

MY VIRTUAL COLLEGE

CAREER EXCELLENCE HUBS LAUNCHED



CAREER
EXCELLENCE
HUBS

A message from the Principal

Today, we are launching the exciting new Careers Excellence Hub initiative that Deans are currently embedding within their planning milestones for September. Supported by myself, governors and each faculty, this initiative represents a firm commitment to strengthen employer led design into Weston College's study programmes from September, creating an approach that is endorsed by employers for each hub. Please click [here](#) to see the Career Excellence charter which provides more information as to the vision for the new academic year.

Designed in response to the national drive from Government with the FE White Paper to put employers at the heart of skills curriculum, it is designed to ensure that learners are supported to become job ready through increased exposure to 'real world learning' and to raise aspiration when considering their future careers.

Although initially being rolled out for 16-19 learners, it is envisaged that all of the College's provision will sign up to the ethos of the charter, with the Faculty of Inclusive Practice ensuring a differentiated (and seamlessly embedded) approach to our learners linking to the CE Hubs. More importantly, however, the work has also been designed to exemplify all the uniqueness that the College offers our learners, in terms of wellbeing, welfare, digital, inclusion, SEND etc with a dynamic careers strategy that is designed to get learners to where they want to be fast - using whichever route suits them best.

A revamp of the ambassador role is designed to promote student aspiration, and our work as part of the WorldSkills UK Innovation Network, will ensure that the College will continue to stand head and shoulders above the rest in offering an outstanding teaching and holistic support service for our learners, whatever their starting point in life.

This vibrancy of approach is the result of a lot of strategic work behind the scenes with Leah Palmer, Dave Trounce, Michelle Boland, Ben Knocks, Sandra Bull, Edd Brown, Dave Crew, Jon Hofgartner and Lisa Fletcher in a real team effort. Deans will be co-ordinating next steps, supported by wider training etc ready for September. If you have any questions please direct these to your line manager in the first instance.

The marketing campaign to students and parents etc will follow on from this email. Please could I ask you view the charter on the above link and view the promotional [film here](#) and [web page here](#) that will form part of the social media campaigns to offer an aspirational focused approach for September.

CREATIVE ARTS SUMMER SHOW

2021

23RD-26TH JUNE

Weston College, Loxton Road, BS23 4QU

Celebrate the arts with our 'Westonbury' music/theatre festival and art exhibition to witness the creative talents of local young people bloom.

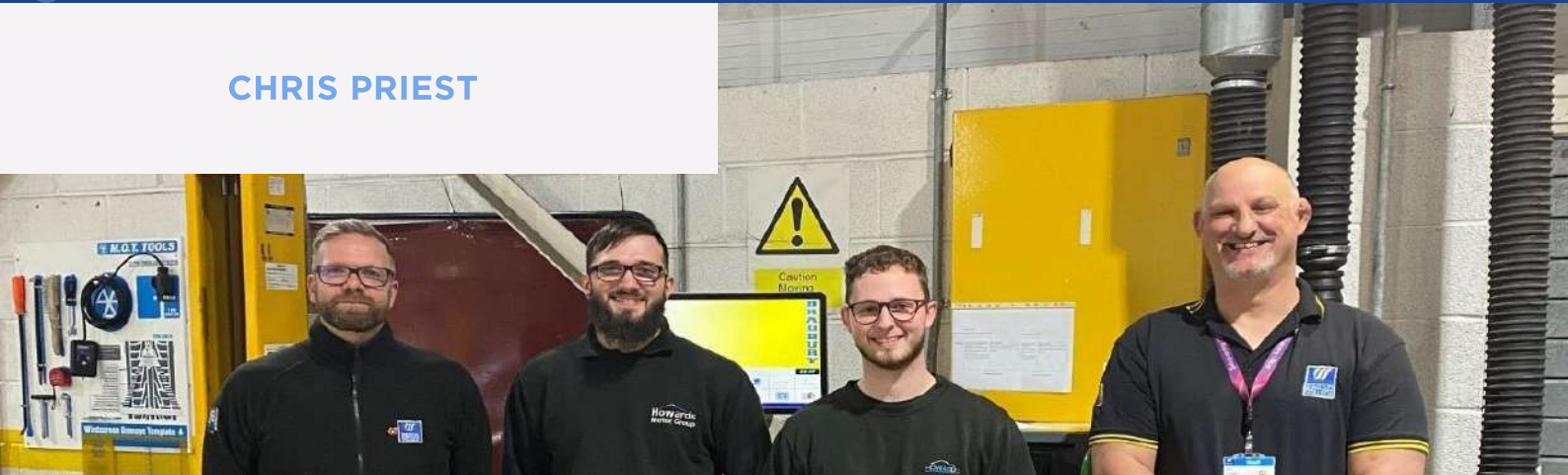
With a difficult year for the arts behind us, this year's Summer Show at Loxton Campus will be a breath of fresh air and a phenomenal trip out for the family with live music, performances, artwork, locally sourced food, drink and more - all in celebration of the arts and young people in Weston-super-Mare.

