



Flexible pathways and effective transitions in college-based HE

Student and staff contributors

This Collaborative Enhancement Project focuses entirely on College Based Higher Education (CBHE) providers, bringing together five FE colleges from across England. Using a student-staff collaborative partnership, it explores supporting flexible pathways and effective transitions in CBHE.

The Cycle of Collaborative Observation (CoCO) facilitates student-staff collaborative discussion, observation and reflection on learning and teaching. Undertaking two cycles of CoCO during the project, each student-staff collaborative partnership investigated agreed areas of focus related to the core theme of flexible pathways and effective transitions. The overarching aim has been to develop an evidence and practice base to inform and improve the learning and teaching experiences of the students and staff participating on the courses involved.

The following students and staff have played vital roles in their case study teams and colleges throughout the project:

Bishop Burton College



Simon Horner, HE Life skills Team Leader

I have worked in HE education for over 25 years and am currently the HE Life Skills Team Leader working with a dedicated and highly qualified team of life coaches, learning mentors, access and participation officers and HE students at Bishop Burton University Centre through one to one and group support. I am also a Lecturer in Animal Science teaching one day a week across a range of Animal Science programs including the Animal Case study group for this QAA CEP project.



Becky Webb, Study Skills Mentor

I have worked in education in a range of roles and in different settings for twenty years. I also live on a mixed enterprise farm, playing an active role in the day-to-day running of the business. During cycle 1 of the project, I delivered workshops to both Sport and Animal Science Level 5 groups.



Rhonda Barnes, Programme Lead and Lecturer

I have worked in education for over 15 years and am currently the Programme Lead for the canine distance learning programmes delivered at Bishop Burton University Centre. I also lecture across full time animal sciences programmes and have been involved in cycle 2 of the project, working directly with students and supporting the development of their academic and industry-relevant skills.



Amy Kershaw-Green, Senior Lecturer in Animal Science and Conservation

With over four years of experience in Higher Education and currently serving as a Senior Lecturer in Animal Science and Conservation, I deliver teaching across a range of animal-related programmes and levels, supporting students in developing both their academic knowledge and practical understanding of the field. Alongside teaching responsibilities, I am programme leader for the Level 5 FdSc Animal Management & Behaviour cohort. In this capacity, I provide academic guidance, monitor student progress, and support learners in their personal and professional development.

Derby College



Chrissie Draper, HE Advanced Teacher Practitioner

I am a HE Advanced Teacher Practitioner, Lecturer and Programme Lead for BA (Hons) Security and Offender Management at Derby College Group. Alongside my lecturing role, I am lead for the enhancement of teaching, learning and assessment across college based higher education. My work focuses on collaborative and reflective practice, with a particular interest in supporting student transition, engagement and success into higher education.



Ella Whitehead, HE Academic Coach

I am HE Academic Coach at Derby College Group. I support students across a range of disciplines to develop effective study skills, academic confidence, and successful learning practices. My work focuses on enhancing assessment literacy, collaboration with tutors and internal support services to enable consistent and accessible support throughout study. Some support I provide includes the delivery of tutorials, teaching sessions, drop-in sessions and workshops.



Mayah Khan, HE Academic Coach

I am HE Academic Coach at Derby College Group. I support students across a range of disciplines to develop effective study skills, academic confidence, and successful learning practices. My work focuses on enhancing assessment literacy, collaboration with tutors and internal support services to enable consistent and accessible support throughout study. Some

support I provide includes the delivery of tutorials, teaching sessions, drop-in sessions and workshops



Chris Sadler, Advanced Teacher Practitioner

I am an Advanced Teacher Practitioner and Course Co-ordinator for Sports Coaching, Education and Performance. My role involves the coordination, design, and delivery of modules across the programme, with my primary focus on the introduction to coaching and the development of fundamental coaching skills within primary school aged children.

