

MY VIRTUAL COLLEGE

WORLDSKILLS UK NATIONAL DIVERSITY & INCLUSION HERO AWARDS

MICHELLE BOLAND

Please join me in congratulating Dr Paul in winning Highly Commended at the National 2021 WorldSkills UK Diversity & Inclusion Hero Awards (just announced) in partnership with Coca-Cola Europe.

He was 1 of 25 who made it to the finals and to receive Highly Commended in this category, (at these extremely high profile awards) reflects how valued his inclusive practice is viewed across the sector and with judges and sponsors etc.

The College also made it to the finals - shortlisted and cited into the top 3 at the virtual ceremony in the Programme/Campaign of the Year Award category - for its 'Advanced Engineering for All' submission. This citation was for work growing apprenticeships and widening participation for hard to reach groups including learners with SEND as well as reversing sector underrepresentation e.g. females into engineering. Well done to all concerned for the whole College approach shown for inclusive recruitment within Advanced Engineering, which received huge recognition during the ceremony.



Dr Paul Phillips – Principal and Chief Executive, Weston College

Demonstrating role model leadership, with a long and established history of pioneering, embedding and leading inclusive practice to unlock talent and promote independence, to enable learners with special educational needs and disabilities to showcase their talent, gain sustainable employment and to share in the prosperity of the region.

Weston College

Designed and delivered an inclusive marketing campaign to sustainably and inclusively bridge the skills gap for the advanced engineering / engineering sector, to increase the number of apprentices, and also to widen participation for hard to reach groups and learners with special educational needs and disabilities.

DOUBLE EQA VISIT FOR CONSTRUCTION PROFESSIONS

DAVE LE FEUVRE



Whilst exams and assessments for the remainder of the academic year have been subject to substantial changes, on our full-time courses, there has been no let up from the awarding bodies regarding quality monitoring for apprentices.

This week saw not one but two visits from the external quality team at City & Guilds and Pearson, to check on our progress of Level 2, Level 3 and Level 4 NVQ's for Civil Engineering, Contracting Operations and Site Supervision.

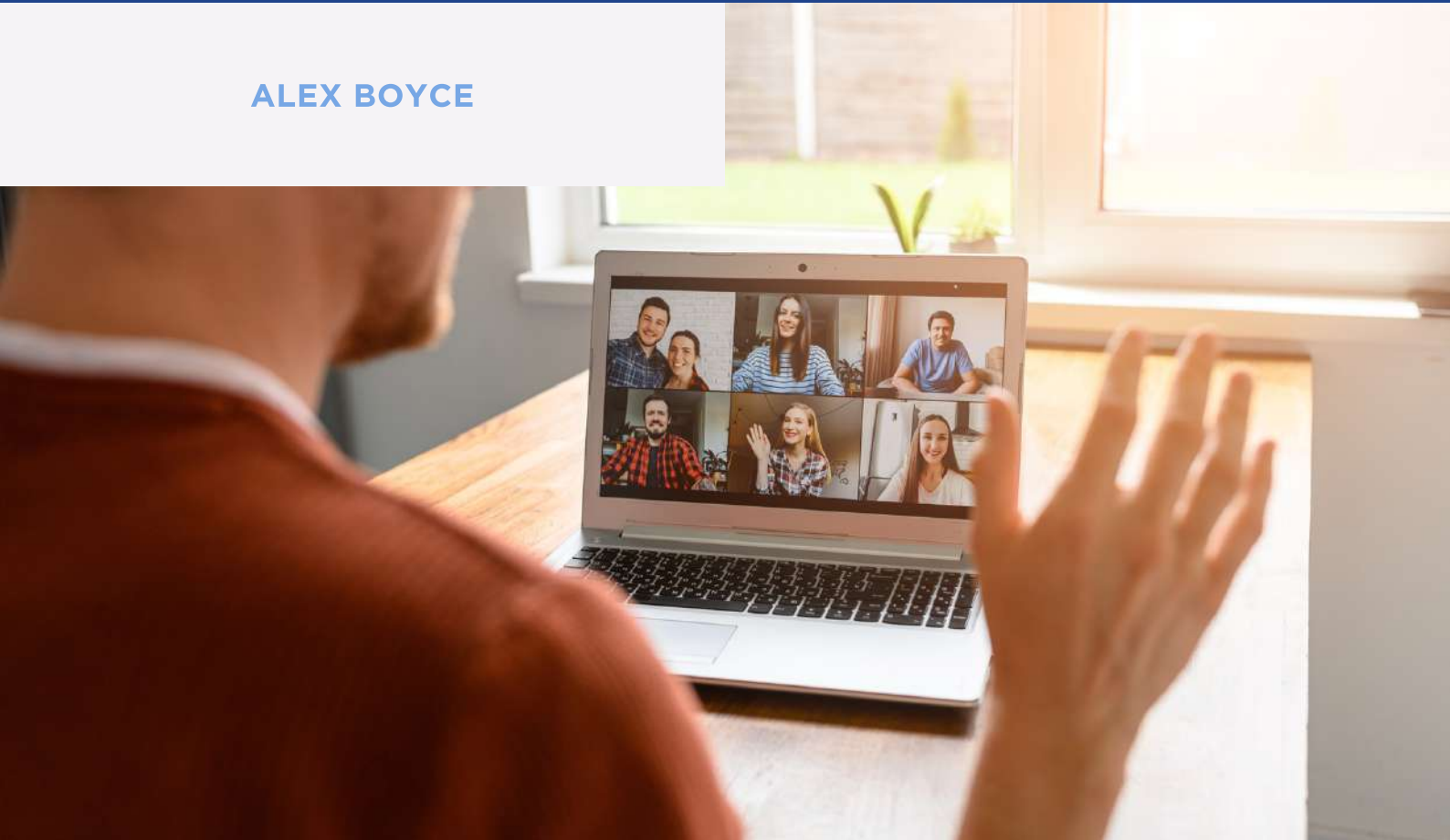
The confident use of Smart Assessor really came through, and thanks to our committed use of the platform over the last few years we were able to quickly share learner portfolios and progress as requested.

