

MY VIRTUAL COLLEGE

WOMEN IN ENGINEERING

JO PHILPOTT



According to Engineering UK, only 12% of people working in the engineering industry are female. This week we celebrated International Women's Day, and wanted to highlight the stories of a few of our female engineers, to help change the perception that engineering is predominantly a career for men.

As a career, engineering is exciting and creative, and offers you the opportunity to make a life changing impact for people around the world.

The first person we wanted to highlight, is one of our Electrical Engineering Lecturers, Sara Slade. "Engineering was always going to be part of my future. My father was an Electrician and I was brought up in a hands-on environment working on cars, motorbikes and buildings, with no set boundaries for male and female function. Having great maths skills and the ability to solve problems, school encouraged me to study core subjects for engineering.

"Once I started my apprenticeship and worked through the company I settled in Research and Design. Having worked in many environments and companies even working self-employed for a period I found the support from work colleagues to be mainly positive. After reaching my goal to be Production Manager I decided to use my experiences and skills to teach and help develop our future generation of engineers." From lecturer, to learner, the next person we are showcasing is Level 3 Engineering Technician Apprentice, Maisie White, who is working at GKN.

"One of the main reasons I went into an engineering job role was because of the large variety of working tasks which it can involve. I get to work in practical environments, use problem solving skills and have also had the chance to work with great teams of people.

"Engineering provides so many future opportunities as there are endless routes and job roles which I could potentially take up. Being a girl in this industry has personally always benefited me, considering there are much fewer females compared to males in this field of work. I think there are lots of various qualities that as females we can bring to the table to help create strong diverse groups or teams."

Read the full article here:

[Women in Engineering | Weston College](#)

WESTON BAY WORK EXPERIENCE AT THE LAURISTON

NINA SINCLAIR



On Monday I arranged for three learners who are studying at Weston Bay, to begin Work Experience at the Lauriston Hotel Lateral Flow Testing Centre. These learners have been studying remotely through the virtual college platform since the beginning of December and have left their homes on rare occasions since then.

Although they were extremely anxious beforehand, once onsite and in their PPE, all three of them exceeded all expectations.


They were professional, competent and most of all they enjoyed their experience, felt a great sense of achievement and are very much looking forward to volunteering again next week.

For learners on the Autism spectrum, they have a range of personal and societal barriers to overcome to enable them to progress into employment. This opportunity has not only motivated and empowered them to achieve their goals but also demonstrated that they do have social value. One learner has not been able to access public transport for over a year due to their anxieties surrounding the current climate, however she overcame her personal challenge and arrived by bus on Monday morning ready to volunteer.

This experience even after one session has been invaluable, providing a sense of purpose and an opportunities to demonstrate their abilities and work ethic.

LINKEDIN'S BIZ LIVE

JOSH HERRINGTON



A new weekly business show streaming live on LinkedIn LIVE

Sponsored By DCW GROUP

With Jamie Breese

THE BIZ LIVE

The Biz LIVE

The Biz LIVE is a new business show which is officially accredited by LinkedIn to be streamed to the LinkedIn network

On Tuesday Dr Paul was a live guest on LinkedIn's The Biz Live.

He gave fascinating insight into his journey, gave top tips to apprentices and also shared advice on leadership.

If you'd like to watch back the episode, you can do so, here:

<https://www.linkedin.com/video/live/urn:li:ugcPost:6773554578353983488/>

CULTURE WESTON PLACEMENT SUCCESS STORY

AMBER CLARK



Culture Weston places outstanding cultural activity at the heart of Weston's daily life and future growth. It supports and illuminates all that makes Weston 'super' through a partnership-led programme that dynamically develops people and places.

A small group of students have done a fantastic job at Culture Weston and most recently they have been writing an article about the history of Dolphin Square.

Furthermore, during this placement our students have had the opportunity to interview Councillor Hew James so our students have worked hard planning and preparing interview questions about the History and Future Plans for Weston, here is a small snippet of some of the questions our brilliant Media students has planned out:

Q1: How do you feel with the way the younger voice is being portrayed?

Q2: How are you planning to reach out to the younger generation and hear their voice?

