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\*Free early bird membership



# HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE APPRENTICESHIP **UPDATE**

**EMMA HOYAL**



I want to highlight these fantastic EPA results below. We are so proud of our health and social care apprentices and celebrate with them as they achieve 'outstanding' success in their End Point Assessments. Thank you to the assessors who support them, it is a pleasure to read about the skills development of these learners across their journey.

## **Olivia, Level 2 Health Care Support Worker**

Olivia explained her outstanding management of emergency care using her BLS training skills, particularly when supporting her client who had stopped breathing. Olivia pulled the emergency buzzer and correctly alerted the Adult Cardiac Arrest team, her role was specific, and she was able to work within her professional boundaries. According to her practical assessment observation, the nurse had started CPR, the emergency crash team had been alerted by Olivia, who was asked to count every two minutes and tell the doctors when the time was up and then start CPR again. Olivia adopted superb communication skills with the team, until approximately 15 minutes later when the patient's heart started beating again. Olivia is competent and has a clear understanding of the BLS training. This has strongly contributed towards her distinction.

## **Rebecca, Level 3 Senior Health Care Support Worker**

Rebecca demonstrated a superb awareness of individual's care-needs and always considered their choices and preferences. She explained how she supports other new health care assistants and student nurses to recognise deterioration of patients and what action to take. She was inspirational in the way she spoke about her daily work, provides excellent standards of care and is a role model. Rebecca was able to give some excellent examples of how she safely undertakes clinical tasks, including observation readings, helps with wound care, pressure area care, blood sugar readings and collecting of specimens and samples. She explained how she ensures patients are always as comfortable as possible and seeks advice or reports to the nurse in charge if she has any concerns.

# APPRENTICESHIP FORECAST

TRACY LEAHY



## Apprenticeship Forecast for Hair and Beauty, Hospitality and Early Years

Amanda Cottrill from the Apprenticeship Hub is working with the service sector faculty to generate business for apprenticeships after a really tough year for the sector, especially for hospitality and the hair/barbering industry. However I want to recognise how determined Amanda has been and so far, we also have all this amazing vacancies:

- 6 vacancies for hair/barbering and beauty
- 7 vacancies for hospitality
- 12 vacancies for early years

This is a great start for apprenticeships and also placement generation for traineeships.

[Subscribe](#) to the latest apprenticeship vacancy listing for all vacancies for now and September!

# APPRENTICESHIP HUB HIGHLIGHTS

DONNA KENNY

## Buzzing with activity!

A key part of the service provided by the Hub is the provision of information and advice on a wide range of apprenticeship areas to support existing learners with guidance in making decisions on their next destination. A few highlights from the past couple of weeks include:

- Applications are increasing week on week as we start to see a glimmer of normality on the horizon. This translates into more placements but also internal referrals, where appropriate, to traineeships, adult learning or full-time depending on the learner.
- The apprenticeship recruitment team have again been supporting traineeships with mock interviews and have been working closely with the team to further refine this process to increase the positive learner outcome.
- Hospitality is opening its doors again and we have some new, exciting commis chef apprenticeships on offer.
- Sharna Brinkley has also been supporting the recruitment team to further expand her recruitment knowledge and further support the link between apprenticeships and traineeships. The impact is clear to see on all the roles she has been involved with she has secured interviews for potential apprentices.
- Wessex Water – they have received an amazing 435 applicants for their apprenticeship vacancies and are working in collaboration with Jane Deane, who supports the next stage of recruitment from assessment centre interviews through to final offers and onboarding.
- Ministry of Defence - virtual assessment are taking place for the 118 candidates for 30 places.
- GKN Aerospace - have confirmed their timeline of recruitment, which again will see the apprenticeship recruitment team supporting the new online assessment centres.
- Thatcher's Cider - have seen 33 applicants for their recruitment drive this year. The team are supporting with the assessments taking place after Easter, when restrictions are eased.
- National Composites Centre - interviews are already taking place for 3 engineering apprentices due to start in September. Charlotte Denning has been managing the 35 applicants to help the employer with the selection process.
- United Hospital Bristol & Weston, NHS Gloucester and AWP – the health and social care sector is still keeping us busy with new enrolments coming in. We have a project team running to enable smooth running of the onboarding process as we see an increase in volume through the summer months.
- With the support of Emma Wilkinson and Harriet Pearce in marketing, we now have direct link on [weston.ac.uk](https://weston.ac.uk) to the apprenticeship recruitment team where learners can book a 1-2-1 guidance session.
- Hub member Naomi Judge recently presented to a current traineeship cohort and to engineering full-time learners as part of a tutorial session, providing an overview of apprenticeships, and outlining available options to them with advice on next steps. Both presentations were well received, and initial feedback was very positive and encouraging.

