

MY VIRTUAL COLLEGE

VOCATIONAL PRACTICAL EXAMS!

JENNA RATCLIFFE

A TRUE TESTAMENT TO THE TEACHING TEAM

*A successful week in
HBC for Level 3
Beauty Therapy and
Level 2 Hairdressing
learners during end of
unit practical exams.*



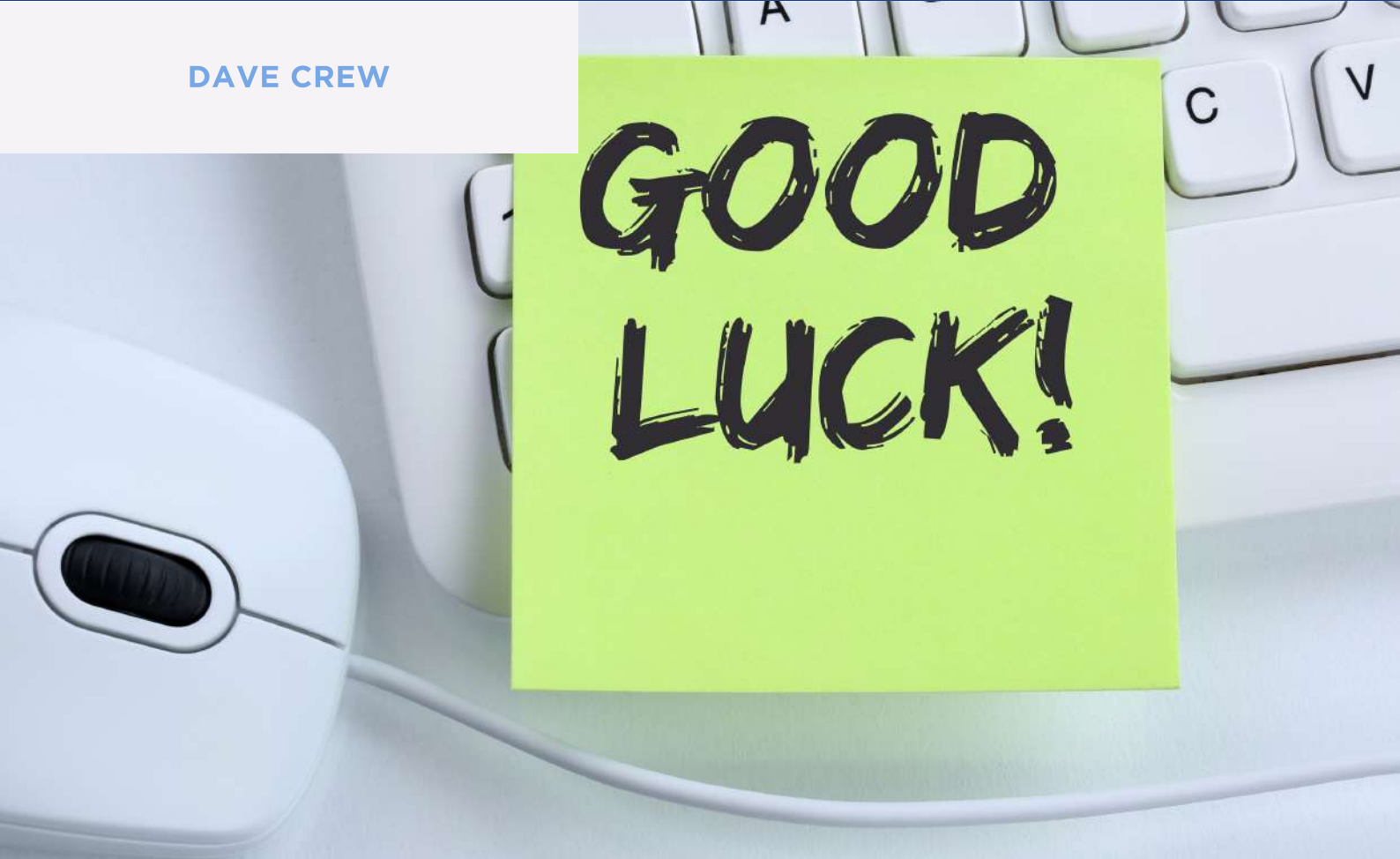
**29 DISTINCTIONS
5 MERITS
1 PASS**

*A different
format this year
with employer
input via video
link and full PPE
but nothing
fazed our
learners.*



UPDATE FROM BUSINESS GROWTH

DAVE CREW



GOOD
LUCK!