Q3: How are you planning to let the younger generation's voice be heard?

Q4: You talk heavily about gaining communication and views of others, how are you going to make sure everyone is being heard?

Q5: The plan "Choices for the future" in 2038 is inspiring, however how can we know that what we will ask will become the future?

Last week, another Media student also had the amazing opportunity to interview Matthew Hardy, Visitors Service Manager at Weston Museum.

In this interview our student finds out that the most ancient artefact the Weston Museum is a brown bear skull that was found in Banwell Bone Caves and is 80,000 years old.

This placement has been brilliant with students saying "My placement at Culture Weston is going really well, I am really enjoying it" and "It is very exciting that I get to interview a Councillor."

Thank you to Tom Newman at Culture Weston and Anna Coleman in our Business Growth Team for facilitating this placement. Anna says, "It has been fantastic to partner with Culture Weston for the past couple of months and to see what can be achieved from a hybrid placement format. The three students involved are embracing the opportunity to shape Weston's creative landscape and are seeing tangible outcomes from their ideas and input. Thank you Amber for continuing to support and encourage these learners as they progress through their industry placements. Hopefully this is just the start of a positive, long term collaboration with the Culture Weston and the wider community."

As the Creative Arts Officer for our CAD Students, I am incredibly proud to see the hard work our students have done despite their being a lockdown. They have all worked incredibly hard during their placement and their snippets of work has shown the confidence they have gained doing and Industry Placement.

ACCESS MODERATION

MAXINE PARK



Yesterday Access had the result of their interim moderation, which is a huge piece of work with a lot of student work sampled, systems and procedures scrutinised and a lengthy unannounced meeting between exam board and a large group of students.

We are so pleased that the feedback was that we have maintained the same high standards and student confidence, despite the challenges of delivering during a pandemic.

The Quality Manager from the exam board gave the following feedback from learners:

- They praised the support they receive from the college for HE applications
- Their assessment feedback is developmental and feels very personal to them
- They are very happy with their programme and do not feel there has been any drop in standards when they are online
- The Access team show great compassion for their personal circumstances whilst studying at home and some stated that if it had not been for the support they had received from the team they would have had to leave

Feedback on the quality of the learner assessment was:

- The centre is outstanding in all of its practices
- There is strong evidence of the team challenging each other when moderating work
- Learner work is of a very high standard

The final comments were that the Access team all deserve a huge pat on the back and if the only action that can be found within a sample of this size is that a unit code was missing from one assignment brief, it is a cause for celebration! A very proud day for an incredibly hard working team.

LGBTQ+

MEGAN MCLOUGHLIN



The student union and E&D Committee has set up an LGBTQ+ Team for any LGBTQ+ learners who may wish to connect to others, chat and talk all thing LGBTQ+. The Teams site offers:

- TV programmes and films discussions and recommendations
- Book, magazine and article recommendations
- Topical forums for all things LGBTQ+
- Opportunity to connect with other LGBTQ+ people
- PLUS Pride Badges to wear on lanyards for members of the Team



LIVE WITH
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MENTAL HEALTH WORKFORCE SUMMIT: **EMOTIONAL WEALTH**

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**CENTRES FOR
EXCELLENCE IN SEND**

Wednesday 17th March 2021 from 10:00 – 15:00

The pandemic has brought uncertainty and disruption to all aspects of people's lives, with its impact on mental health a critical national concern.

Attend this free online conference and hear how Weston College as an Investor in People Platinum, Young Minds Trailblazer, SEND Centre of Excellence and Lloyds Bank Employer of the Year, led by its Principal Dr Paul Phillips CBE, have shaped workforce development to create an organisational culture of positive mental health.

Don't miss an informal session with Welsh and International Rugby Referee Nigel Owen discussing his own mental health struggles and self-help strategies as well as hearing from the inspirational Nick Elston on tackling anxiety.

Dr Paul Phillips commented: "It occurred to me that everyone knows what the issue is, so I wanted to create an event that focused on a solution to benefit all organisations. We are bringing together leading mental health innovations and best practice to equip you with the understanding, skills and confidence to support good mental health and wellbeing for your workforce during these difficult times. Take away helpful tips and an easy to implement blueprint to help all organisations repair the mental health damage that the COVID 19 pandemic has caused."

