a special edition of the festival curated for secondary schools. The schools edition will be streamed Live on our Film UCW Youtube channel on Friday 29th January 11am (GMT), but can be accessed from the same link until February 5th 9pm.

To register for the Dirigo Schools Edition screening (free) go to:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dirigo-7th-international-film-festival-schools-edition-tickets-137585033539>

(NOTE: The Thursday edition is aimed at Post 16+ students, featuring films with mature themes. Our schools edition on Friday 29th January is an edited version of Thursday's event, with a focus on our Young Filmmakers Award.)

If you have any questions, or would like us to do an introductory session with your students, please contact [richard.edkins@weston.ac.uk](mailto:richard.edkins@weston.ac.uk) or [ross.bliss@weston.ac.uk](mailto:ross.bliss@weston.ac.uk)

Do please invite friends and family and share wide.



# HOSPITALITY STUDENTS TEACH THEIR PEERS

SANDRA BULL

Professional chefs have been learning from demos and then peer teaching their skills to others in the group.

Level 3 Have been focused on Syrups and fruit based deserts.

Level 2 On pancakes and Turnovers

Level 1 on Pizza and Pancakes .

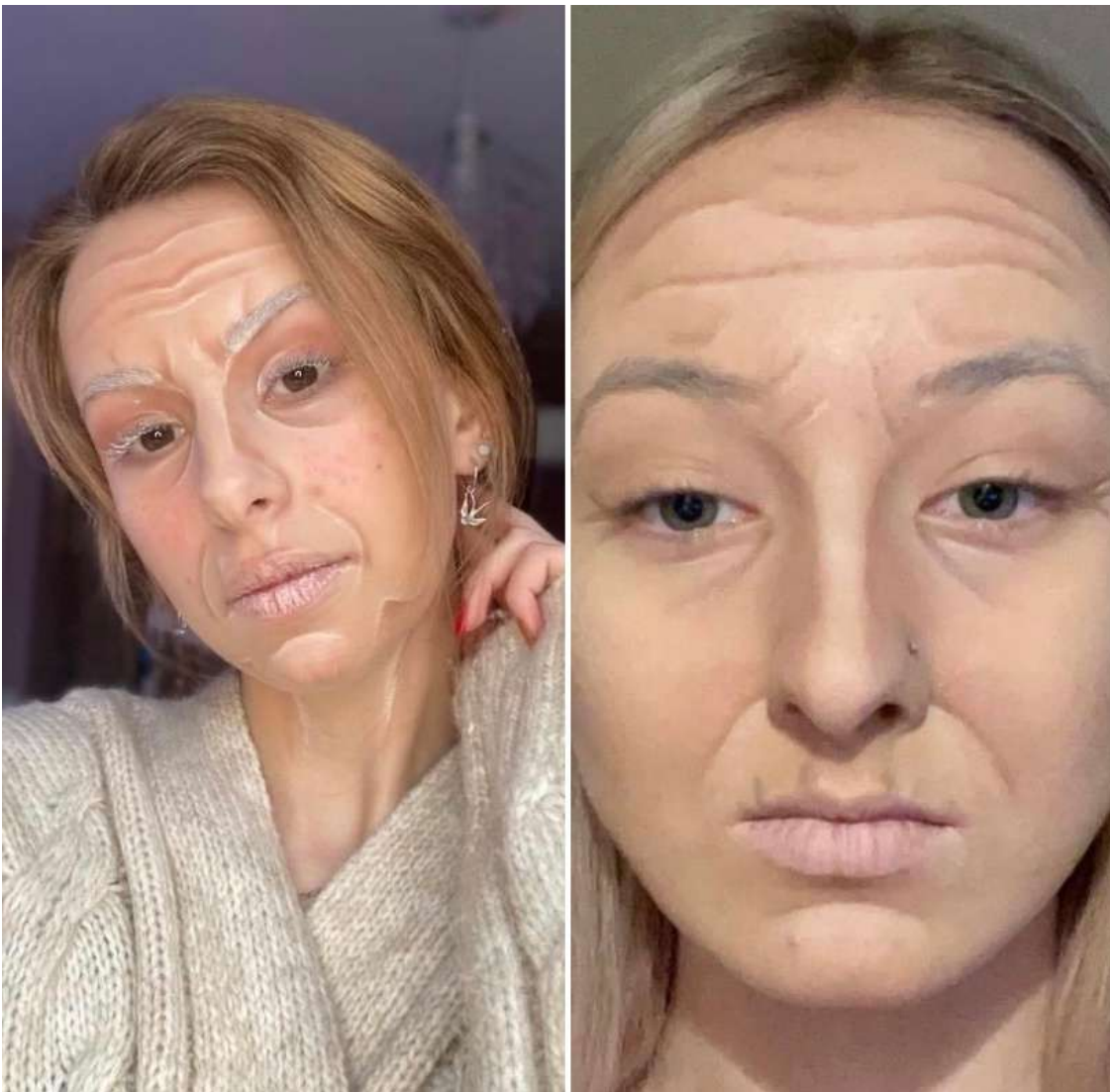


# STUDENTS STUDY THE AGING PROCESS

SANDRA BULL

The level 3 Hair and Media Makeup students have been studying the ageing process.

With the skills of makeup they have then practised ageing themselves. This is part of the theatre and special effects makeup unit ready for stage or television.



# SHOWCASE OF 2021 PRODUCTION

KYLE DAVIES



