

JUNE 2020

TEACHING ASSISTANT SHORTLISTED FOR EDUCATION'S OSCARS

Sarfraz Shaikh, who works at our Wigston Campus is in the running to win a Pearson National Teaching Award as Teaching Assistant of the Year. Selected from thousands of nominations, Sarfraz Shaikh is one of 87 extraordinary teachers, lecturers and school staff who have been shortlisted for the prestigious Pearson National Teaching Awards.

Sarfraz was nominated in the Teaching Assistant of the Year category for his expertise, diligence and commitment to ensuring his students reach their full potential. He supports High Needs students, many with autism, helping them to progress with their qualifications and successfully move on into further study and higher education.

He is now in the running to become one of the prestigious scheme's Silver Award winners. These will then compete to win one of just 14 Gold Awards which will be announced as part of a televised UK ceremony later in the year, due to be broadcast on the BBC as 'Britain's Classroom Heroes'.



Chris Nixon, Director of Student Experience and Support at NWSLC said:

"I am delighted to hear that Sarfraz has been shortlisted for this prestigious national award. His dedication and commitment shine through and he always gives 100 per cent in his role supporting students with High Needs. The students that Sarfraz supports face some challenging issues and he works closely with their parents to help them, not only to progress in their studies, but also to get the best out of college life and to become as independent as possible."

COLLEGE PLACES FOR SEPTEMBER 2020 GUARANTEED!

We are keen to reassure everyone who has applied that we are on track with applications and are still carrying out interviews and making offers for courses that start in September 2020. Despite the lockdown, the college is happy to guarantee places for all that apply, and no-one needs to worry about missing out.

If you have already applied, our friendly admissions team will be in touch to tell you about how interviews will work. Although there won't be any

GCSE exams this summer, you will still receive your grades on Thursday 20 August 2020 as originally planned. This year, grades will be estimated by your teachers who are working with exam boards to make sure that grades are set as fairly as possible.

Your grades will be based on various factors including what you have already achieved. The college will use these grades to help decide on the best place for you to start with your studies after the age of 16.

So, there's no need to worry, whatever GCSE grades you receive, we will find a place for you at college.

We're still keen to hear from students who want to apply for a college place for September 2020. If you would like further details, please contact the admissions team on 0330 058 3000 or email admissions@nwslc.ac.uk.

NWSLC STEPS UP TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY DURING CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

The college is proud to support our local communities during these uncertain and challenging times, in particular by helping keyworkers to continue their valuable work while we take care of their children, and by making donations of food and personal protective equipment (PPE) to local hospitals and hospices.

The college remains open at its Nuneaton Campus to support the children of keyworkers and vulnerable students including those with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Our special 'mini school' provision

has been extended to all four schools within the Midland Academies Trust. Students are continuing to study as well as taking part in fun activities including music, sport and exercise. Some are even learning to play the ukulele!

For current students who need extra help with any aspect of their lives, the college is running a welfare drop-in session every weekday at our Wigston and Nuneaton campuses between 11am and 1pm.

OUR ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY HAVE INCLUDED:

- Collating and distributing care hampers and food vouchers to vulnerable students and their families.
- Making a donation of pre-packed sandwiches to the Leicester South Food Bank at the King's Centre.
- Designing and producing protective headbands for NHS staff to help make their face masks more comfortable using fabric donated by Ash Fabrics from Leicester Market.
- Organising cases of Britvic soft drinks, supplied by its logistics partner, Wincanton, to be provided free of charge for nursing staff at Leicester Royal Infirmary.
- Donating vital supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE) to the Mary Ann Evans Hospice in Nuneaton including 5,400 pairs of disposable gloves, more than 3,000 aprons, ten pairs of goggles, 50 pairs of safety glasses and 60 face masks.
- Supplying around 3,000 pairs of disposable gloves, 3,000 aprons and around 60 pairs of goggles and masks to the NHS for use by frontline staff.
- Using a 3D printer at the college's MIRA Technology Institute to manufacture protective face masks in partnership with HORIBA MIRA for use in care settings across the Midlands.