Both EQA's were very happy with what they saw, and one commented that he felt we were "well prepared for lockdown" given our "clear extensive use of online systems for some time".

It was really great to hear that we are maintaining standards of assessment for learners despite the difficulties we all face, and good to know that we are leading in our use of these systems. The visit would not have been a success without the support of Ann-Marie Wood for her work with the apprentices, and Sally Powell for supporting with ensuring the EQA's could access Smart Assessor.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND CUSTOMER SERVICE SPECIALIST WORKSHOP

ALEX BOYCE



On my latest Business Administration and Customer Service Specialist Workshop, the group were pleased to be joined by Dave Crew, Head of Business Growth and Employer Partnerships for Weston College.

He spoke with the class on topics such as the work his department carry out, along with how he goes about managing relationships with stakeholders, using tools such as a Power V Interest grid.

The class found Dave's talk very engaging, and this helped them build on initial knowledge towards stakeholders, customer service and knowing their customers.

NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION LEADS DEBATE SKILLS CHALLENGES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE!

STEVE CALDWELL



I attended the British Association of Construction Heads National Chairs group this week, with a clear agenda around the impact COVID has had on construction training.

Construction leaders from across the UK, alongside sector partners such as CITB and City & Guilds, were able to share their concerns, share best practice for recovery and talk about how COVID had affected the UK's ability to deliver Construction training during lockdown to thousands of young people.

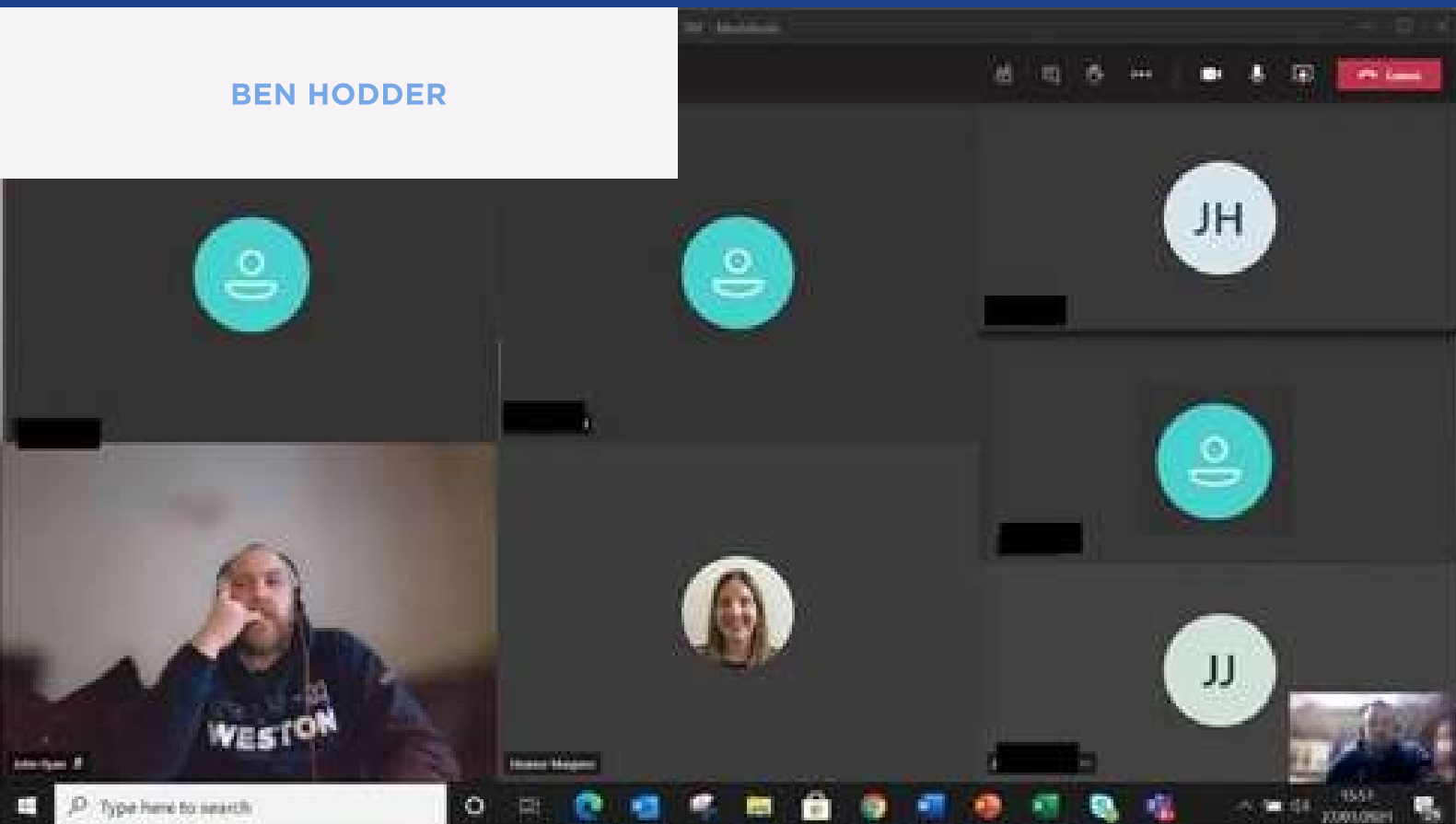
A key theme coming through was the lack of actual practical skills development that students have/haven't received this year, raising the question, just how do you improve the actual hand skills of a plasterer, carpenter, bricklayer, plumber etc in an online environment?