In the autumn of 2021 our 3rd Year BA (Hons) Musical Theatre students will have the amazing opportunity to workshop and help develop Broadway composer Robert Rokicki's (Lightning Thief) newest musical, and Eugene O'Neill Award semifinalist, Experience Marianas.

This opportunity comes after months of discussions with Rob and his collaborator Broadway actress Sarah Beth Pfeifer. This will be a UK premiere of the piece and our students will be only the second group to work on the piece. Both Rob and Sarah Beth will be coming to Weston to work with the students on the piece as part of the collaboration. This is an incredible and unique opportunity to work directly with two of Broadway's up-and-coming artists on the creation of a new musical.

Our involvement in the piece is now international news! Experience Marianas was showcased on the 20th Jan, in a streamed performance by New York Theatre Barn as part of a double bill with composer Joe Iconis' (composer of the international hit Be More Chill) new show.

Link here: <https://www.nytheatrebarn.org/new-works-series-1-20-21>.

UCW receives a brilliant mention at the end of Experience Marianas show description. These opportunities are helping us continue to raise the profile of the brilliant work the students are doing.



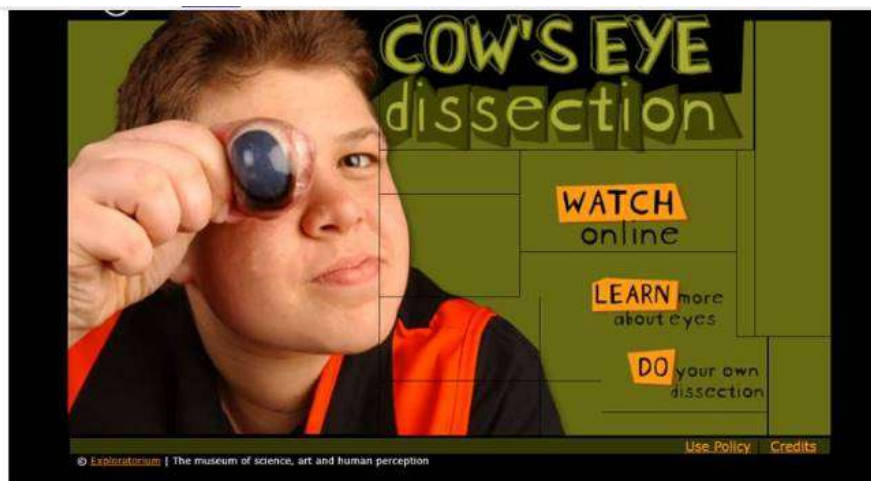
# VIRTUAL EYE DISSECTION IN ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

SARAH LEANEY

This week animal management students had the opportunity to take part in a virtual eye dissection. It was an amazing session all about eyes, linking to the nervous system theory that we covered last week.

