

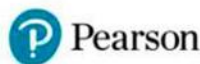
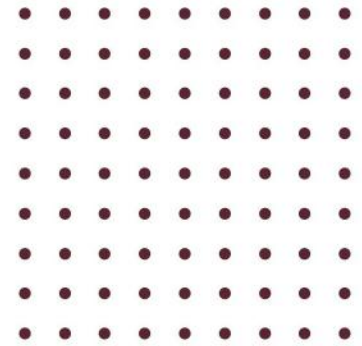


CECOS INSIGHT

2021 New Year Special

Official Publication of CECOS Collage London

NEWSLETTER



SUPPORTED BY
MAYOR OF LONDON



PRINCIPALS MESSAGE

Well as they say out with the old and in with the new!

2020 found us adapting to on-line teaching and delivery a new concept to all overall things went extremely well. We took possession of our new Campus at Edmonton Green with its 11 lecture rooms, 2 IT suites communal areas as well as an excellent coffee shop. We have ensured that the whole site is Covid19 safe and ready so as soon as we can welcome learners back onto the Campus. In addition, we opened a Campus in Newcastle upon Tyne and in Luton for the operation of our further education provision all of which are operating really well.

2021 brings a new year and the vaccine that may see a return to some face-to-face teaching in the spring. We have a record number of higher education learners 952 in total on our range of programmes. Increased numbers on our Diploma in Education and Training and on the Staffordshire University BA(Hons) Business Management top up degree. In addition, we are delivering record numbers of learners on our further education programmes so a great start to the New Year. Due to the increase numbers of students, we have recruited several new lecturing and professional staff to the CECOS team, and they are very welcome. It is worth noting that from our HNC/D programme the results statistics for the September 2020 showed a 98.08% submission rate and an 84.22% pass rate demonstrating our excellent learning and teaching methods and thanks to all the brilliant CECOS family.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our learners good luck for this year we are here to support you keep well and stay safe!



CELEBRATING CECOS COLLEGE COLLABORATIONS

NEW COLLEGE SWINDON AND CECOS COLLEGE PARTNERSHIP

New College Swindon first met with CECOS College in November 2019, at which point it was immediately apparent that CECOS were able to offer a high quality, student focused service that complemented the College's existing offering.

New College receive regular approaches from training providers seeking partnership arrangements, which in the majority of cases the College elects not to pursue.

However, it was clear from the initial meetings with CECOS that they very much had the best interests of the learners and students at heart and therefore a proposal was submitted to the College's Governing Body to consider entering into a partnership agreement with CECOS College.

The partnership commenced in February 2020 (just prior to the first lockdown period!) and despite the challenges that the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has provided, the partnership has continued to grow and thrive since this time.

New College Swindon partner with CECOS College on both Higher Education qualifications and also Adult Education provision. This includes the HNC and HND in Business, the Diploma in Education and Training, together with functional skills qualifications in literacy, numeracy and ICT. Paul Jones, Head of Partnerships and Bids at New College Swindon, said "Since partnering with CECOS back last year, I have been extremely impressed with their levels of service and support offered to students, particularly during what has been such a challenging period of time for training providers, students and employers alike. I firmly believe that CECOS will continue to be a quality partner of New College Swindon; one with whom the College may forge a long-term, mutually beneficial partnership. I have no doubt that you have made a good choice in choosing CECOS College as your training provider and I wish you the very best of luck with your studies."



Paul Jones
Head of Partnerships

2021 FOR FURTHER EDUCATION

Despite the lockdown restrictions and our team getting to grips with working from home again, the FE team has been as busy as ever and continue to do a great job. Our dedicated team of Tutors continue to deliver our online courses successfully. As a team, they allow us to offer a flexible timetable which offers students a wide choice of class times around work and home schooling commitments. Our admin team meetings are held 3 times a day to ensure the team do not feel isolated and have clear tasks for the day ahead. Even during the pandemic, our team has continued to expand. Please welcome to our CECOS family Nazia and Tatiana, who have recently joined the administration team.

Nazia



Tatina

Learner Celebration

We continue to celebrate the success of our learners and are proud to share our case study on Afreen Farhan one of our North of Tyne Learners. Afreen had been unemployed for three years since coming to the UK from Syria and has settled in Newcastle where she has made a life and friends. After coming to CECOS College for a virtual IAG session with one of our advisors she was signed onto the Employability course in an effort to find employment and Functional Skills English to help her improve her spoken and written English.

Afreen's Tutor commented

"I noticed Afreen lacked confidence with reading and writing English even though her diagnostic showed that she was working around Level 1. This was affecting her motivation when starting the qualification so we put a plan of action in place which involved a blended teaching and learning style of voice observations and presentations which helped her complete parts of the work, but our long term goal was to improve her English so I got her to do a number of research activities which helped her to research key words and then go through those words if she did not understand them". As a team Afreen and her tutor worked together on improving her English and at the same time she got the additional help she needed on applying for jobs.