If you would like to book someone from the apprenticeship team to come in to speak with your students then please e-mail [jane.deane@weston.ac.uk](mailto:jane.deane@weston.ac.uk)

And finally, we would like to welcome our newest member of the team Dan Lintern. Dan has joined the team as a customer service apprentice and has already made a real impact answering the phones and providing excellent customer service while managing all the applications via the apprenticeship website.

# MAKING AN ACCESSIBLE COLLEGE EVEN MORE ACCESSIBLE

ANNA CAREY

**Staff at Weston College already go above and beyond to ensure inclusivity at every level, increasing the rich diversity of both students and staff alike.**

We all understand how hard being in the pandemic has been for people to access normal things like work, school and college, but for those supported by West of England Works who had existing barriers to the aspects of life we often take for granted, the affect has been momentous.

Most of our support is provided through one-to-one sessions, helping individuals follow a tailor-made plan to their eventual destination. Having had the benefit of attending a personal wellbeing course put on internally for staff, we stopped to consider the impact this course could have for our participants.

Without missing a beat, we put together a plan and sent out the information to participants and coaches, this course as with most during lockdown 3.0 was designed to run through MS Teams, covering subjects from Healthy Eating to Assertiveness. However, to deliver this to those on our programme we had to make some changes to ensure everybody had a fair shot at it. We spent time on the phone to each learner to establish what devices they had access and crucially what ability they had to use the software. For those that only had phones or no knowledge of Word we sent out hard copy packs. We spent time with each person showing or talking them through how to use MS Teams, including how to submit work and even supported one learning to contact Microsoft Customer Support for assistance with their software. For one learner we supported them to access internet through one of our community partners in Bristol and for those submitting written workbooks we used the West of England Works Freepost service so that money would not be a barrier.

All of these practicalities were considered before day one! Once on the course the learners were able to interact with each other and us in ways that had not been previously possible for them. They soaked up the knowledge of each unit and no matter the format of how they completed assignments each learner produced excellent evidence of understanding. We took our time, made space for safe discussions, we created supportive breakout rooms when it all got too much, and in the end we enjoyed it as much as the participants did.

When working with individuals who want to improve their situations but have so many factors in their way it is essential that we do our best to empower them to work around, remove or overcome all of these barriers, and that is exactly what we did during our Personal Wellbeing course for West of England Works.

**Now to decide which course to run next!**

If you know someone who is not working and not seeking work who would like support to navigate towards the workplace then get in touch through our website.

[www.westofenglandworks.org.uk/how-we-can-help/](http://www.westofenglandworks.org.uk/how-we-can-help/)



# OUR SUPPORTED EXPERIMENT

EMMA HOYAL



**Our Supported Experiment: To develop the critical thinking of our learners as they search for employment, look at Further Education options and pursue their career goals, with an emphasis on utilising remote learning to encourage, engage and develop their digital skills.**

## How we plan to achieve this

- Utilise and integrate online applications into delivery in order to engage learners and make it less arduous.
- Make delivery more practical and hands on in order to make it more involved, to ensure inclusivity and to involve the learner in their own learning.
- Make resources available for learners to access online (e.g. Pair Deck, Bookings, BKSB etc).

## Feedback

"I have used Teams to contact most of my learners over the last few months. I have been using online applications like BKSB to support with learners maths and English skills. I also have my own forms that help with learners CV and interview skills and have had 1 to 1 mock interviews via Teams or over the phone. I have also been using the Weston College online job searching application that is on the website. This helps learners input their skills they have and find a job that would be best suited to them."

We look forward to revisiting our Supported Experiment goals over the next few months and reflecting on how we can best support our learners as we resume face to face contact sessions on campus, including induction days.