Limited tickets available - [book your place today here](#) for Weston College to show you how to implement an achievable workforce development strategy to heal your organisation post COVID19. At the same time, sit back and enjoy a tough provoking performance by the Big House Production tackling the issue of unconscious bias, inclusion and diversity.

UHBW TRAINEESHIP PROGRAMME

IAN SWEET



Despite all the issues and difficulties that the pandemic has brought, Weston College has still managed to deliver its award winning UHBW Traineeship programme at Bristol and Weston Hospitals. This programme is designed to help young people gain the skills and behaviours required to gain an Apprenticeship within the NHS.

Sessions were delivered both online and at the Hospital Education Centre where possible and we were still able to access some amazing work placements for our learners. Where we would normally be placing them within the wards and outpatients, we used departments such as Vascular Science, Weston Hospital Pharmacy, Respiratory Medicine and Radiology.

A few weeks ago, three of our learners submitted applications and had interviews for an Apprentice Healthcare Support Worker. We worked with them a great deal with their interview preparation and the fantastic news is that they have all been successful and are booked in for their NHS Trust Induction on Monday 15th March.

Everyone involved in the programme has been so supportive and helpful, but above all the learners have been dedicated, professional and hardworking throughout these unprecedented times. We look forward to them having a long and successful career within the NHS and we will continue to provide this pathway for our learners in the future.

INNOVATE ONLINE PROGRAMME

EMMA HOYAL



We would like to introduce the new 16-19 online, 12 week programme with Innovate, run by George Fake and Paul Haycraft. This course will support learners to develop their personal well-being, employability and digital skills. Plus, they will have the option to receive between 6 and 12 sessions of counselling at no cost to help support their mental health. As a part of the course, learners will be introduced to a Career Coach, who will help them to look at potential next steps. Some of the units we cover include 'Understanding stress, developing confidence and understanding risk'.

We have received the following feedback from the tutors:

'We have built an initial foundation around the confidence of the learners and are slowly introducing the wellbeing qualification. We are also looking into progressions this week to start the learners thinking about their options come the end of the course. I have seen some brilliant examples of teamwork/team building and today, the learners actively engaged in a session led by Jasmine from the Careers Advice Team which was incredibly positive'.

We also received positive feedback from parents and carers:

'The course is working wonders for my daughter and I can see a real difference in her confidence at home'.

The next Innovate course is scheduled to commence on 22nd March 2021.

If you know anyone who could benefit from this type of programme please pass on this link:

www.weston.ac.uk/what-can-i-study/courses-16-18-year-olds/innovate

TOURING, PRIVATE JETS+ MORE INDUSTRY EXPERIENCES

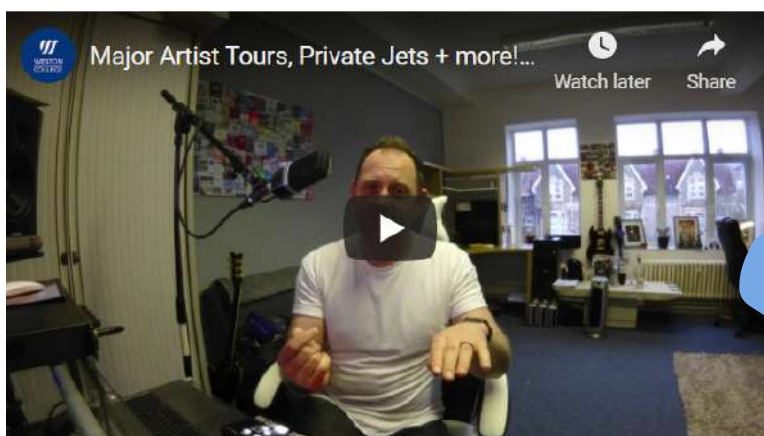


**MEET
AARON**

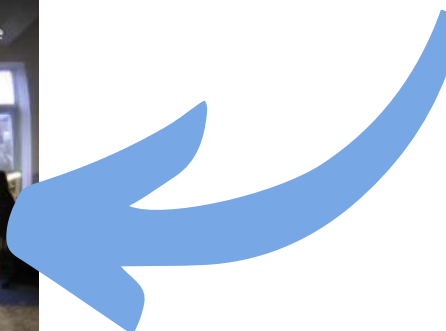
**LECTURER
IN MUSIC**



Music lecturer Aaron has had some **INCREDIBLE** experiences working in the Music industry before teaching on our Music courses here at Weston College.