They only need to know about mammalian eyes, but we also covered simplest eyes of starfish to the most complex eyes of the animal kingdom belonging to the mantis shrimp.

They had a play with a few optical illusions to show how the photoreceptors bleach and then did the virtual eye dissection....without any of them fainting or vomiting!



# VIRTUAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

JAYNE GRIFFITHS



**As we have once again moved into a Virtual world Employment Services continues to offer a provision that supports our wider community to get back into work.**

A competitive job market presents the need for learners to be fully equipped with employment skills to gain work. Our courses enable learners to explore a broad range of essential skills; including job search skills, personal preparation for employment, self-improvement and effective behaviour at work.

This week we have worked in partnership with employers who are recruiting and the team are working to prepare learners for job opportunities with, Alliance Care in Weston super Mare, Bluebird Care Minehead and TSS Security.

All of these courses are supporting learners who have previously not worked in sector and the employers are ensuring that learners have an experience of work through a virtual platform as they are unable to attend work experience placements.

The department are also working virtually to prepare learners for employment within Warehouse and Storage facilities, Children's and Young Peoples Settings and the Security Sector.

If you know anyone who is over 19 and looking for work, we would love to hear from them and help them achieve their goals



# PAS APPRENTICESHIP UPDATES

LOUISE PERKINS



## **Insights to Industry Event – Dr Paul and our Business Growth team hosted a fantastic event this week.**

The Transformational Leadership event was hosted by Louise Greene in business growth and our very own Dan Green. Dan Green is a management and leadership apprentice who was the overall winner of the National Apprenticeship Awards for Gloucester in 2020.

Dan has completed both his level 3 and level 5 apprenticeships with us and is now a Managing Director. I spoke with Dan after the event and he said “The leadership talk provided by Dr Paul was amazing, I gained a lot from working with him and the business growth team.”

Several of our management apprentices joined the event and the feedback has been positive, everyone enjoyed Dr Paul’s ethos to leadership and how the impact of COVID 19 has made us as a business change and adapt more quickly.

## **Re-Start of Barcan & Kirby Management Apprenticeships**

Following an 8 month break due to COVID 19, Barcan and Kirby Solicitors made the decision to re-start there management and leadership programme with Weston College this week.

The learners will receive a full virtual delivery of their teaching, learning and assessment. The employers words were “All the learners are ready to go and can’t wait to start learning again”.

Greg Broadhurst will be delivering the teaching and assessment, he’s already built a good relationship with the employer, they are very impressed with his knowledge and experience.

# POSITIVE FEEDBACK FROM THE EXECUTIVE ASPIRE COURSE

JAYNE GRIFFITHS

The Executive Aspire learners that are completing their qualification this week have been exemplar.

The learners worked together on the following brief:

Over the last couple of years at LP Associates HR team have noticed sickness related absence has increased in some areas of the business.

Research suggests: Mental Health is the leading cause of sickness related absence, with the average employee takes seven days off sick each year of which 40 per cent are for mental health problems. Something needs to be done.

The learners have been tasked with taking action on how the company is going to address this.

The learners showed great depth of research and a high level of presentation skills in their Level 1 qualification.

The following feedback was received from a DWP learner:

‘I would like to say how well structured and well taught the course was. It helped hugely with getting into the right mind set for looking for work and for training. It also helped massively with my self-confidence.’