Despite lots of head scratching, as ever Weston appears to be well ahead of the game, when I explained that at Weston, the Leadership team had anticipated a second COVID spike and therefore ensured we planned accordingly through heavily front loaded practical activity, colleagues were somewhat embarrassed by their own college lack of forethought!

There certainly will be a real challenge for all of our practical/vocational provision to try and recapture the lost learning from this lockdown/Covid period, quite what that looks like we just don't know. However, I left the meeting feeling positive that the endeavour of Weston staff will yet again be leading the way forward, so well-done Ben Hodder and his staff team.

MULTI-AGENCY INTERVENTION TO SUPPORT A VULNERABLE LEARNER

BEN HODDER



I want to recognise the efforts that the welfare team and my tutors go to, to ensure that even the most challenging and vulnerable learners get the best possible experiences.

After months of multi-agency interventions and overcoming significant barriers both emotional and physical to ensure that one learner is able to access college and now be on their way to achieve, shows the power and importance of supporting learners as individuals. If it wasn't for the efforts of Somerset Family Interventions team, Mum, Avon and Somerset Police, St Giles, YOT, John Ryan and Eleanor Maspero this learner could have easily become NEET or far worse.

Suzanne Elliot Family Intervention worker who lead the group said:

"We have quite a few learners at Weston College and we are very confident that they get the best possible support there. This is one of the first multi-agencies approaches of this scale we have done, as a result of the success this will be used as a case study for further training"

THE ATTENDANCE ENIGMA

JOHN RYAN

I have worked for Weston College for roughly one and a half years and have had the pleasure of teaching Level 1 & 2 Bricklaying courses at South West Skills Campus.

During this time, I have encountered many socially disadvantaged young adults. As lockdown 3 became a reality, I knew the coming weeks/months would be immensely challenging for the learners.

Engaging learners daily has become an 'Alan Turing Effort', I am always looking for ways to unlock the learners and see them ready to learn.

A key weapon in my weekly code-cracking labours has been the development of the vulnerable provision every Tuesday at South West Skills.

During tutorials I have been able to prepare learners, and ensure they recognise what is expected of them during these times, this has included the importance of attending Mathematics and English.

Tuesday 26/01/2021 was a particularly successful day:
Learning was facilitated by the South West Skills Campus technicians, and Mathematics and English team who have worked collectively with lecturers to ensure there was clear intent, application, and impact.

The team has worked tirelessly with the learners, not being fazed by the 'Enigma' of engagement, always striving to unlock the learner's potential, trying our best to offer them the opportunity to re-engage and not be left behind.

I feel entrepreneurial thinking, and going the extra mile with learners, does in fact pay off, and this week's efforts/attendance reflects the college ethos in practice.

This is my code, what's yours?

TIME - LISTEN - EMPATHY - EXPECTATION - PROBLEM SOLVE - DON'T GIVE UP

BRICKLAYING APPRENTICES PREPARE FOR THEIR END POINT ASSESSMENT

JOHN RYAN



Lloyd Duncan, Construction Assessor has been working with apprentices and their employers to prepare apprentices for their upcoming end point assessment examinations.

This is the first year of skills testing so a socially distanced opportunity to practice 'basket weave detailed brickwork panels' was a great way to prepare.

Second year Apprentice Quentin had this to say...

"It's brilliant being able to come into college for a few days before our skills test, on site we haven't really had the opportunity to do the more intricate type of brickwork, it's more traditional house building that we do. These sessions will certainly help with our Skills Test."

Lloyd has planned a series of small group sessions so that all apprentices get the same opportunity during lockdown, next week they move on to inspection chambers!

LOCKDOWN TRIUMPH FOR CURTIS

JOHN RYAN

**“I am an ordinary sort of fellow, not braver than other people, but I hate to see a good man
downed”**

John Buchan, The 39 Steps

Student Curtis is a Level 2 Bricklayer, he is in his third year with Weston College, successfully completing both his construction certificate, and Level 1 diploma. During his learning journey I have had the pleasure of facilitating his learning and becoming a crucial holistic member of his professional support.

Towards the end of the term (2019/2020) Curtis encountered some issues in his personal life that just seemed to snowball. College and Personal life became almost impossible for Curtis.

Curtis attended 3 lessons in the workshop with me and zero online theory sessions with his personal tutor in September.

At this point alarm bells were ringing even louder, I needed to re-engage Curtis or risk losing him all together.

Working with welfare, and pursuing Curtis most days with phone calls, Teams messages, and texts through his peers we have actively pushed and supported Curtis to re-engage.

Fast forward to lockdown 3, Curtis is working on a farm!

I eventually made sustained contact with him in January and had a long conversation about his work and his commitment to gaining a qualification. We have talked about the possibilities of finding work, and the potential to earn a good wage relative to his age and needs, as well as working around the college timetable.

Curtis had lessons with me initially and has now been attending 90% of his lessons online and is ready to sit one of his unit exams.

As teachers It goes to show that we can and do have a big impact on learners. When learners become lost sometimes, they just need that one person to show an interest in their life and learning.

TRAINEESHIP LEARNER LOCKDOWN PROJECT

EMMA HOYAL



Next week the Traineeship Team will be rolling out their 'Learner Lockdown Project', for those learners that are unable to attend a Work Placement at present.

We feel that it is important to not only stimulate their employability skills and knowledge, but also to look after their well-being and health, in these difficult times.

From a vocational point they will have the opportunity to cover a wide range of topics, such as researching local employers, creating a digital CV and discovering their 'Dream Job'.

We will also set them some more creative tasks such as reading a classic book, starting up an exercise regime, learn to play a musical instrument, making a healthy meal and baking a cake. We are looking forward to the Great Weston College Traineeship Bake-off!