Register your attendance here:

<https://weston.ac.uk/summershow>

AUTOMOTIVE SUCCESS

CHRIS PRIEST



Pictured from left to right: Ed Carey (MOT trainer), Dan Trueman (Diagnostic technician Howards Toyota) Connor Wells (Service technician at Howards Peugeot) Iain Forster (MOT trainer and assessor)

Ex-school link students return for MOT tester training

Last week saw the department deliver their last scheduled MOT training course for this academic year. A full cohort of candidates all successfully completed and passed the course to an exceptionally high standard yet again. Two individuals in the group who attended and passed the course were ex-students of ours, it was great to catch up with them to see how much they have developed.

Dan Trueman

Job Title: Diagnostic Technician at Howards Toyota

Previous Courses at Weston College:

- School Link Programme ABC Award Motor Vehicle 2012-2013 (tutor Ed Carey)
- Level 2 IMI Diploma in Motorsport 2014-15 (tutor Ed Carey)
- Level 3 IMI Diploma in Motorsport 2015-16 (tutor Adrian Pitt)
- Level 3 Advanced Light Vehicle Apprenticeship 2016-2018 (tutor Steve Powell)

"I joined Howards Toyota as an apprentice service technician after completing my full-time courses at Weston College. It's a good company to work for which offers great career opportunities. I am grateful to all the Motor Vehicle team at Weston College, they have given me the confidence and skills to get a great job with good prospects. I'm now fully qualified and have progressed on to diagnostic technician status working towards becoming one of the few Toyota Master Technicians in the country. I enjoy working at a higher technical level as a hybrid and electric vehicle specialist and I'm looking forward to soon becoming a nominated MOT tester".

Connor Wells

Job Title: Service Technician at Howards Peugeot

Previous Courses at Weston College:

- School Link Programme ABC Award Motor Vehicle 2013-15 (tutor Iain Forster)
- Level 2 IMI Diploma in Light Vehicle Maintenance 2015-16 (tutor Ed Carey)
- Level 2 IMI Intermediate Light Vehicle Apprenticeship 2016-18 (tutor Steve Powell)
- Level 3 Advanced Light Vehicle Apprenticeship 2018-19 (tutor Steve Powell)

"I started with Weston College back in 2013 when I was in year 10. I didn't really get on with school and didn't know what direction I wanted to take in the future. The experience I had on the School Link Programme helped me realise that I really enjoy working with vehicles. I progressed onto the Level 2 full-time course and with the help and support from the excellent tutors, I secured an apprenticeship with Howards Peugeot. I have been fully qualified for almost 2 years now and am working towards Diagnostic Technician."