I asked if any of my Executive Aspire learners would like to give a quote for the last 2 weeks and Trevor kindly put this about the course:

The beauty of this course is simply this, irrelevant of what background or level of business you come from, the course allows you to grow. It allows for a level playing field and does not discriminate against your weaknesses but encourages you to re-assess and engage with yourself and others. I would highly recommend this course to anyone that has been looking to either enter the employment marketplace or potentially step up to the next level.

# BA (HONS) UNIFORMED AND PUBLIC SERVICES

LYDIA ZAMPELLA

## PRESIDING JUSTICE

LOUISE PERKINS



**HE UPS students recently welcomed another virtual guest speaker during lockdown delivery.**

Louise Perkins is the Training Development Manager in Management & Professional Studies but also sits as a Presiding Justice of the Peace.

This is a great example of utilising internal opportunities and resources and collaborating with other departments to benefit the students.

Louise has a wealth of experience and covers everything from the role of a magistrate and the types of cases that she has been involved in to the impact of COVID-19 and how to become a magistrate.

The students really enjoyed the session and look forward to booking a tour around Bristol Magistrates' Court with Louise as soon as we are able to do so!

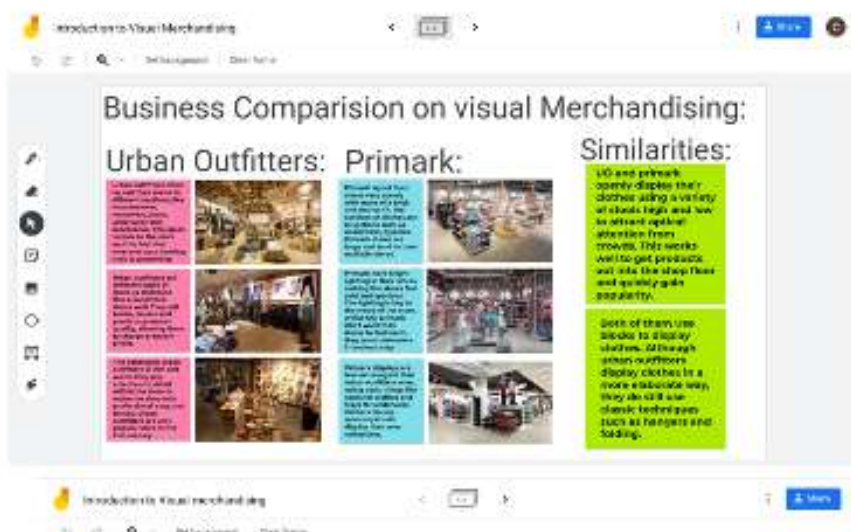
# USING JAMBOARD A DIGITAL PLATFORM SHARED AT THE RECENT CPD

BEN MELHUISH

I wanted to pass on some great practice being used by the Business and Travel team.

Staff have begun experimenting with a range of the digital technologies shared at the recent staff inset day and are using it to great effect to capture formative assessment!

Below is some of the learner work from Charmaine's lessons, where learners have been using Jamboard as a collaboration space to collate their learning around visual merchandising techniques and sustainability!



# YEAR 1 DIGITAL FABRIC MANIPULATION SOFT BOX PLEATING

NICOLE STENT

Despite these challenging times for our learners (and teachers alike). I have upgraded The Fashion and Textile design Share point to engage my learners. Tricky Instructions have been broken down using dual coding and step by step tuition and continual review. By recalling and reviewing the work by uploading photographs in the meeting chat, having received feedback from myself individuals can correct any errors and develop until they have achieved the expectations of the Aims of the session.

The feedback from the learners has been fantastic. Even for those who haven't had access to material, they have used paper. Where there's a will there's a way.

To raise morale, we are going to continue with masterclasses all month, such as flounces, tucks, honey comb smocking, material flowers, and many more, so look out for what's coming next!