At the end of the month, we will collate the best of their efforts and share this with employers and the rest of the college.

Not only will the project help to keep the learners engaged and build their confidence, but we hope that in some cases, the knowledge discovered and the research carried out, might lead to an Apprenticeship!

JENNA RATCLIFFE

Transferring
Global Best
Practice: Beauty
Therapy

100% COMPLETE

▼ EDUCATOR RESOURCES: BEAUTY
THERAPY

Video resources: Beauty Therapy ✓

Downloadable resources: Beauty
Therapy ✓

*"developing technical
excellence in students and
apprentices"*





Apply the lessons explored in the video on how to
embed skills excellence into your teaching practice
using the resource provided.

Despite the pandemic student aspiration remains high and Weston College students continue to excel at a national level.

Here is Chloe who has not only been chosen to be part of squad UK at WorldSkills UK, her image has also been spotlighted on the WorldSkills UK website showcasing the Technical Skills Masterclass for Beauty Therapy.

Chloe would be the first to say anything is possible, having disengaged with mainstream school education, she is now a senior therapist at MBeauty whilst also delivering technical masterclasses to colleges all over the UK and mentoring competitors in the upcoming WelshSkills.

Chloe thrived through the inspirational teaching received at Weston College. From starting with Weston on Level 2 Beauty to becoming a national poster girl for WorldSkills.

Chloe has been a role model in every sense. As her mentor and training coach I am exceptionally proud of all her achievements, the commitment and strive for excellence she has demonstrated has been nothing less than extraordinary.

IT BASIC SKILLS STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRE

LOUISE THORPE

As we have moved to online learning again, it is vital that students have confidence in their IT skills, but for some students this is not the case, with many not having the basic IT knowledge they need for their course and to navigate Office365.

Myself and Hannah Raines (HE Academic Development Practitioner) have created a questionnaire to establish what areas of IT literacy learners struggle with, so that we can create tailored resources to aid students and encourage confidence and independence in their online work.

We would eventually like to be able to offer this to students during the enrolment process, so that they feel ready and confident before starting a course, and don't feel overwhelmed having to get to grips with IT basics at the same time. We would also then be able to collect data that we could feed back to subject areas, giving an overview of where students commonly need the most training.

The questionnaire and support are available to all students, so if you have any learners who you think would benefit, please send them the link to the questionnaire:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=FgfhBifCK0qgQ-seKHrH9wc-Z1IRmpNEk5WAf0AI6dFUMDA0OUVSVjZGSktlQzhJQUQ0Q1RPQkJMRS4u>

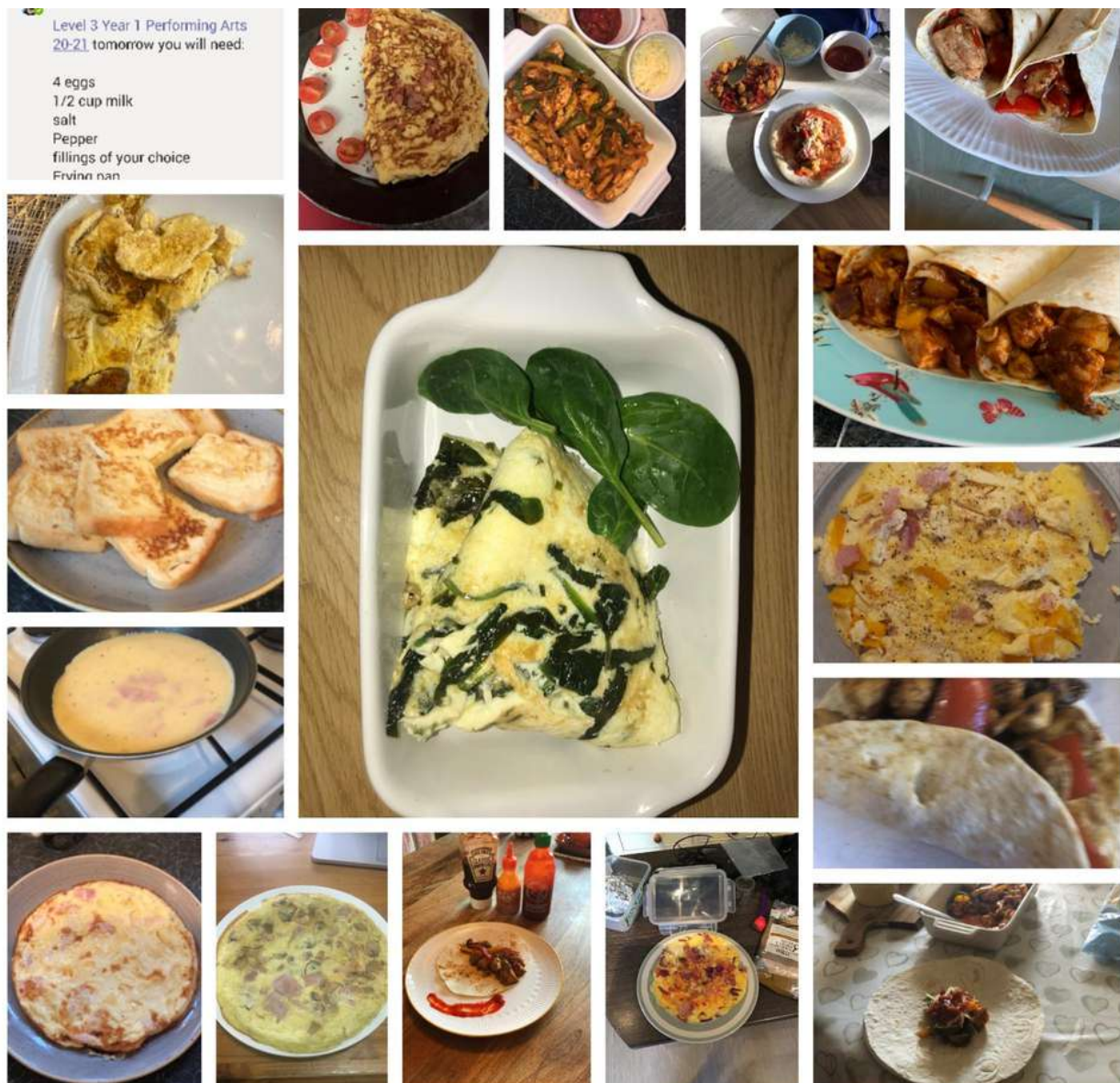


BAM AND ID DEVELOPMENT IN PERFORMING ARTS

LISA FROST

As part of their wider skills development the Performing Arts L3 Year 1 students have been working with Jack Gadd on personal skills to support positive mental and physical health, healthy eating and independence.