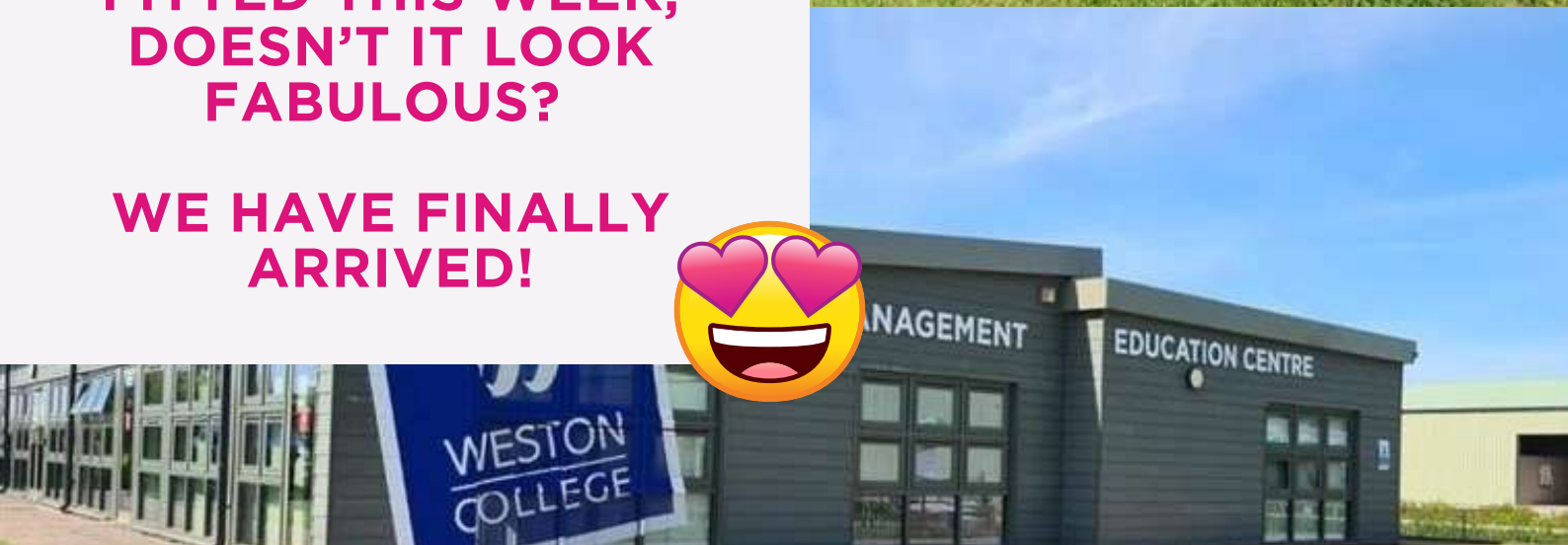
PUXTON SIGNAGE

MAXINE PARK



**OUR NEW SIGNAGE WAS
FITTED THIS WEEK,
DOESN'T IT LOOK
FABULOUS?**

**WE HAVE FINALLY
ARRIVED!**



NEW ILM COURSES



We launched our new ILM Certificate in Team Leading Level 2 as a fast track a few weeks ago and the response from employers and learners is fantastic!

These courses are new to the College and we have designed and delivered them as a direct response to local employer's needs and requests.

On Friday 28 May our external verifier completed a remote sample visit and after a very rigorous quality inspection, her feedback was that we had designed and delivered an excellent programme, she particularly liked how we checked quality and ensured all our learners had all the information required from the first day.

The remote visit ended very positively with us being awarded Direct Claim Status (DCS) in just 6 weeks! DCS normally takes around a year to achieve so for the team to be awarded DCS in 6 weeks demonstrates the high quality provision they have built.

Huge congratulations to Helen George, Louise Perkins, Georgie Monk, Megan Brookes and Alex Boyce.

MEDIA COVERAGE

TOP OF THE CLASS



Partnerships between business and colleges have become ever more important thanks to the rise in vocational education courses. The introduction of the Apprenticeship Levy and the increase in demand for further education due to the pandemic have had a major impact on academia and its relationship with the business community.

Colleges, more than ever, have become a vital part of preparing the next generation of UK PLC's highly-skilled workforce for the world of work. That means many educational establishments are now tailoring their courses and teaching around the needs of employers and the evolving demands of the technological age.



Dave Crew

"Employees see the college as a source of talent and we have a track record of turning out job-ready people."

Dave Crew

READ THE FULL ARTICLE
IN **insider** **MAGAZINE**
MEDIA LIMITED

BACE HAS HAD A BUSY HALF-TERM

SALLY POWELL



We have had our first brickwork apprentices take their end point assessment during half-term.