Nottingham College



Nicola Burt, BA Hons Dance and Education Course Lead

Nicky is an experienced dance lecturer and course co-ordinator with a career spanning both further and higher education. At Nottingham College, Nicola has led and delivered across a wide range of programmes, including Level 2 and 3 Performing Arts and Dance, Musical Theatre, and undergraduate modules in Performance and Production. As Course Co-ordinator for the Level 3 Diploma in Dance, she is responsible for curriculum design, assessment, and student progression, as well as choreographing works for public platforms such as Dance4. Her teaching spans technique, choreography, performance, and movement for actors, ensuring students develop both creative and technical excellence.



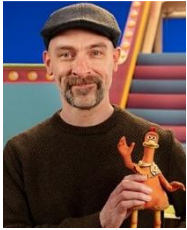
Robert Hitchin, BA Hons Level 4 Course Lead

Rob is an experienced lecturer and course co-ordinator with a career spanning both further and higher education. At Nottingham College, Rob has led and delivered across a wide range of programmes, including Level 3 University of London diploma, extended diplomas in Film and Television, Creative Writing, and Pearson BTEC Journalism extended Diploma, Pearson T-Level content creation level 3, and University course lead for Foundation Degree level 4 and 5 for NTU, and the Open University year 1. Prior to, and alongside his academic work, Rob has an extensive professional background as a Film maker, News Technical Operator, Producer, Writer and Director.



Andrew Oakley, Technical Coordinator/ Lecturer Media and Performing Arts Skills

Andrew has 35 years of experience in Music, Media and Performing Arts and 19 years of experience teaching at HE level across Music Technology and Media. At Nottingham College, Andrew works as a Technical Coordinator / Lecturer in Media and Performing Arts Skills supporting students across HND, FdA and BA courses.



Richard Johnson, Lecturer and Course Leader

Obsessed with film since 1982, Rich has written for various publications, including Fangoria, Little White Lies and Diabolique Magazine. A champion of physical media, he is a frequent contributor to the boutique film label scene, where he continues to work on published writing, film commentary and video essays for the likes of the BFI, 101 Films, Eureka, Terror Vision, Arrow Video, and Second Sight Films, as well as the YouTube channel Cinema Force. A lecturer and course leader in film at Nottingham College, he also delivers a range of cinema courses and talks at Broadway Cinema, including BFI Academy masterclasses.



Dr Adelheid Hanes, Curriculum Manager

I am the Curriculum Manager of Applied Science and teach on the BSc (Hons) Forensic Science course that we deliver at Nottingham College. I have worked at the college since 2011, teaching the Chemistry and Biochemistry modules on Applied Science courses. On the Forensic Science course, I teach the Chemistry and Biochemistry modules for years 1 to 3.



Jack Whittingham, BA Honours Film and Digital Broadcast Production student

I chose this course as I want to become a writer/director in the film and TV industry and felt that what this course offers are vital to my goals not only in documentation regarding qualification but practical experience in equipment, software and settings similar to the industry. I hope to break into the industry and turn my creative hobby into a dream career.



Chelsea Wright, BA Dance & Education student

I am currently in my second year studying the BA Dance & Education course at Nottingham College, I have always had a passion for dance and I dream of having a dance career, I really enjoy the teaching part to my course as working with young students is an interest of mine. Prior to this, I studied at Nottingham College on a Level 3 dance and performance course for two years, in which I completed and achieved a diploma in dance, helping me take my dance career further and allowing me to apply for the Higher Education course. After I complete my degree, I am hoping to get a job in the industry teaching dance. I am also hoping to make connections and meet people within the dance industry, to help fulfil my dream of having my own dance studio.



Arina Teplynska, BA Acting student

I'm Arina. I'm 21 and doing a BA acting course. I was doing level three Musical theatre before, and after I finish my BA course, I want to be a theatre and screen actress.



Carl Reast, BSc (Hons) Forensic Science student
BSc (Hons) Forensic Science. It is validated by OU. Currently Level 5.



Sofia Butt, BSc (Hons) Forensic Science student
BSc(Hons) Forensic Science. It is validated by OU. Currently Year 2.



Jack Dawes, BA(Hons) Film and Digital Broadcast Production student
Currently level 5.

Solihull College and University Centre



Claudine Barnes , Head of Higher Education and Research
Has worked in the FE sector for 30 years, primarily as a FE then HE lecturer, teaching land-based animal programmes. Have now ditched the wellies and lab coat and am working as Head of Higher Education and Research.



