

MY VIRTUAL COLLEGE

NATWEST GUEST LECTURE SERIES

MATT LYONS

Students in Computing have benefitted from a guest lecture from Natwest this week.

This was the first in a series of ten guest lectures which Natwest are working with the Computing team to deliver over the rest of this term and into the new academic year, covering a range of technical and industry skills.

Huge thanks to Anna Coleman for working to organise this as part of a wider project in supporting S P A C E B A R in the Sovereign Centre.

What are the skills and qualities of a modern IT professional?



Skills on paper



- Experience – relevant experience for the job
 - Business
 - Project management
 - Business analyst
 - Product ownership
 - Technology
 - Engineer (iOS, Android)
 - Testing / quality
 - Architect
- Knowledge – relevant knowledge
 - Education
 - Qualification / certifications
 - Degree, PhD, diplomas
 - Awareness
 - Industry – Banking / Financial Services
 - Sector – Commercial / Retail

Qualities as a person



- Collaboration / team player
- Innovative thinking / problem solving
- Connecting business and technology
- Positive mindset
- Communications skills

APPRENTICESHIPS AND DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS

NAOMI JUDGE

The Apprenticeship Recruitment Careers Team

- One to one IAG
- CV support
- Interview & assessment centre tips
- Application support
- General Advice



What is an apprenticeship?



An apprenticeship is a real job, where you will gain hands-on experience, a salary and an opportunity to train alongside experienced professionals while you start your professional career



Where is the training done? - Some Apprenticeships have day or block release to college or university, but some are mainly work based with a visiting trainer/ assessor coming to see you in the workplace



What's the duration? - Anything from 1 to 6 years depending on the level you are studying and your previous experience/qualifications

Last week the Apprenticeship Hub were pleased to be involved in supporting Sixth Form Year 2 Learners as part of the Next Step information sessions planned by the College's Careers Advisory Team

The presentation and interactive session focused on providing an overview of how apprenticeships work, the benefits and types of programmes available followed by a fair comparison with university study.

Attendees were treated to the Apprenticeship Hub's Top Tips for making applications and at the end of the session there was time to cover some of the frequently asked questions that prospective apprentices have.

Colleagues and learners are reminded that the Apprenticeship Hub are available to attend tutorials and provide additional support through Information, Advice and Guidance sessions. Please direct any requests to apprenticeships@weston.ac.uk in the first instance.

ANDREW MISTRY MASTERCLASS

SANDRA BULL



Andrew's Masterclass for Hospitality Service Sectors

Andrew Mistry came to do an online lecture with our Level 1, 2 and 3 students, the lectures began in the middle of the lockdown period where we, as a department wanted to keep our students engaged and share positive stories within the industry, especially as this industry has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Andrew did two sessions with our students. On the first session he spoke about his career, how he started his own restaurant along with the challenges he faced and the overall enjoyment of running of the restaurant. He then went on to talk about his current role, which is to help set up a roof top restaurant at the Sovereign Centre in Weston and during this he got the students involved with some of the activities that will be happening there.

The second session was an online cooking demo of Singapore noodles, the students asked questions online and then within that week the students all recreated the dish following Andrew's recipe demonstration and it was very successful!

This was a great opportunity for our students to complete something a little bit different but also positive within the lockdown period and seeing how the industry is changing.

FANTASTIC SERVICE IN THE HAIR SALON

JOANNE PHILPOTT



I was lucky enough to get a coveted slot in the Hair Salon on the evening on Tuesday 27th April 2021

This was the first commercial salon opening since lockdown and I was extremely impressed with their wonderful customer service, the level of professionalism as well as the quality and standards of delivery.

A full range of services was on offer from highlights, cut and blow dry, regrowth and restyling.

Although some of the students were clearly nervous, they were confident enough to ask their tutor really clear questions and also provide answers which showed the depth of their knowledge.

I was really proud of them as both a commercial client and staff member of the College.

A big well done to Torie, Jane, Amelia, Marcus, Tiana, James, Beth, Kayleigh, Maddie and Megan!

SCAFFOLDING APPRENTICESHIP

SALLY POWELL



Working with our partners 'Simian' Our scaffolding Apprentices are heading for End Point Assessment

At present we have 32 scaffold apprentices across 5 different cohorts, the course is set over 22 months during which time they attend college on five occasions for 10-day courses.

Each course teaches them the theory and practical skills needed to eventually achieve the recognised industry standard of a part 2 scaffolder. During their visits to the College, they also receive functional skills training along with Safeguarding, Prevent and British Values. The students also complete a portfolio during their apprenticeship journey.

The first cohort were taken on in September 2019 and came from areas around Oxford, Bristol, and Wellington. Although they have had a few breaks from learning due to the pandemic, they are back on track and will complete their End Point Assessment at the end of July.

All students have achieved a Level 1 in Maths and English, and some have been working towards Level 2 with the help of Sheena and her team. The most recent cohort joined us in November last year and have attended college to complete two of their 10-day courses, Foundation, and Part 1A.

It was great to receive a 100% pass rate from their instructors at the Construction Training Centre for both courses and we look forward to welcoming them back for their Part 1B in July.

We have learnt a great deal about how to manage this apprenticeship and offer the best support to these students during their time with us and look forward to welcoming our new cohort in June.