You may be aware that bidding for contracts and grant funding is a key part of activity driven by the Business Growth Team.

This month, Sarah Hacker (Lead Bid & Project Manager) leaves the College and I wanted to note Sarah's outstanding contribution as a colleague and friend to many across the College.

From winning prison education contracts, securing capital funding to upgrade campus facilities including Knightstone and SWSC, securing funding to build new campus facilities including our Construction Training Centre that stands visible to all who drive down the A370 into Weston,

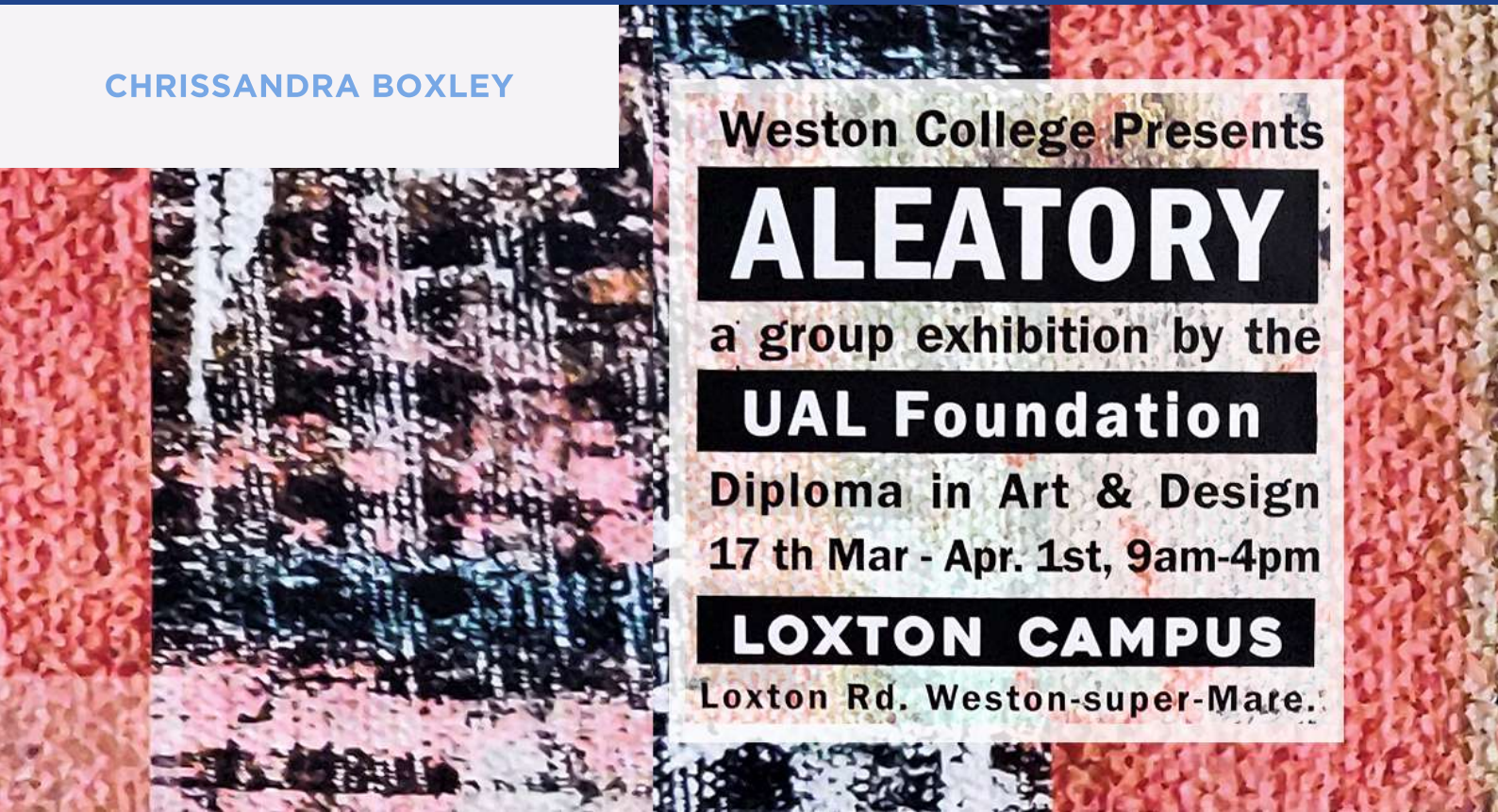
And working with colleagues to create winning bids for apprenticeship contracts with many employers including the NHS and Wessex Water, a customer that now has 150+ Weston College apprentices. Sarah has provided incredible commitment in a highly skilled role, and will always be part of the Weston College family.