The skills test consisted of a two-day six-hour assessment, where apprentices demonstrated their skills, such as: selecting materials of suitable quality, correctly calculate areas, volumes, quantities of materials and resources to be able to carry out the work in a manner that will protect the safety of themselves and those affected by the work.

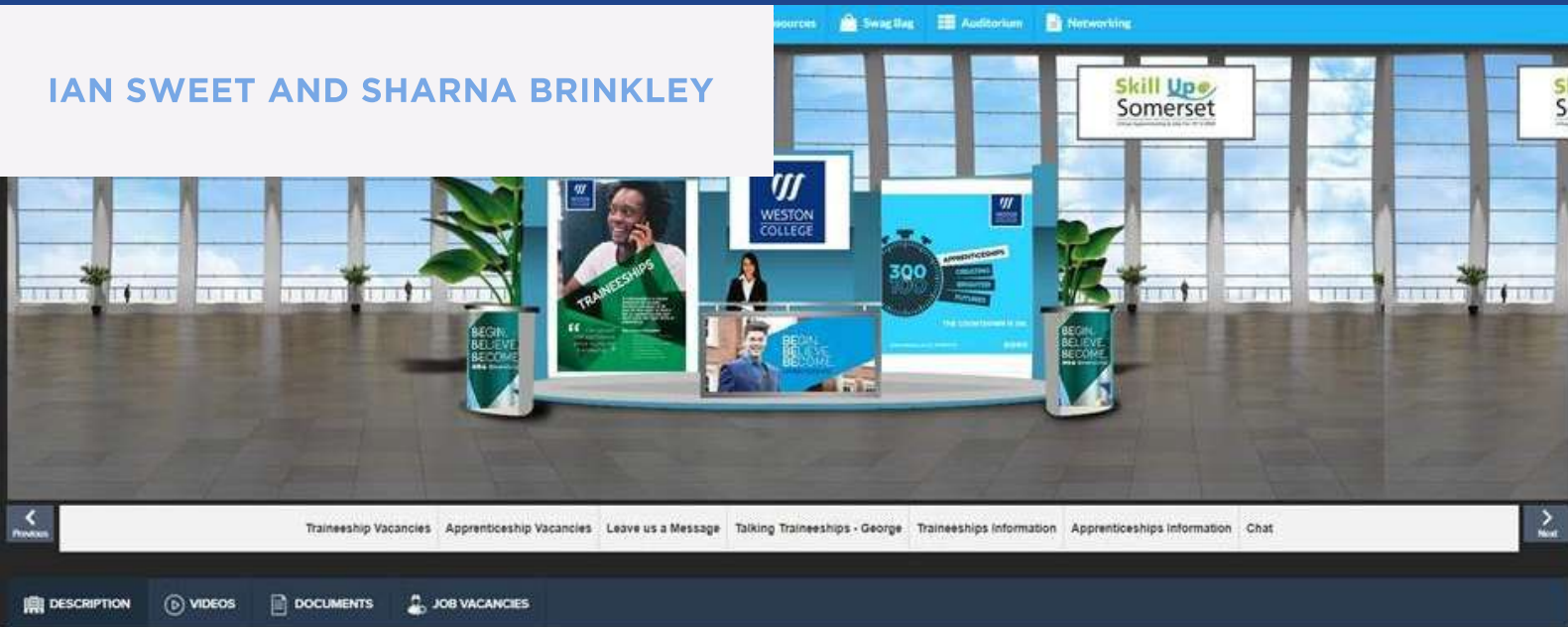
The apprentices had to produce masonry structures that were level and within +/- 4mm over a length of 2m, mix proportions correctly for mortar and ensure face joints and pointing had no more than 8 visual defects.

The apprentices then build segmental and semi-circular arches and surrounding brickwork to size and dimensions specified using appropriate equipment to a tolerance of +/- 6mm (S5) set out and build decorative features including oversailing and simple corbels to a tolerance of +/- 4mm.