# UCW CAREERS DEVELOPMENT MONTH

ZOE MILLER

**March was UCW's annual Career Development Month, with a wide range of employment-focused events for students to take part in.**

Activity throughout the month encouraged students to focus on their futures through exploring career options, further study and professional skill development. HE students had the opportunity to:

- Chat to employers online at Weston College's fantastic CareersFest jobs fair
- Create a professional CV, targeted towards jobs in their degree sector, and enter it to UCW's CV competition for a chance to win a £50 Amazon voucher.
- Attend daily Careers Talks (via Teams); subjects included CVs and Job Application Help, Further Study, Routes in to Teaching, Job Searching, Interview Advice and more.
- View online Jobs Boards with graduate and other employment opportunities, employer links and other useful resources.
- Further support included optional 1-2-1 Careers Coaching chats (via Teams) and promotion of [UCW's Careers Resources](#), which has seen a 200% increase in site visits across the month.

In addition to centrally organised events, lecturing teams coordinated some amazing employer-led events within the curriculum. Examples included:

- Polycosm ran sessions on developing a professional Creative Portfolio with Games and Animation Production students
- The Army and The Health and Safety Executive talked through careers and recruitment processes with Uniformed and Public Service students.
- Companion Care Vets ran a session on successful job applications and interview advice with Animal Management students.
- Local film-maker Scott Quinn talked to Lens-Based Media students about his industry experiences and effective networking for finding work in the region.

Practical experience of applying for jobs saw Uniformed and Public Services and Biological Laboratory Science students submitting mock job applications and having a mock panel interview with Avon & Somerset Police and NHS North Somerset Laboratories, where students were given valuable employer feedback.

Special thanks goes to Jasmine Morton and colleagues in the Weston College Careers Team for CareersFest as well as UCW HEART's Joey Hancock and Meg Hampshire for their brilliant insights into funding further study and creating professional portfolios.

Overall the month-long event was a great success and my thanks to everyone for taking part!

# RUGBY ROYALTY

JONNY DIBBLE



**We are thrilled to announce that Weston Sport Academy players, Charlotte (Lottie) and Katie, have been selected to be part of the England Women's Under 18 Talent Development Group (TDG).**

The TDG is a part of the England Women performance pathway which identifies emerging talent at U18 level and provides meaningful playing opportunities. Before being selected, the two A Level learners attended Penny Hill Park, a world-class sports training facility.

Lottie added:

"At College we've had such high quality teaching and coaching. We've been really lucky to have had amazing support like extra kicking sessions from our coaches, leading up to the camp.

"Since joining the academy I've definitely grown in confidence, particularly speaking with groups of people, and my resilience is much higher too.

"I'm aiming to progress to study at Exeter University after Sixth Form, so my plan for next year is to try out and hopefully play for the Exeter Rugby Chiefs."

Sports Academy Manager, Jack Gadd, commented:

"We are immensely proud of both Lottie and Katie's achievements to date.

"This is a fitting reward for the hard work and dedication these girls have put in to their own game as well as how they have helped develop our female programme over the last two years. To be in this position after what has been a hugely tough year is testament to the girls' characters as well as talent.

"Fingers-crossed there will be some international fixtures organised for the end of this season and that the girls keep putting themselves in contention to be selected for these. What a way to cap off a great 2 years of rugby development they have had with us at college!

"Their journey to becoming mature, motivated and committed young women has been a joy to see and they now could potentially be our 2nd and 3rd England internationals, that we as a programme have supported in just our 3rd year of running.

"They deserve all the opportunities they get and we hope to see them not only get what they deserve this year but look forward to following what is only going to be successful rugby journeys once they leave us this year!"

HUGE congratulations to Lottie and Katie!

# SUCCESS STORIES

DAVE LE FEUVRE

## **Preparation for the launch of the Construction: Design, Surveying and Planning T-Level is going really well.**

We now have 4 superb companies who are partnering with us: Galliford Try, St Modwen, Wilmott Dixon and BAM Construction. Thank you to the business growth team for their hard work in making this happen.

As well as having excellent employers who will be working with us in various ways, we are also progressing well with our recruitment, having already exceeded our target intake numbers. Obviously we won't be resting easy, and will continue to drive awareness of the course by working closely with marketing in the coming weeks.

I'm really encouraged by the team effort that I see when speaking to colleagues about getting the T-Level ready, and am really grateful for all the support that everyone is giving to make this a really exciting and successful new course offer.





# EVENTS



[www.weston.ac.uk/news-and-events/events](http://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 APRIL 2021  
30 SEP 2021

300 IN 100

21 APRIL 2021

KICKSTART  
SCHEME  
WEBINAR

13 APRIL 2021  
15 APRIL 2021

CREATIVE ARTS  
EASTER  
WORKSHOP  
(YEAR 11)

22 MARCH 2021  
01 APRIL 2021

RAG WEEK

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