Farewell Sarah!

You'll be missed and your proud legacy includes hundreds of learners who now have opportunities as a result of your work. Thank you for everything, and we wish you all the best for the future.

FOUNDATION EXHIBITION

CHRISSANDRA BOXLEY



Please see below the Art and Design Foundation learners work which is currently showing on the Weston College website.

Staff and learners have worked incredibly hard to ensure that they can still exhibit their work this year. Each year learners are fortunate enough to exhibit in Bristol, however with lockdown restrictions in place this has not been possible so learners have held their exhibition Aleatory on the ground floor corridor outside their studios. A huge well done to the staff and learners.

[Campus brought to life with amazing Aleatory exhibition | Weston College](#)

AEB FLEXIBILITY SUCCESS

SIMON WERKSHAGEN

Below is an email from a candidate and work coach following the success of one of their candidates on last week's CPCS plant training courses. The candidate passed both theory and practical tests on Friday and has gone into a job this Monday morning!

Thanks to my plant team, Heidi Oliver and her trainer Ash Pearce for getting this novice through the week and into employment the following week.

This program is going from strength to strength and it's great to see that those that could not afford to fund this training before are able to access the program and go straight into work.

Hi Simon

Hope all is well with you. I thought I would share this with you as the credit needs to go to you and your team at the college. Thank you very much for supporting Chris, much appreciated, he is beyond happy!

<https://www.facebook.com/112309683485214/posts/494011051981740/?d=n>

Many thanks - Rachael



GENETICS TEACHING

SARAH LEANEY



The Access to Animal Science students this week have been learning about genetic inheritance.

This has been taught using imaginary creatures called 'reebops'. Each student randomly selected an egg and a sperm (containing the genes from the parents; Gene and Jean) to represent random fertilisation.

They then determined the genotypes and phenotypes of their offspring and made their own little reebop baby.

All of the babies produced were different to each other showing how Mendel's laws of inheritance explain variation in siblings coming from genetically identical parents. The students loved it and enjoyed it so much that next week's session is now devoted to creating the F2 generation, so that Gene and Jean will be proud Grandparents!

What an exciting way of teaching something that otherwise could be a bit dry - no offence to Mendel and his peas!

MEDIA STUDENT SHARES HOW WORK PLACEMENT HELPED DEVELOP NEW SKILLS

AMBER CLARK



At Weston College, we're proud to provide a work placement programme to enable learners to progress with real-life experience, as well as outstanding results!

Second year Level 3 Extended Diploma in Media Production student, Honey, has recently spent the last 7 months gaining experience on placement with Great Copy Works.

Great Copy Works are a professional copywriting organisation, enhancing the marketing activities of businesses by helping them craft enticing, attention grabbing text.

Whilst on placement, Honey learnt the ins and outs of writing engaging copy, working with business owner Mark Tanner to assist with daily operations.

The Churchill School alumni added: "Overall, I have enjoyed doing my placement a lot. It's taught me so many new things about writing which I can now use in my own work.

"All the people I've met through the company have been so supportive and encouraging. Doing the work placement has developed my skills as well as my confidence. I feel more comfortable having responsibilities in providing work and written pieces for others.

"I've gained so much new, useful knowledge from doing the work placement. The opportunity I've had working with clients has been great for developing my social skills. It's been a great way to progress and develop!"

As part of her placement, Honey put her newly developed skills to the test, writing up a fantastic article about the "GREAT Copy Works formula".

GREAT work Honey!

AN UPDATE FROM TRAINEESHIPS

GEORGE FAKE



Just wanted to provide a summary of the great work and engagement we have had from our March Traineeship cohort on their first day in college with face-to-face teaching. The first 3 weeks of their Traineeship cohort was completed online, with this Monday (22nd March) being their first face to face session.

On Monday we simulated an assessment centre with the learners. The willingness and engagement from the learners with one of the most demanding tasks on our course on their first day in college after previously being online was an amazing effort and credit to the learners who demonstrated a clear understanding of how to engage with the various aspects involved with an assessment centre.

I would like to especially praise Gareth Brock and Vicky Haycraft for the seamless transition of online delivery to face-to-face and the ease at which students have transitioned between online learning and face-to-face.