The last two weeks have seen the students engaging with online sessions cooking up simple, healthy meals which they have thoroughly enjoyed. Here is a selection of the fantastic results they achieved



GREAT GUEST LECTURE

DAVE LE FEUVRE



Talking Timber Frames: Another great guest lecture

Another week and another guest lecture for the Level 3 Civil Engineers. This week we hosted Paul Kemmish from PKK Timber Designs Ltd. Paul has over 40 years experience in timber frame design and installation, and was a rich resource of knowledge for our learners.

They have been learning about modern construction methods and the session perfectly summed up what we had been covering in class over the last few weeks.

Learners were really complimentary about the talk, and asked some great questions. I'm now looking forward to seeing them use this first hand information in their next assignment!

UCW DANCE

JOE MILLER

Here is a quick clip of virtual rehearsals for the Year 3 HE end of year show. The Dancers have been working extremely hard from their living rooms, showing their skills, talents, professionalism and adaptability whilst learning challenging and fast past choreography. I am very proud of their accomplishments, engagement and enthusiasm during this difficult time.

[Click here to view on Sharepoint](#)

FOOTBALL FEEDBACK

JACK GADD

Some outstanding feedback received today about Georgia our Football Development Officer who is currently studying an apprenticeship through Weston College in partnership with the FA and AOC sport.

Dan Greenwood, National Football Development Officer, AoC Sport feedback:

“Just wanted to touch base to say thanks for your contribution today.

It was great for colleges to hear how you have developed your Activator programme at the college and I know from conversation had in the breakout, that it helped colleges with putting their progress with the Activator programme in perspective. The nuggets that they were able to pick up from your presentation will really benefit them when their own programme is up and running and I couldn't ask for more than that!

You did a fantastic job presenting and got your messages across very well so credit to you.”

Georgia has made a huge impact already through our virtual platforms and leading presentations to other leading sports colleges around her initiatives and projects.

COMMUNITY AWARENESS WEEK

LET'S CHAT SHAREPOINT

LIBBY TAVENER



Community Awareness Week- 25th January- 5th February

In conjunction with Let's Chat, the focus for our college theme week is on the learner and their wellbeing and mental health- Community starts with our learners.

To support them with the pressures of virtual learning, the uncertainty of the current situation and the isolation many might be feeling, the following five topics have been chosen to support activities, lessons and information to support our learners:

- Loneliness
- Stress
- Resilience
- Anxiety
- Uncertainty

A SharePoint site has been created for tutors and learners to explore these five key topics. The SharePoint includes a suite of videos, strategies, quizzes, activities and levelled resources to support learners and tutors across Levels 1, 2 and 3.

With the spotlight on supporting and improving all of our mental health and wellbeing, this site is a fantastic tool to support tutors with their I.D, subject and tutorial sessions in the next two weeks and beyond.

[Community Awareness Week 1: 25th January 2020 \(sharepoint.com\)](https://sharepoint.com)

Contact Antonia Travers (Teaching, Learning and Assessment Manager for Tutorial & I.D) for more information.

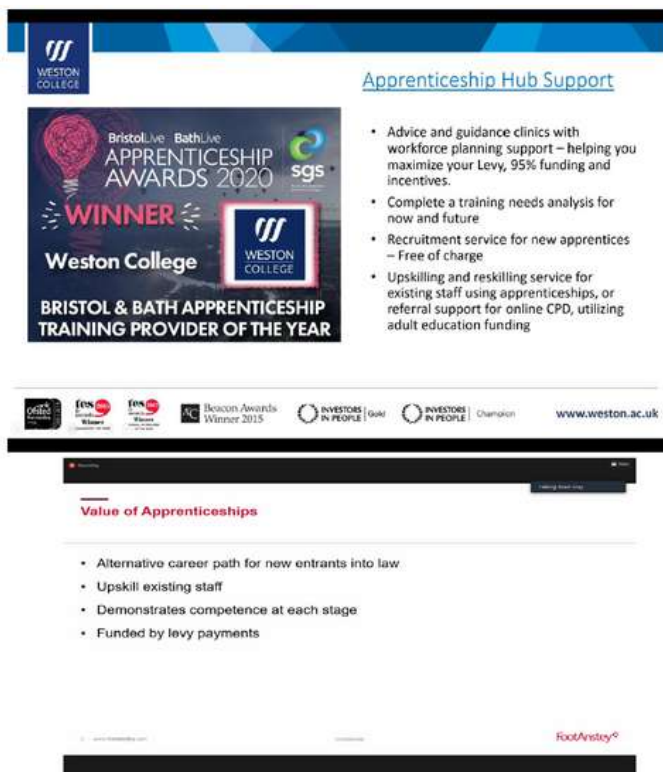
BRISTOL LAW SOCIETY EVENT

DAVE CREW

This afternoon, myself, Tracie Leahy and Helen George delivered a webinar in partnership with Bristol Law Society, who are a key partner for Business Growth.