The apprentices have been supported through the apprenticeship journey from trainer and assessor Lloyd Duncan, class-based learning tutors: Shaun Smith and John Ryan.

TRAINEESHIPS

IAN SWEET AND SHARNA BRINKLEY



In September 2020, Bristol and Somerset Traineeships were launched, building on the success and strength of the Weston Traineeship model. Running out of venues in South Bristol and Bridgwater, we were able to work with and support a number of learners, that previously we would have been unable to reach.

Work placements were difficult to come by due to the ongoing pandemic, but both the team and the learners found innovative ways to both learn and grow in confidence. We have had some great outcomes and progressions, including apprenticeships, employment and enrolment onto courses, both now and in September.

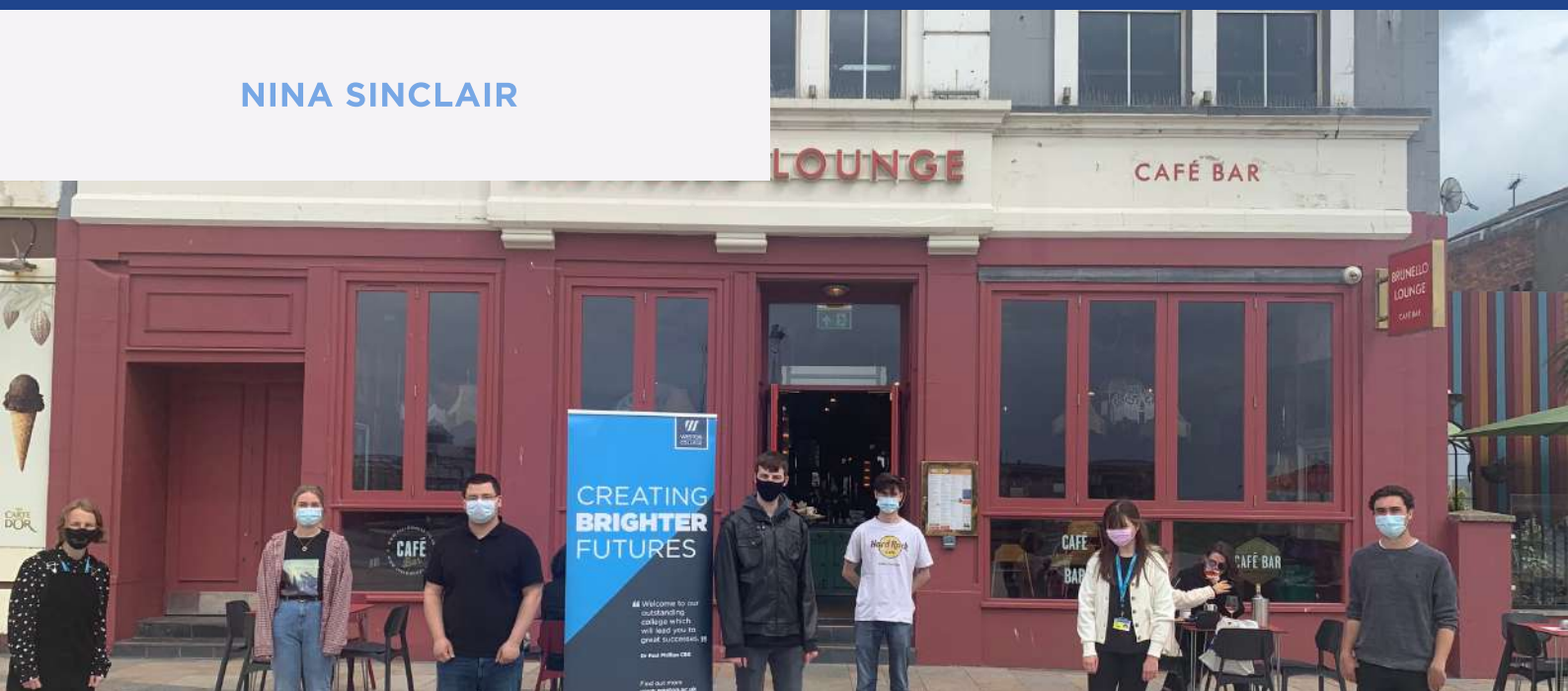
The learners have learnt a wide range of employability skills such as PowerPoint, digital knowledge, team projects and interview techniques. We have been supported by some fantastic employers including Lawlight Solicitors, Bristol Airport, Future Economy Networks, UHBW, The Park and Bridgwater Arts Centre.