GOOD NEWS FROM CHANGES FOR LIFE COURSE

JULIETTE WEAVER

I thought I would share this good news story from Teresa, who attended the last Changes for Life. She also went on to do the Digital Skills and Executive Aspire with Liz.

So this is very much a 'TEAM' effort!



Teresa



All courses finished now - I just wanted you to know that I have got a new job in a school as a Learning Partner: perfect location and hours, it was obviously meant to be!!! I start after Easter Holidays. Thank you for making me realise I could move forward. Best Wishes Teresa

11:26 Edited

Teresa Oh Teresa... That is AMAZING news!! 🎉 Well done you. It was a pleasure to be part of your journey. Good luck. I know they will love you as much as we did!! Thank you for letting me know.



GROVE RESTAURANT

RAY STEWART

Hospitality and Catering

Our students are outstanding! We have just enjoyed the best meal in an age all produced by the catering students at Weston College. The service is as good as you would find at any high-end restaurant. The food was beautifully presented. The taste was sensational. Thank you to all staff and students involved in producing this fantastic meal.



Thursday 25th Evening Take out Menu

Chicken and ham hock terrine, fresh pickles
Belizean fish panades, habanero salsa

Turkey roulade, sage, pancetta, roasted vegetables
Jackfruit curry, basmati rice, yogurt flatbread

Passion fruit mousse, martini foam
Salted caramel profiteroles

AN UPDATE FROM HOSPITALITY

SANDRA BULL

Hospitality challenge and bake-off for RAG week.

Whether it's silver service, pasties or doughnuts there is a challenge for all levels.

Open for takeaway coffee, lunch and evening takeaways.

Orders via Tracey.white@weston.ac.uk



THE SEARCH HAS BEGUN FOR THE 2021 SPARKS LEARNER OF THE YEAR!

ADRIAN PITT



With a new name and a new format, we're excited to announce the launch of the 2021 SPARKS Learner of the Year competition.

Between January and April, Level 2 and 3 students from colleges nationwide will take part.

ROUND ONE

Two learners from each college will compete against each other to secure their place in Round Two. The competition will take place within their own college.

Each college will enter one of the regional heats depending on their location.

ROUND TWO

The winner from each college will complete a short written test for the chance to represent their region at the Live Final in April.

LIVE FINAL

The six regional winners will compete in the two-day final in April for the chance to become the SPARKS Learner of the Year 2021.

As well as the prestige that comes from winning the competition, there are fantastic prizes up for grabs, with every competitor receiving a certificate for taking part. The prizes have been donated by well-known industry names including our sponsors Schneider Electric and WAGO.

Some good news! Will Durston, our Year 3 Apprentice has got through to the second round in the SPARKs learner of the year competition. SPARKs have been in contact with me and Will about this, we will be having a TEAMs meeting in the future where they will interview Will and also give information on what is going to be involved in round 2.

SUCCESS STORIES

SARAH-JANE LEWIS

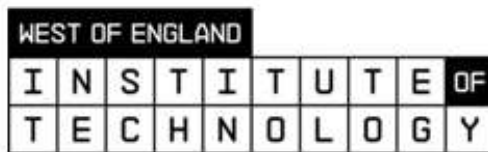
Level 3 Health and Social Care 1st year students walked from HALSC to the Pier and back (5.1 miles) to raise money for RAG week. So far over £600 has been raised!

Coming soon!

There will be a Level 2 HSC sponsored walk, Level 3 2nd years HSC-fancy dressed dodge ball on beach, Soak the teacher (students want to get Joel, myself, Marcus and Hamish with wet-sponges!)

Next week we are aiming to raise about £1000 overall for Health and Social Care over these two weeks. The challenge is on!

CLAIRE ARBERY



WEIoT Leading the way!

Firstly my blog on the challenges of building the IoT over the last year was published by Insider Magazine,

[Ask the expert: Building in a pandemic – what did I learn? | Insider Media.](#)

Where I reflect on the many hurdles all the partners have had to overcome to complete the building programmes.

Secondly, we heard that the IoT had been selected as a shortlisted project for the Learning for Work Festival of Learning, the winners will be announced on 6th July – so fingers crossed for a positive outcome.

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**

21 APRIL 2021

**KICKSTART
SCHEME
WEBINAR**

**13 APRIL 2021
15 APRIL 2021**

**CREATIVE ARTS
EASTER
WORKSHOP
(YEAR 11)**

**22ND MARCH 2021
01 APRIL 2021**

RAG WEEK

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



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



myvirtualcollege@weston.ac.uk

MY VIRTUAL COLLEGE