# DATA AND THE TECH OF TOMORROW

CLAIRE ARBERY



This week I took part in a panel debate on Data and the Tech of Tomorrow, hosted by Insider Magazine alongside Ian Risk, of CMFS – a data modelling company at Bristol and Bath Science Park, Zara Nanu – CEO of GapSquared which started looking at gender pay gaps but has a much wider remit now across all equality measures and Helen Tanner of DataCubed – a previous Data analyst at the Met Office who now supports SME's get a handle on their data.

During the event there were two live polls – one on the ability to attract the right staff with the right talent – which revealed 58% of respondents had had to extend their recruitment as they had plenty of candidates – but not with the right skills and the second poll revealed that the 55% of the poll recruited from Degree level entry. Maybe the two results are very much linked... and why the work of the Institute of Technology and the development of the recognition of technical skills at a higher level is needed more than ever.

# BSC (HONS) PUBLIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

MARK HARDWICK



Final year students on the BSc (Hons) Public and Environmental Health have had to think of innovative ways to complete dissertations. These projects would not be easy in any situation, and are inevitably made more difficult due to lack of access to college facilities, community facilities, and participant groups.

Instead of using laboratories to analyse bacterial growth on drinking bottles and kitchen surfaces, two students are using a gadget called an ATP monitor and doing this off site. Two students completing food related surveys have had to think of Covid compliant ways of doing this.

One student analysing hearing damage in motorcyclists has managed to do this having first risk assessed for Covid, and two students completing professional interview based studies are having to do this on-line.

All of this makes dissertations much more tricky than usual, so well done Lorraine, Jo, Suzanne, Connor, Olly, Ewen and Oliver for all the innovative thinking.

# MATHS LESSON STUDENT FEEDBACK

## MAXINE PARK



Cassie

10:16



Definitely. I still can't say maths is my favourite subject but it just shows with the right help and explanation and some one who cares to help what you can learn

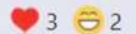


Sumayo

17

We all thank you for making us love maths Maxine ❤️

10:18



Ah you are worth it. I learnt maths as an adult after a lifetime of being scared of it so I know how it feels - plus I am from Yorkshire and we are all very plain speakers up there!!