Afreen said of her experience

"Although I had been at CECOS College for a short period of time, I have been made to feel welcome. As soon as you enter your online class you are greeted with a smile from your tutor. Everyone at CECOS College has been helpful, courteous and polite. It has an atmosphere that makes you want to come back". "In the class the tutor continuously asked if anybody had any questions or did not understand the subject being discussed. The lessons went on at a steady pace that you had enough time to absorb everything. The nicest thing of all is you were not made to feel uncomfortable even when you ask a question which may be silly. I can assure you that I wouldn't have improved my English without the CECOS Team". "I am very grateful that I managed to get on this course. Thank you very much for everyone who helped me through this very pleasant journey."
Big Well done to Afreen and we salute you.

Learner and team wellbeing

Working together with our HE department we held our first joint coffee morning this month. It was great to see students from both FE and HE coming together to share their experiences. The coffee morning also give our students an opportunity to socialise virtually during these difficult times of lockdown. Nazia did a great job of sharing her top tips for staying motivated whilst studying during lockdown - Well done Nazia!! Our Operations Director Hariss Pervez, signposted students who are also juggling their own studies with home schooling to our Facebook page. We have links to excellent resources which may help with home schooling children of all ages. Mark Mabey our College Principal, hosted the coffee morning offered support to learners who may be struggling with the lockdown restrictions. We also had the pleasure of being introduced to his chickens, bees and of course his now famous cats!! Finally, a big thank you to Shalini and Mark for organising our staff quiz night, which ended our week with singing, dancing and laughter!!

Written by Bev Ball



HIGHER EDUCATION UPDATE.

I am delighted to say that we had a series of successful 8 induction sessions for all of our learners on the HNC/D, DET and top up degree we now have 952 students studying at the College.

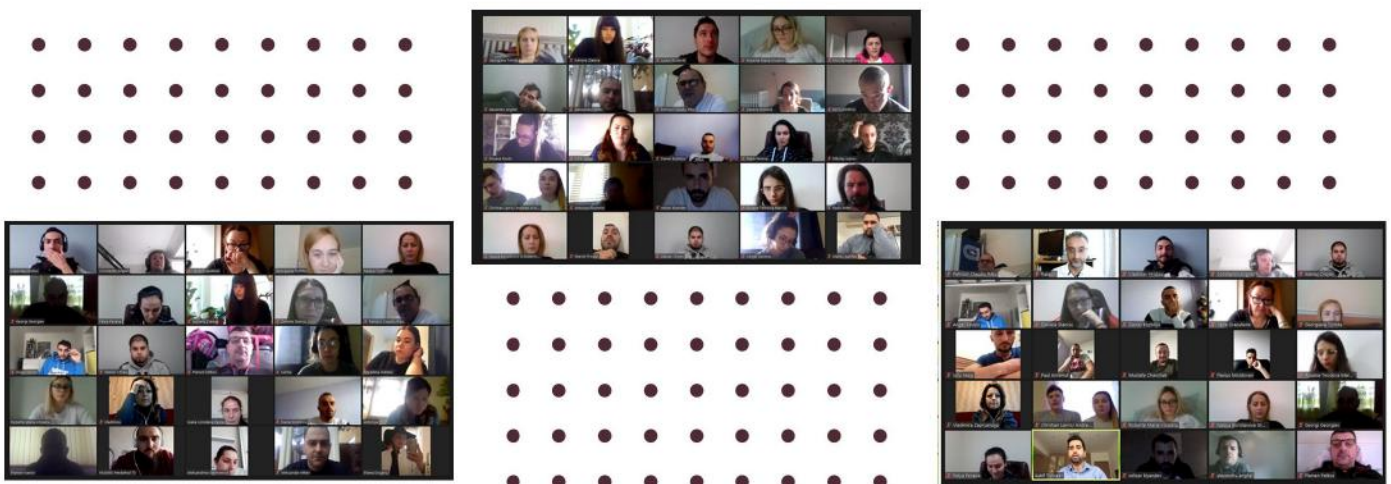
In addition, our HNC and HND results statistics for September 2020 term were outstanding with a 98% submission rate and 83% pass rate which demonstrates the excellent teaching at CECOS. Our students come from non-traditional backgrounds are generally mature and for most English is their second language, so this is an amazing achievement and congratulations to all. We now have 124 students that have progressed from the HND onto the Staffordshire University top up degree.