INDUSTRY COLLABORATION

ANDREAS PAPADOPOULOS



I am extremely proud of the Year 2 Aerospace Engineering Degree apprentices Taylor, Jansen, Ethan, Harry and Chloe from GKN completing their Project Management (work-based learning) with an outcome that has and will be a talking point for years to come!

A display engine now takes pride of place in our South West Skills Campus foyer, demonstrating additive manufacturing techniques donated by GKN through our strategic partnership and it was organised, managed and the installation was led by the five apprentices. They have proven that communication and collaboration continues outside the classroom and that expertise, knowledge and support is important throughout their entire apprenticeship programme and beyond.

They have demonstrated their application of the knowledge, skills and behaviours required for the apprenticeship throughout their entire project including communication, collaboration, repair and assembly, health and safety, hazards and risks, as well as logistics and transportation.

I am touched and proud of the students Taylor, Jansen, Ethan, Harry and Chloe for reaching out for me to support them with their project and also grateful for the support from staff to make this happen including Andy Davidson, Paul Knight, Ben Hodder, Iain Forster and Ed Carey.

SANDRA'S SERVICE SECTOR PICKS!

SANDRA BULL

WHAT HAVE SERVICE SECTORS BEEN UP TOO?



Level 3 Professional chefs- pressed lamb, marinated jackfruit curry and sous vide pork fillet - yum 🍴

#westoncollege #chefs#creatingbrighterfutures



The Grove Training Kitchen and Restaurant

Posted by Sandra Bull
10 h · 🌐

Very lucky to have some great local industry celebrities to endorse our hospitality courses at Weston and inspire a new generation to enter the trade 🙌

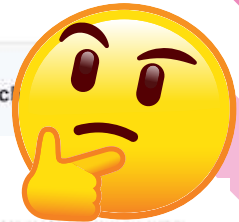
Thanks James and Dave

#hospitalityindustry
#westoncollege

<https://www.weston.ac.uk/event/meet-employer-ginger-pig-kitchen>

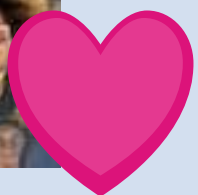
WESTON.AC.UK

Meet an Employer - The Ginger Pig Kitchen



Hair and beauty at Weston. fantastic team effort from our level 3 hair and media team in preparation for WORLD AFRO DAY.

Awareness of Hair discrimination is an integral part of our learners journeys into industry.
#westoncollege



SUCCESS STORIES

GARETH BROCK

Five Weston Traineeship learners' feedback on their experience so far!

- "It's been good as the team are supportive."
- "I have felt very welcome in the Traineeship and the skills I am learning are going to help me in the future."
- "I am more ready to go into an Apprenticeship as... I now feel even more confident."
- "I feel that all I have learnt so far has been useful and I've enjoyed the working environment lots."
- "I have made good connections with everyone and sometimes it's hard for me to do this."

We look forward to seeing these learners grow and develop their skills further over the next few weeks. It's going to be great to see them progress out into their work placement and beyond!

ALEX JACKSON

Weston College's Electrical Apprentice Will has got to the final of the SPARK's Learner of the Year competition

Will was selected by his tutor to take part in the competition with one of his peers. The pair were supposed to be competing for in the first round, back in January. Due to lockdown the event was postponed initially, while the competition organisers 'SPARKs magazine' altered the competition to suit the virtual environment.

The first round of the competition was a remote question paper, Will did very well in this and was selected to go to the next round, where he had to complete an assignment and complete a one to one interview with the SPARKs team.

I was informed by SPARKs "Will had done exceptionally well with the assignment and interview" and was able to take part in the final, competing against other colleges across the South West.

The final takes place on Thursday the 6th of May here at Weston College. The final will be a gruelling 5 hours, where Will will be expected to complete a complicated electrical installation to a very high standard!

The electrical team has every confidence in Will, we will expect to hear the result once all other events have finished which should be the 20th May.

Good Luck Will!



SUCCESS STORIES

SUE BROWN

Support Worker Autumn's Health and Social Care Apprentice's journey:

I joined the apprenticeship programme as I wanted to complete my diploma. I had worked in Healthcare for 14 years and 12 years of that being in mental health, I felt it was time I furthered my career.

I aim to now go on and get my nursing degree!

Having Genette support me was a blessing, there were moments in the last year for all of us that times were particularly difficult, and I have also had my own struggles during this time which were filled with self-doubt. However, during these periods Genette was there to push me, build me up and fill me with confidence, I can honestly say I have found her to be inspirational, she knew what I was capable of and made sure I achieved it.

As a 'mature student' I often wondered to myself why I was doing this, but again Genette was there to point me in the right direction and also provided me with detail and support when needed.

Although I know she has many students that she is supporting it never felt like that. I felt that she was dedicated to my work. I now have the courage and drive to go on and begin my degree, something I've allowed myself to put off for a long time.



EVENTS



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

10 MAY 2021

UCW
HEADSTART:
MEET THE TEAM

26 MARCH 2021
21 MAY 2021

HOPE FROM THE
PRISON YARDS
ART EXHIBITION

13 MAY 2021

INSIGHTS FROM
INDUSTRY:
THE HYBRID
WORKPLACE

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



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



myvirtualcollege@weston.ac.uk

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