On Wednesday 2 June, Weston College were invited to attend a virtual apprenticeship and jobs fair event with Skill Up Somerset, to promote traineeships and apprenticeships.

We were able to use the virtual exhibitor booth to showcase current vacancies and opportunities that we can offer at the College. An exciting opportunity to speak with new learners across the regions and create our first traineeship/apprenticeship virtual booth!

WESTON BAY

NINA SINCLAIR



Weston Bay students undertook a ‘take over hour’ at the Brunello Lounge in Weston-super-Mare as a real-life work experience opportunity. The students took part in all aspects of the business from taking and processing orders to serving drinks and clearing tables, dealing directly with the staff and customers.

These learners have been developing their employability skills throughout the year and this experience enabled them to demonstrate their development in an immersive experience within the hospitality and customer service sector. The students were professional, enthusiastic, and embraced the opportunity whole heartily.

There was a strong sense of achievement and pride in their abilities which motivated them and built their confidence to believe that the skills learnt this year would enable them to gain employment.

One of the students has now applied for a paid position following an interview.

We are all very grateful to Brunello Lounge for trusting our students and their capabilities with their business and customers, recognising the hidden talent in these students.

The students are now moving on to the next experience with another local business to see a different type of work environment, enabling them to make informed choices about their future careers.

Feedback from Brunello Lounge

"Weston Bay students were enthusiastic both to help and to learn new things. It is a genuine pleasure to teach those who want to grow, and we would highly recommend the experience."

THE GROVE



ABBI RICHARDS

Just WOW!

This week the sensory learners and staff went to The Grove for mid-morning snack and drink. The staff were well treated and all our learners were very well accommodated, the Grove students responded phenomenally to the sensory learners, many of who have very complex learning needs.

I was particularly blown away by the way The Grove learners spoke to and listened to the sensory learners when they were ordering. Many of the sensory learners use signing and pictures to communicate and one uses an iPad which Emma (our waitress) just took on board.

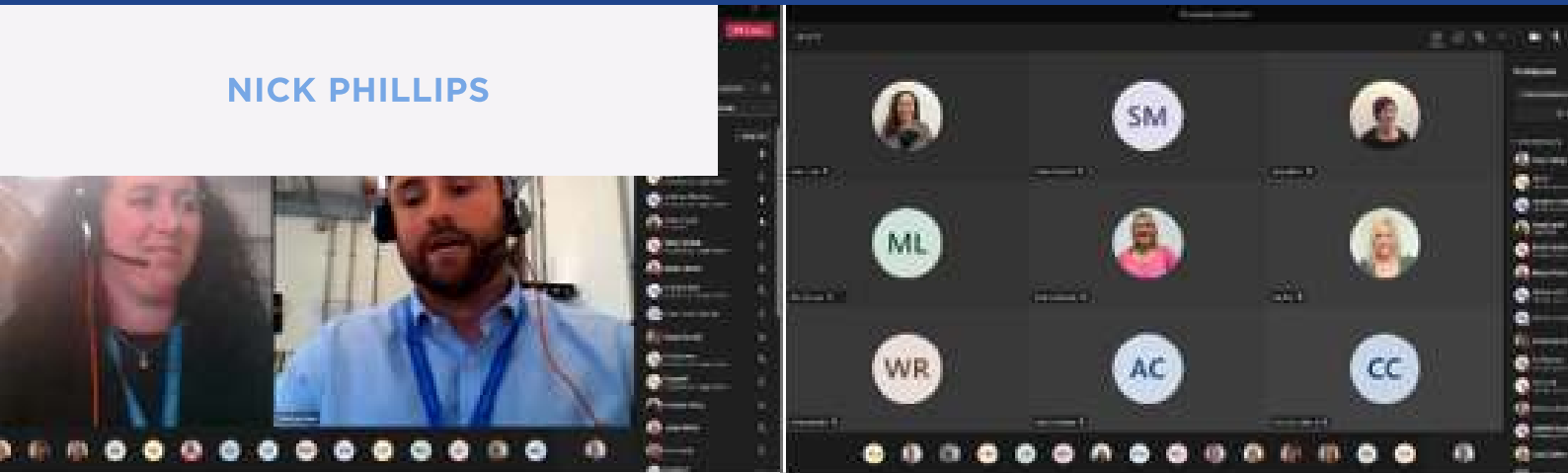
All were incredibly patient which supported our learners to process and communicate more effectively, empowering them to make choices. The learners and staff felt very welcomed and had a fantastic time.