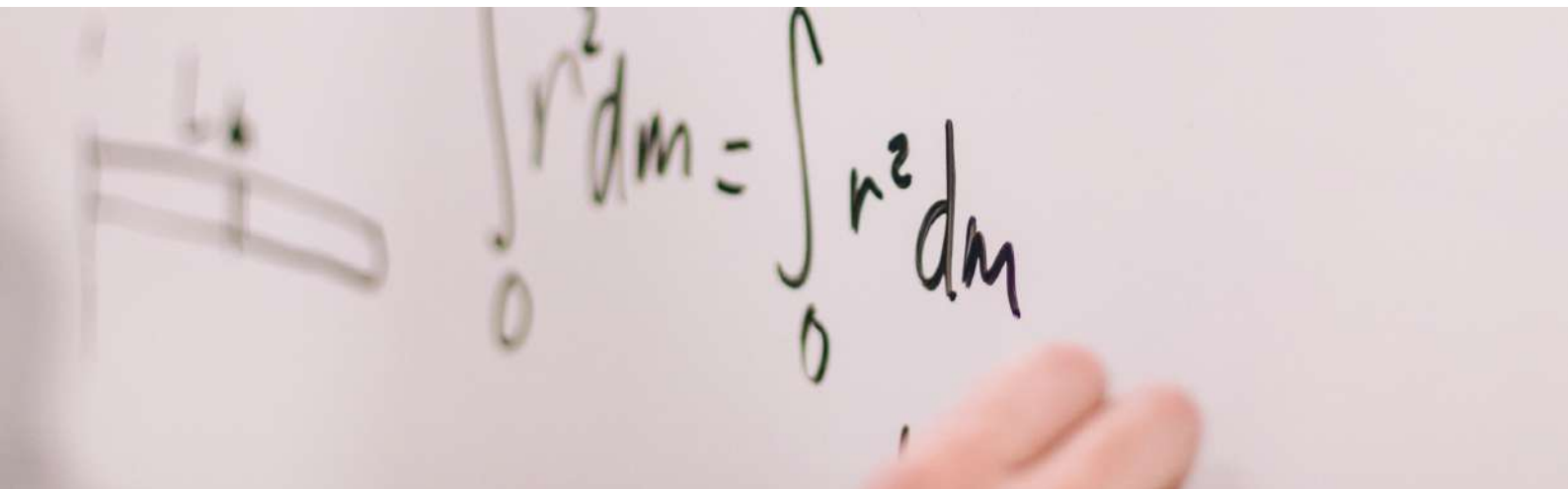
Sandra

10:19



Feeling the love from my students – who would have thought an angles lesson could get such a response?

They are all quite stressed with the Access/key working/homeschooling life they are living right now,



# SUCCESS STORIES

## RICHARD HANNEY

### BACE UPDATE

I wanted to share some positive news around attendance and attitude within BACE English Sessions.

The report from Jennifer Adams demonstrates the 'ready to Learn standards' in Practice.

I personally know Brandon, and I know he has significant difficulties not only in this subject, but also in his personal life.

Brandon is making progress and demonstrates real resilience when having to problem solve digital accessibility glitches, but he always manages to find away around the problems.

Lockdown has brought many challenges, but it is a pleasure to read these BACE success stories.

### PRACTICAL ONLINE SESSIONS

Who says you can't teach a practical online!

Lockdown has challenged all tutors delivering practical sessions in BACE to think outside the box.

An example of this is the Level 1 carpentry group. Student James and I threw down the gauntlet, and challenged our learners to leave their computers, Xboxes, and phones, and get into the garage.



Half lap



Bridle Joint



Dovetail



Bridle Joint

## STEVE POWELL

Student Jack has started the level 3 motor vehicle course this year having completed the level 2 course last year. Prior to this he completed the E3 course and the extension studies course.

Jack struggled during the first lock down last year due to his Autism, Anxiety and ADHD with sporadic online attendance, but this year Jack has shown extreme determination to overcome these issues especially his anxiety with 100% online attendance and is currently one of the high achievers in his level 3 group.

Special recognition for BACE's two Motor Vehicle technicians Ed and Iain, they have stepped up a gear during this current lock down by engaging with not just our vulnerable learners but also learners from Mark College. Ed and Iain are giving bespoke practical sessions in the workshop but also overseeing their course work and giving valuable face to face feedback all whilst still undertaking their own tasks of building Motor Vehicle resources and videos demonstrations designed especially for a blended learning delivery in the future.

# SUCCESS STORIES

## HELEN GEORGE

This week Ashley Brown and Dave Beresford have worked together to create an interactive virtual newsletter for our Public Services learners. This was developed to help to boost learners motivation and engagement during the lockdown period and also to show prospective learners during our virtual open evenings and interview evenings, which will help to maximise conversion rates.

Newsletter <https://sway.office.com/TUvRUwZF20YpAMpC?ref=Link>

## EMMA HOYAL

This week we have also seen the start of our online Innovate programme.

What a start it has been! George and Paul were so pleased to see the fantastic engagement of our learners right from the outset. Microsoft Teams has once again been a brilliant platform through which we have reached out to our learners and, most importantly for this programme, brought learners together.

Support from Somerset Works and Weston College colleagues has enabled us to plan and deliver this unique course, reaching out to those who require this supportive opportunity. We look forward to seeing our learners engage in English and maths and counselling support available to them as they move forward in their learner journey.





# 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.

12 JAN 2021  
25 FEB 2021



**CAREER AND  
COURSE ADVICE  
SESSIONS FOR  
ADULTS**

08 FEB 2021  
12 FEB 2021



**VIRTUAL  
OPEN  
WEEK**

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



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



[myvirtualcollege@weston.ac.uk](mailto:myvirtualcollege@weston.ac.uk)

# MY VIRTUAL COLLEGE