An update was provided regarding progress with our Law & Professional Services Academy, Tracie provided an update on Apprenticeships in 2021, and employers spoke including Clarke Willmott and Foot Anstey.

To quote Kate a partner at Foot Anstey “Weston College were on hand to support us with embracing the levy. We have great links with the College and its advisory board, utilising it's CILEx courses. Since the levy was introduced, our relationship has really developed”.



Weston College

Apprenticeship Hub Support

BristolLive BathLive APPRENTICESHIP AWARDS 2020 WINNER
Weston College
BRISTOL & BATH APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING PROVIDER OF THE YEAR

- Advice and guidance clinics with workforce planning support – helping you maximize your Levy, 95% funding and incentives.
- Complete a training needs analysis for now and future
- Recruitment service for new apprentices – Free of charge
- Upskilling and reskilling service for existing staff using apprenticeships, or referral support for online CPD, utilizing adult education funding

Value of Apprenticeships

- Alternative career path for new entrants into law
- Upskill existing staff
- Demonstrates competence at each stage
- Funded by levy payments

www.weston.ac.uk



***clarke willmott**

Apprenticeships at Clarke Willmott

- Why have apprentices?
- What do apprentices do at Clarke Willmott?
- What have we learnt since having apprentices at Clarke Willmott?
- Benefits of being an apprentice?
- Benefits for us a firm in employing apprentices?
- Additional considerations
- Future opportunities for us as a firm with the apprenticeship scheme

Great Service... Great People...
clarkewillmott.com



A LETTER FROM A PARTICIPANT TO TEAM NORTH SOMERSET

SUE ESTCOURT

Here's a letter from one of our participants who presented live at a recent Weston College Beacon Award application. His letter describes his journey with Team North Somerset and his Wellbeing and Work Coach was Lisa Smith.

In late 2018, I was dismissed from my job due to my poor mental health and my capability to perform my duties in that role. Before my dismissal, I was a successful advanced family and young person practitioner. For the first year of my illness, I was unable and unwilling to leave my home due to my anxiety, low mood, and depression. In March 2019 I sourced support from MIND to help me overcome some of my barriers caused by my symptoms. After this support had finished I was still quite unwell and finding everyday tasks difficult to do. I found that many organisations required you to be work-ready however; I was not at this point. I was signposted to Weston College by a friend who found work via one of their programmes.

It was informed that the college had a partner organisation called TNS. From my first contact with the project, I always felt welcomed and included in what I wanted my support to look like. Together with my coach, we created a plan with shared objectives and realistic and achievable goals on how to support my well-being first. The priority was always about my well-being for work, not the other way around which made me feel at ease. The support was flexible and structured at the same time. I also felt included in decisions regarding my support, giving me that feeling I was in control. I also liked the fact that the support was consistent, caring, and most of all honest. I liked the fact it was a bespoke programme that adapted to the changing needs of my mental health.

With the help of TNS, I learned new approaches on how to bridge the gap to becoming work-ready which included changing my mindset on work-life balance which was important to my success on this programme. The time invested in me by TNS enabled me to break my social isolation to attend training courses and apply for jobs and volunteering roles. The programme prides itself on participant feedback and this was noticeable at one of the forums I attended. I noticed from the start that many top-level service managers and college management were present. This gave me the impression that this project mattered and was being taken seriously.

Finally, I would like to give thanks to my Wellbeing and Work Coach. She was the right person at the right time and was critical in my success. Her kindness and flexibility made it easy to work through my objectives and her feedback was always constructive and relevant. Towards the end of my support, I had gleaned more confidence and motivation to take the next steps and find work or education. The biggest change I will take from my time with TNS is in my mindset towards work which will stay with me for the future. This is the best outcome that could have happened in my circumstances and demonstrates the skills, abilities, and inclusive practice that the project delivered. I will always be thankful to the staff for their investment in me.

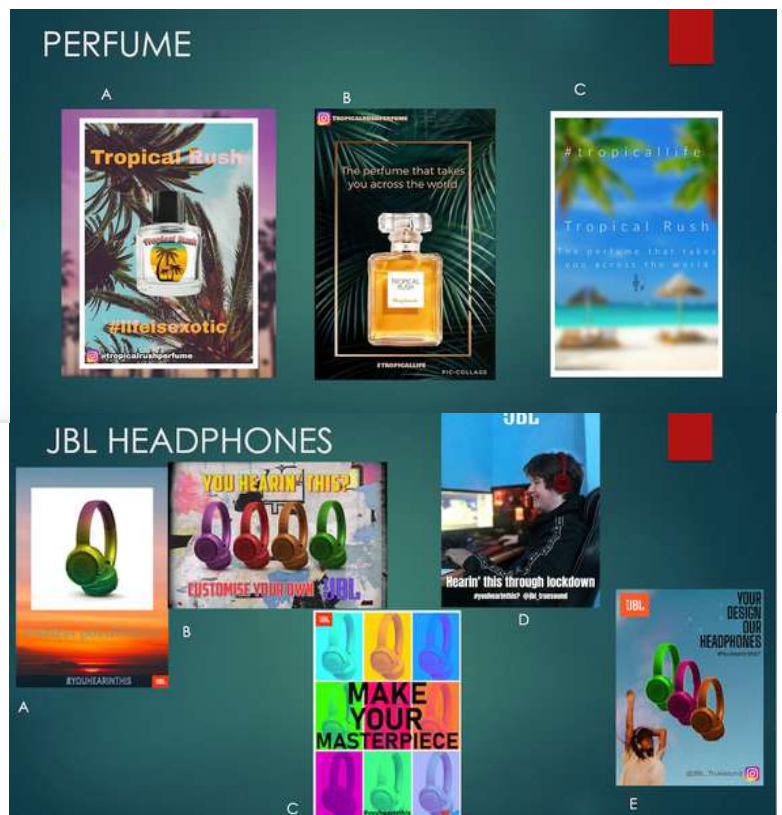
FUN, INTERACTIVE LESSON FROM MEDIA PRODUCTION

DANIEL ANDREWS

I just wanted to share with you a fun interactive lesson we recently delivered on the Level 3 Media Production course.