Kirsten Letts, Programme Lead
Background in Veterinary Nursing. Currently programme lead on FdSc and BSc (Hons) Animal Behaviour and Welfare (OBU), teaching across levels 4 to 6. I have a love of Bonobos and special interest in British wildlife and exotic species.



John Murray, Academic Skills Tutor
My background is in English/History. I've worked in the HE and FE sector since 1995 and am currently the Academic Skills Tutor for the HE students at the college.



Mark Harding, HE Lecturer
Having gained a BSc in Sports Science, I started out as a PE teacher/lecturer. I then made the move into supporting students with additional needs and now enjoy educating other professionals in this field as a HE lecturer.



Ryn Evans, Animal Welfare and Husbandry HE student

An animal welfare and husbandry HE student with a particular love of parrots and other exotic species, hoping to get into the teaching sector.



Chancelle Green, Foundation Degree in Specialist Needs and Disabilities and Inclusive Practice student

Having backgrounds in IT programming, hair and beauty, vehicle quality control, and exam invigilation has helped me build strong resilience, adaptability, and communication skills. My personal experiences, along with a strong sense of justice, led me into the education sector, where I now support children as a primary school Teaching Assistant. I find real purpose in helping children grow in confidence and feel included, particularly when supporting those with additional needs. I am studying for a Foundation Degree in SEND Inclusive Practice and will progress to a BSc next year, working towards becoming a teacher and championing inclusive education for all children.



Kiara McGinley, Foundation Degree in Specialist Needs and Disabilities and Inclusive Practice student

With six years' experience across TA, mentoring, and teaching roles, I now lead pastoral and forest school provision in an alternative setting. I'm completing a Foundation Degree in Specialist Needs and Disabilities and Inclusive Practice and will begin my BSc next year as I work towards a SEND teaching and counselling pathway.



Nicki Haycox, Foundation Degree in Special Educational Needs and Disability in Practice student

Predominantly having 20 years' experience in the Health and Social Care sector but with a passion for Mental Health and Learning Disabilities I now work in a SEN school, as a TA. Currently studying foundation degree in Special Educational Needs and Disability in Practice and am continuing with my BSc next year with the hope to pursue teaching and become a school SENCO.

Ellie Bell, Foundation Degree in Special Educational Needs student

Having 6 years' experience working with SEND children and adults aged 2-50, across both mainstream education and the wider community, I have developed a strong passion for supporting individuals with additional needs. I currently work part-time in a mainstream primary school as a 1:1 Teaching Assistant, supporting children with high levels of need, alongside my role with a charity where I help lead sessions that enable individuals with additional needs to access their local communities and build meaningful connections. I am studying a Foundation Degree in Special Educational Needs, with the intention to complete my BSc next year. While I am still

exploring my long-term career path, I am committed to making a positive impact within society by advocating for equal opportunities for SEND pupils and supporting them to reach their full potential.

Walsall College



Tyler Millard

A dedicated Public Services student with a passion for policing and a quiet determination to succeed. Tyler has grown significantly throughout his time on the programme, building confidence, strong relationships, and a clear vision of his future career as a police officer.



Shania James

A resilient and compassionate student whose personal journey has driven her ambition to make a difference in the lives of others through a career in the police. Shania has developed into a confident, independent and empathetic learner who brings both lived experience and genuine dedication to everything she does.



Lily May Wood

A hardworking and detail-oriented student who has overcome significant personal challenges to pursue her goal of becoming a detective or criminologist. Lily's commitment to her studies and her ability to adapt and persevere have been a constant source of inspiration throughout her time on the programme.



Cameron Rhodes

An ambitious and open-minded student with a strong sense of identity and a clear vision of their future in criminal investigation and beyond. Cameron brings a thoughtful and determined approach to their studies, with aspirations that stretch all the way to postgraduate research and a career in detective work.



Richard Jones

Richard Jones is a Lecturer in Protective Services with a passion for supporting students to reach their full potential, both academically and personally. Richard's commitment to his students goes beyond the classroom, driving innovative research that places student voice and experience at the heart of everything he does.