[WATCH THE VIDEO HERE](#)



[Click here to also read the Q&A for Music lecturer Marjory.](#)

SUCCESS STORIES

Business learners meet industry expert Daniel Paul from Reed Recruitment

Daniel kindly gave his time recently to offer his expertise and guidance to our Business learners. This was a fantastic series of sessions that were very well received by all of the learners. It's invaluable that Weston College learners receive input from industry leaders to allow them to progress into employment when they leave us. Paul also sits on our Finance and Professional Services Industry Advisory Board. We greatly appreciate his support.

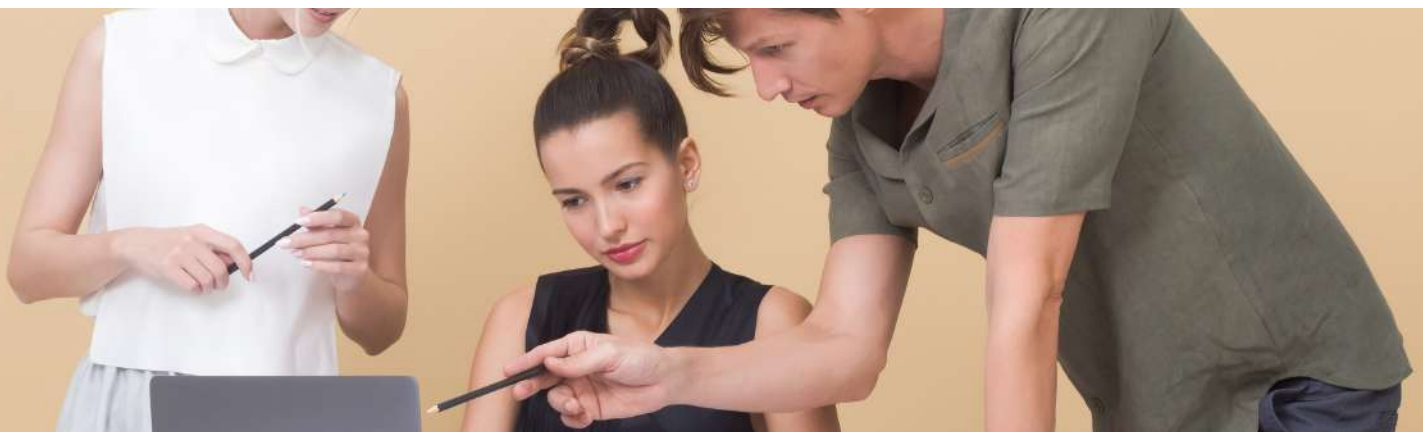
JONNY DIBBLE

Performing Arts learners were recently treated to a fantastic workshop from a special guest; Level 3 Performing Arts and Musical Theatre degree alumni, Corrine Priest.

Since studying in Weston-super-Mare, Corrine has had a very successful career, performing on cruise ships and the West End. She is currently dance captain and director for the children in Les Miserables and performed multiple roles in the show in the last couple of years.

Within the workshop, the learners were asked to sing songs from the same show to demonstrate how differently performers approach material with a specific audition in mind. Corrine was then able to assess, based on her experiences within the industry, and give incredibly valuable feedback and insight as to what casting directors are looking for within the audition process. Corrine then opened up the floor, inviting learners to ask questions and get answers about life on the sea and stage!

[Read the full article 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.

**01 FEB 2021
31 MARCH 2021**

**SKILLS
SURGERIES**

**06 MARCH 2021
12 MARCH 2021**

**UCW
VIRTUAL OPEN
WEEK**

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



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



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MY VIRTUAL COLLEGE