Our students all submitted a Poster they had designed to advertise a product of their choice. We critiqued each poster one at a time (with the help of a guest graphics lecturer) using a collaborative Power Point, we then created a gallery using Jamboard where students could leave each other feedback for specific posters; and finally the students voted live for the best posters using Microsoft Forms and the top 8 posters will now be used for their advertising campaigns.

The lesson was a huge success and demonstrated multiple online resources being used to keep the students active and engaged throughout. Doing this lesson remotely was actually more beneficial as we could combine 2 large groups of students and get more students involved, we could invite guest lecturers to collaborate with us and all the student/lecturer feedback was recorded digitally and can be easily retrieved and evidenced for further reflection. It was a fun, educational and inspirational lesson and all students met their deadline.



INDUSTRY PLACEMENTS

BTEC COMPUTING

SARAH ROBERTS



I wanted to share the success of one of our students who has been exceptional, this student has found his own work placement which he started last August completing 212 hours already despite the challenges of lockdown. He has had some excellent feedback from his employer:

“Goes without saying from myself and the team that he is outstanding on his work experience. Considering how much experience he has, he is a super fast learner and super keen. By far the best work experience candidate I’ve ever worked with”

He has kept up to date with his log book, and communications with myself, most recently responding to a request to update his log book with:

Hi Sarah, I have brought the log book up to date and marked off everything I have completed. This month I have actually been working remotely, since the National Lockdown, with the Assistant Network Manager called Haydn. It has been a fantastic experience as we have been working in a 1 to 1 environment all day so I have been able to ask as many questions as I have wanted. This has worked by Haydn sharing his screen with me all day on Google Meet which is similar to Microsoft Teams; this hasn't effected my working hours or anything else. Many thanks, Ben

Some great feedback to promote the use of remote placements and how they can work successfully.

PRAISE FOR PEF

MEG HOOPER



This is huge boost for the whole team who have worked incredibly hard throughout the pandemic to continue service delivery across the framework in the safest way possible.

In particular, can I draw attention to Brydie Vaughan and Theresa Moore who really need to be recognised for the work they've done with Lot 8.

I'm sure the whole team are really proud to be recognised in this way by UCU.

Weston College

One of the most positive responses to have been received from Weston who continue to have a sensible and cautious approach to staff attendance across their prisons. We have established weekly health and safety meetings for each Lot with UCU involvement and a positive response to UCU's demands. This includes:

- skeleton staffing
- wing attendance limited to a few prisons to deliver/collect in-cell packs and only in patrol state, if safe and covid free, again activity subject to RA and SSOW
- no face to face teaching with the exception of industrial cleaning and enrolments at one establishment with appropriate controls and SSOW in place
- full review of RA's already done and will be reviewed on a weekly basis
- all risk assessments posted on Teams for each prison so staff can view and request amendments
- all near misses and incidents reported to UCU as requested
- bubble rotas
- presence on site has to be with a learner focus (marking, ILPs, comms etc) no needless attendance as operating under govt guidelines of working from home wherever possible
- face masks compulsory unless lone working
- clinically vulnerable all individual RAs been done and reasonable adjustments in place (including working from home)
- travel to work assessed.

PUXTON PARK FARM SHOP

MAXINE PARK

[Weston College Group - WESTON20.pdf - All Documents \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

Our wonderful partners at Puxton Park have recently started to offer an online shop selling all of the fantastic produce from their farm shop. They offer click and collect as well as delivery (free until the end of January) and they would love to offer an exclusive 20% discount code for all Weston College employees in recognition of our partnership.

There is a link to a pdf included and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask and I will pass them on to the team at Puxton.

VTCT MENTION



SANDRA BULL

So proud of my teams!

Both Hospitality and Hair and Beauty are leading the way.

Both areas used by VTCT awarding organisations in their national campaign- #continuetoinspire.

The imagination to deliver online these very practical courses reflects the talent within these staff teams.



VTCT
2,612 followers
3d • 1

Home learning means home cooking for Hospitality and Catering at Weston College.

Tutors and learners have been getting creative in their kitchens and sharing their successful dishes, including this delicious looking Braised pork shoulder and the tempting finger buffet selection from level 3 learners.

#continuetoinspire





DONNA KENNY

The Apprenticeship Recruitment Team prepare for National Apprenticeship Week, 8th – 14th February!

There is a lot of activity going on behind the scenes to prepare for National Apprenticeship Week, which will also encompass our popular Apprenticeship Open Evening on Thursday 11th February.

The theme for this year's National Apprenticeship Week is #buildforthefuture. Now more than ever this is so important as we look at what the landscape will be moving forward when 'normality' resumes.

Jane Deane has already confirmed some employers for our evening. These include Ministry of Defence, National Composites Centre, Wessex Water, Thatchers and Babcock International; all of whom are hiring apprentices for the new academic year.

Business Growth have been building a working relationship with St. Modwen who are keen to work with Weston College and have agreed to take part in our open evening by providing an insight into 'Careers in Construction'.

We also have confirmed DaisyChain Childcare who will be talking about 'Careers in Childcare' joined by their award-winning Weston College Apprentice Danny from this years Bristol & Bath Apprenticeship awards!

New for this year we will also be holding an 'Employer Zone' where employers who may be considering hiring an apprentice can come and find out more from the pathways we offer, grants available, levy myth busting to the unique recruitment service we offer!