CARPENTRY APPRENTICE WINS TOP INDUSTRY AWARD

Carpentry apprentice Joel Wilson, who works for Broughton Astley company M&O Building Contractors, has been named Apprentice of the Year at the 2020 Building Communities Awards. Hosted by procurement consortium, EEM Ltd, the awards are designed to recognise and celebrate professionalism, excellence and innovation within the housing and construction community.

Joel Wilson, who is based at our Wigston Campus, started working with M&O nearly four years ago as a labourer. His teammates enable him to tackle tasks independently, providing advice and assistance where needed, and Joel has grown in confidence. Project managers now ask for Joel to work on their projects because he has built up a great deal of experience and knowledge since starting his studies.

M&O has a UK-wide contract with NHS hospitals, so Joel often works away from home. The college arranged for Joel to attend classes on a block release basis. Joel's dedication and effort meant that he achieved his apprenticeship in 20 months, and he has now progressed on to an advanced apprenticeship.



Katy Urwin, Director of Apprenticeships said:

"We're delighted that Joel has been recognised as part of the Building Communities Awards and pleased to have been able to assist M&O to grow their own talent and expand their skilled team. Joel is in great position to progress in his career and we wish him the very best of luck for the future."



STUDENTS MAKE MEMORABLE TRIP TO POLAND

In March, twenty-six Public Services students based at our Wigston Campus visited Krakow in Poland. The group was taken on a tour of Birkenau on the first day before travelling to Auschwitz for a deeply moving tour. The former Second World War concentration camp had a profound impact on the students, many of whom said that it was an experience that they would never forget. Unfortunately, due to the outbreak of COVID-19, students were not able to complete their planned visit to Schindler's Factory Museum. However, this didn't detract from a fantastic learning experience for both students and staff.



NEW DEPUTY PRINCIPAL APPOINTED TO LEAD CURRICULUM AND INNOVATION

NWSLC has been further strengthened by the appointment of a new member to its executive team. Thomas Hamilton-Dick joined the college as Deputy Principal – Curriculum and Innovation with a brief to build on the organisation's successful Ofsted inspection and to develop an ever more agile and responsive curriculum offer.

Tom, who moved from a senior position at Nottingham College, has a background in the media and has experience of working in the USA as commercial camera operator. He began his teaching career at Grimsby College as a lecturer and swiftly progressed into a wider course leadership role moving on to positions at North Nottinghamshire College and South Essex College before returning to New College Nottingham.

Tom said, "The passion, commitment and enthusiasm for the success of students from everyone I've met so far has been overwhelming and I'm delighted to be part of the NWSLC community. Education is in my blood and I am frequently humbled by witnessing the positive difference that further education makes to peoples' lives every day.

"I am committed to working with my colleagues, our students and all of our stakeholders to build on our recent Ofsted 'Good' rating to ensure that the college continues to provide a first-class student experience."

COLLEGE STUDENTS SUCCESSFUL IN SECURING ROLES AT RAGDALE HALL

Beauty therapy students from NWSLC have excelled as part of a national Ragdale Hall competition to identify 'Students of Excellence'. Finalist Pialara Tomlinson was judged as runner up overall.

Pia and her fellow finalist Alicia Ford, have both been offered the chance to work at Ragdale Hall as beauty therapists with a generous cash bonus due on completion of one year's employment. Part of Pia's prize was an evening spa experience for two.

Joining Ragdale Hall when they have completed their qualifications comes with the opportunity to progress further in their studies with the spa's dedicated advanced beauty therapy diploma that includes professional training on the use of brands such as Decleor, Clarins, Elemis, Spa Find and O.P.I.

Rachel Atkins, beauty therapy tutor said:

"I am really proud of Pia and Alicia who have both worked extremely hard throughout the entire process. They are great ambassadors for the college and the beauty therapy team, and we are sure that they have great futures ahead of them within the beauty therapy industry."