We have booked for two further mid-morning snacks!

Also, a big thank you to Tracy White and Janette Rollings, who facilitated the morning. And thanks to the amazing learners at The Grove - Emma, Ashleigh, Nathan, Archie and Karl.

WEST OF ENGLAND WORKS GOOD PRACTICE CONFERENCE

NICK PHILLIPS



This week saw the 2021 West of England Works Good Practice Conference via Teams.

The event was attended by 36 representatives from eleven community partners and led by the College's West of England Works Partnership and Operations teams.

Breakout sessions looked at good practice in engagement and initial assessments, profiling and budgeting, action planning and progress tracking.

Partners all shared examples of their own innovative practice and made new connections for joined working across the partnership.

Special mention should go to Rebecca Vincent from the West of England Works Operations Team, who expertly led a breakout session covering project administration on the day after she returned from maternity leave, it was as if she'd never been away.



TEAM NORTH SOMERSET

OUR PLEDGES TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

LITTLE CHANGES MAKE A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

We want to demonstrate what small change we could make which supports sustainable development.



Lisa - Cycle to work

As our solutions programme restarts we will be encouraging our participants to make a pledge too.



Hayley - Recycle animal bedding



Claire - Recycle waste into resources

Cathy - Do more litter picks



Emily - Use toothpaste tablets



Sue - Donate to charity



Sian - Reuse water



West of England **Works** 



ROLLS ROYCE APPRENTICESHIP SCORECARD MEETING SUCCESS

JO PHILPOTT



FEEDBACK FROM MICK JONES AT ROLLS ROYCE

Weston College and the team were praised by Mick for being one of their best providers, achieving 100% on today's scorecard meeting.

"I would like to thank you for your continued support and hard work in maintaining such a positive relationship with myself and the Rolls Royce apprentices based in Bristol. Once again your Scorecard reflects all your efforts positively.

"Well done to everybody and please pass on my thanks to all involved."

SUCCESS STORIES

LOUISE PERKINS

Feedback for Megan

I am an Apprentice currently partaking in the Team Leadership course for over a year now.

Megan's workshops are fantastic, and in wanting to ensure I provide constructive as well as positive feedback, I'll be honest and say it is difficult to try and find aspects which Megan could improve on. Not only have I been able to put skills into practice from these workshops when supporting my team, these days are really enjoyable and an opportunity to learn.

Megan is a fantastic trainer, delivering a really well organised session, maintains engagement throughout - I haven't yet clocked anyone who looks to be dropping off, which most of us have experience at some point over the last 12 months on camera.

Megan is always very welcoming and friendly, and takes the time to ensure students are understanding exactly what is required/expected. I attend training fairly regularly through my role, both internal and external and Megan is most memorable by far, a great ambassador for Weston College.

CLAIRE ARBERY

Modulek have arrived on site and are installing the classrooms!

The Modulek building is being installed at GKN, to create the new GTC, which will deliver engineering training as part of West of England Institute of Technology.

Dave and Lucy also met the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Kwasi Kwarteng at the GTC last week. Lots of discussions took place about how Weston College is delivering the skills in partnership with employers, through projects such as GTC and WEIoT.

It really is a fantastic facility and the staff at GKN are so welcoming.



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

19 JULY 2021
30 JULY 2021



ELEVATE

JUNE 2021



**SKILLS
SURGERIES**

30 JUNE 2021



**OPEN
EVENING**

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