Learners and students can register their interest using the link below;

<https://www.weston.ac.uk/event/apprenticeship-open-day>

#NAW2021

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

8-14

FEBRUARY 2021

Apprenticeships

National Apprenticeship Week
8 - 14 February 2021

@Apprenticeships
FireUp_Apps
@fireupapps
FireUpApps

DONNA KENNY

Charlotte Denning and Naomi Judge are making good progress with approaching employers asking for them to provide an insight as to why they chose to hire an apprentice and what it has meant to their business and we will be using these quotes throughout the week on social media to spread the word that apprenticeships are the way forward.

Timetable of Events

Each day we will focus on a specific sector 'Sector Spotlight' this will include an #askanemployer, #askanapprentice and a job/blog of the day.

Please below which day is your sector;

Monday	Professional Services
Tuesday	Construction
Wednesday	Engineering
Thursday	Health/Sport #ThankyouThursday The Apprenticeship Open Evening – online bookable employer talks, generic apprenticeships, traineeships, 1-2-1 IAG and this year we are featuring an 'Employer Zone' where potential employers can book a slot within someone from our dedicated sales team to talk through the process!
Friday	Digital #DegreeApprenticeship
Saturday	Service Sectors
Sunday	#Buildforthefuture – Featuring our inspiring Future Talent team!

We will also be running a competition where we ask apprentices and employers to tell us why they love apprenticeships #weloveapprenticeships – the best one will be chosen by Josh and Harriet in our marketing team and announced Sunday 14th February.

Do you have learners that want to find out more about their progression options?

Send them our way!

SUCCESS STORIES

SARAH JANE LEWIS

40 1st year Level 3 students, myself and a couple of 2nd year Level 3 students participated in online NHS training to become competent in the 5 elements required to carry out lateral flow testing.

This involved an hour and a half online training where 5 modules had to be passed with 100% accuracy.

The students are now on a rota of 4 a day over the next few weeks where they will be completing a 3 hour shadow shift with the North Somerset staff at the Winter Gardens, this will enable them to be competent and confident in carrying out the lateral flow testing for staff and students across the 3 campuses when required.

This is vital clinical up-skilling and industry experience for my students and a positive part of this pandemic. When will they ever get chance to participate in something like this again?

This opportunity will be rolled out to all faculties. More info will follow soon, but for now if any of your students want to take this opportunity up please get them to register their interest at:

workplacementteam@weston.ac.uk

DAVE CREW

Last week, we launched our online Insights from Industry event series, with Dr Paul Phillips CBE providing a real insight regarding the topic of transformational leadership. Dr Paul was interviewed by Louise Greene from Business Growth and Daniel Green (Gloucestershire Apprentice of the Year) who asked questions on behalf of our management apprentices. If you missed the event, you can watch it on our [YouTube channel here.](#)

Building on our popular Wednesday Working Lunch series last year, Insights from Industry will bring together employers, staff and learners to hear from industry experts, as they share their story on how they built their business, deal with challenges, and provide their take on hot industry topics. We have two confirmed events in February, with experts from different industries sharing insights on critical areas for business.

SUCCESS STORIES

SANDRA BULL

We've received great feedback received regarding our Level 3 Year 1 Education and Childcare learners.

These learners have been on placement during the lockdown. Charlotte Howe is their tutor and I think this reflects her work with them along with support from Rachel Moger their placement officer.

Abby

The Academy Nursery School

I phoned and they told me they would love to keep Abby and will be sad for her placement with them to end as she has become a part of their team.

Lucy

Ready, Steady, Go

Tara the manager told me yesterday she wants to give Lucy an application form as soon as she qualifies, as she believes she is already such a great practitioner and fits in well within the setting.

Liberty and Tia

Rydal Nursery

"We would love to have both Tia and Liberty until Easter, they are brilliant so it's a definite yes from us!"

Annie

Little Bears

Karen the manager commented on how both Annie, and the other learners (Hana L2 and Grace L3Y2) have all stepped up to support the staff within the setting during a difficult week, they have all been really proactive and supportive within the setting.

Ebony

Little Learners

"Ebony has been doing really well and is a real help so we're more than happy to keep hold of her!"

Paige

Happy Hours Nursery

"Paige has been a complete pleasure to have and has a great relationship with children and staff and a strong work ethic."

Libby

Lakehouse Nursery

"We would love to keep Libby for as long as we can" It is also evident that those settings who have currently suspended placements due to the lockdown are missing their learners!!

SUCCESS STORIES

MIKELE LOWTHIAN

Level 3 Composite Apprenticeships

We would like to congratulate Sophie Williams, Luke Bryant and Dominic Heskins, who all work for National Composite Centre and have spent the last 3 years working towards their Apprenticeship in Composite Engineering Level 3.

They have completed and passed their end point assessments, despite the trying and challenging times over the last 12 months.

The learners were placed on furlough for the first part of the lockdown in March 2020 so were working from home, but this did not deter them from progressing and with the use of technology, remote studies and assessment with Weston College continued to a successful completion.

All three apprentices worked hard and had sufficient self-determination, to complete the required work and to the standards expected from the rigorous process, and have successfully completed their apprenticeship.

These three are the first Engineering apprentices at Weston College to complete the Engineering Composite Technician standard. A big well done to Sophie, Luke and Dominic!

DONNA KENNY

Future Talent Apprentice Success

I thought it would be great to highlight the fantastic news that 2 of our apprentices, and Future Talent attendees have been offered and accepted permanent positions over the past week!

A huge well done to Fahmine Hussain who is now in the position of Apprenticeship Officer within the Apprenticeship Hub and Sophie Griffiths who is the Clerical Assistant for our Work Placements team!

Both have shown real engagement and enthusiasm during their apprenticeships and living proof that our apprentices really are our 'Future Talent!'

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**

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CELEBRATE AND NEWS TO SHARE**



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