In August 2020 CECOS College was formally approved as a partner of Staffordshire University to deliver the Level 6 BA (Hons) Business Management top up degree. In September 2021 the College will be offering a foundation year and year 1 of the BA (Hons) Business Management & Sustainability with us running the full 3-year honours degree in September 2022. This is a great opportunity for our CECOS learners to gain a full honours degree in London.

Staffordshire University is rated Gold for teaching excellence, was shortlisted for University of the Year in 2020, is rated in the top 15 Universities in England for teaching quality and social inclusion (Times University Guide 2021).

Students enrolled on the Staffordshire degree have full access to all the University facilities and amazing e-library and associated materials. There will be joint lectures and eminent external speakers so a great opportunity for CECOS learners. On completing the degree programme learners will attend the Staffordshire University Degree Ceremony

Induction January 2021



CECOS College Helping Parents in London

Our Steps to Success project went live in January is specifically aimed at engaging and supporting parents aged 16 or over with young children living in one of 28 London boroughs and increase the employment rate of parents helping those currently out of work into employment, and those in work to sustain and progress their careers.

Our objectives are to enable parents to enter or re-enter the workplace in a manner that works for them and their families and enable parents in work to increase their earnings and/or gain more secure contracts. The project delivers a range of personalised bespoke packages of support to overcome barriers to employment, progression in work or employment sustainability, in particular to maximise the uptake of available childcare support and provision of flexible activities to increase skills levels and overcome other social or practical obstacles. By working closely with employers in London we will increase the proportion offering family-friendly employment conditions and support parents to access government childcare support to which they are entitled but have previously struggled to access or are unaware of.

It is managed by the Greater London Authority and part-funded by the European Social Fund.

To be eligible for this programme you must be:

- A Parent aged 16 or over (with children aged 6 months to 11 years).
- Currently resident in one of the London boroughs.
- Unemployed (receiving benefits) or economically inactive (must not be in paid employment); or Employed (part-time or full time) earning below the London Living Wage (currently set £10.75 per hour).

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What Kind of Support is Available?

For Unemployed Learners

The following support activities will be delivered to a learner with a positive job outcome at the end of the journey.

Employability support

This activity is to help enhance the learners CV, interview techniques and job search skills. This will motivate the learner to try and sell themselves and encourage them to apply for better paid jobs leading to increased

Confidence building

Being confident at work is crucial for career success. It doesn't matter what work situation you are in - be it just starting out or running a company - confidence plays a massive part in the day-to-day activities in most occupations. Having a strong sense of self-belief can have a massive impact on your effectiveness and enjoyment in your job. It also affects how we communicate with friends and colleagues. The activity will go through confidence building tips, positive mental attitude, self image, self esteem and self worth. (MindSet)

Industry/Employer led training when going for interview

Based on the employer's ethos, this activity will focus and recap on what the potential employer expects from the employee especially around values and company morals. The training will also mentor learners on industry led trends so for example the use of

Work shadowing:-

Work shadowing will involve observing someone who has a role that the learner wants to be employed as to gain a better understanding of the role. Usually lasting only a couple of days, the purpose of shadowing is to achieve an insight rather than

Presentation skills-

potential job seekers who are well trained to deliver the company's key presentation whether they are giving a sales talk, rolling out a product, pitching new business, delivering a value proposition. The activity will help the employee grow in their role whether it is a nursery nurse or a cleaner as presenting or selling is included in all lines of work. Other examples of support include; One-to-one mentoring support, on going information, advice and guidance, Motivational and confidence building activities, Life skills, for example how to deal with authority figures, developing a work ethic, financial and debt management.



WHAT KIND OF SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE?

For Employed Learners

The Services will provide accredited units of learning at Level 2 and above in subject areas. Our packages are based on employer and learner demand focusing on their TNA results.

Units that we will deliver will specialise in the different sectors with research showing that the additional up skilling will lead to a pay rise. Units on offer that we propose to deliver are; this list is not exhaustive and will change based on ILP and TNA action plans:

Units of Education and Training

- Roles and Responsibility of a teacher
- How to assess learners
- Inclusive Learning

Units of Customer Service

Units of Health and Social Care

Units of Management

Units of Business Administration

Units of Business Administration

Other examples of support include;

- A tailored individual support package to each participant, which should include mentoring and/or face to face coaching to employees through the Personal Adviser. The support package must address each participant's assessed needs and may include focusing on increasing skills levels and working with employers to determine different progression opportunities, or providing Personal Adviser support to build confidence and motivation.
- Initial assessment must address the participant's current situation, i.e. housing, work history and 'Better off Calculations' and understand why the participant has remained in low-paid employment.
- A range of personalised progression outcomes must be agreed with wage progression always the primary goal. An individual progression plan mapping out how to achieve the progression must be agreed with the participant.

If you are a parent and intrested in being part of the project then please contact the team on 0207 359 3316 or email us at info@cecos.ac.uk



Could YOU be a mentor for DET trainee teacher?

As a new term begins, for those DET trainee teachers who do not have a teaching placement, CECOS college are supporting them to obtain one. It is difficult time for new and potential teachers as schools, colleges and Universities are learning to teach in a different way. Now all teachers are overcoming the novelty of teaching online and dealing with the challenges of ensuring online lessons are interactive, engaging and provide an outstanding teaching and learning environment.

So yes, it is more difficult when you are starting out and need mentor support when experienced teachers and organisations are also learning to do things 'differently'. However, DET trainee teachers could make your life easier. They could be helping YOU in break-out rooms on Zoom, supporting learners tackle the task set. They could also be 'your eyes and ears' in a big class to check learners are engaged with mentor support. And supporting you on delivering a Kahoot, which is a great 'check learning' exercise and give your voice a break! The DET trainee teachers are also involved in a quality project on Google Classroom with Functional Skills team. This is an opportunity for them to improve their 'digital skills' as well as develop interactive resources and practice teaching using this new platform that integrates well with teaching on Zoom. Therefore, being a 'mentor' could result in a 'win-win' opportunity for both parties.

Another area of development for a mentor is observing the DET trainee teacher and providing them scaffolding advice on how to improve. You will also be writing a lesson observation form, which is a skill and can be included on your CV. Most importantly, you will be doing what teachers like best and that is developing others to improve to become a teacher. Let me know if you are interested in being a DET Mentor. mandy@cecos.ac.uk.

In respect of the teacher training at CECOS College, there has been some changes to the teaching and support team that reflects the growth of DET. Marwa Koker is our DET administrator focussing on Work Placements. I, Mandy Hayward have taken over as Programme Manager. Pauline Johnson has joined us as Programme Leader, Mr Naweed Riaz and Alia Bano as Senior Lecturers and Odella Yue and Neelofar Abrahimi as DET Lecturers. These changes result in a variety of teaching styles, richness of experiences and quality to improve student support, teaching and learning.

So, all change for the students and staff making the DET Programme stronger for the challenges ahead. This includes the challenges of transforming our DET trainee teachers to teachers who have completed their DET qualification. Happy 2021.

Mandy Hayward MSc, PGCE, QTLS, ATS and CTEACH.
Programme Manager DET and Quality Lead
CECOS College London



STAFF IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Marwa Koker

What is your job role in CECOS College and what is a typical day for you?

My role at CECOS is HE Academic Coordinator for both DET and Academic teams. On a typical day, I mainly focus on administrative duties and act as a support member for my team, while assisting students throughout their academic experience at CECOS. This is the most rewarding part of my job as I believe that building a solid foundation begins with a bottom-up approach where all voices are heard and considered, as this enables greater innovative insight for collective expertise.

What is the one thing you cannot resist?

One thing I can't resist is spontaneity. I feel as though I can drop all of my plans for a well-thought yet impromptu motive in an otherwise routine day-to-day.

There's something about free-flowing and the surprising element to it that gives me a sense of curiosity, and it also allows you to explore a renewed mode of creativity.

What is your greatest fear?

Where most people may have a fear of "failure", one of my greatest fears is success when there is potential to be blinded by it. Two ends of the spectrum can cause a major shift in your disposition, and there are always more things

Where is your favourite place to be?

My favourite place is any place I've found a home in. This can be anywhere with a person I hold dear to me, or in the gaze of a stunning sunset on the hills or by the beach.



STAFF IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Where is the best place you've traveled to and why?

Every country I travel to leaves a unique mark and evokes a storytelling moment recording two corresponding journeys: a journey in the outer world and a journey in the inner world.

One place I was most mesmerised and captured by was my trip to the Sahara desert in Morocco. I rode an hour on a camel to a small camp in this vast desert and spent the whole night sitting under the stars with bedouins around a campfire. We had no signal on our phones, and only the tranquility of the night, traditional folk music, and enriching conversation to accompany us. I come from a nomadic lineage so I felt deeply connected to each moment in the desert having left everything familiar behind.

My most transformative experience however was when I travelled to a number of refugee camps both on the Syrian border and in Turkey. The reason I would say it was the best place I've travelled to is because these experiences were most grounding and truly changed my lens in how I see the world, and the encounters I shared with the people in the camps remain with me till this day.

What would you do (for a career) if you weren't doing this?

In another life I would be a policy analyst so that I could put pressure on policy makers and influence decision-making and legislation. Outside of CECOS I can see my future resting heavily on business projects and ventures.

Any favourite line from a movie?

"Bye Felicia!" - Friday

If you could choose anyone, who would you pick as your mentor?

Khadija, Prophet Muhammed (pbuh) first wife.

If you could learn to do anything, what would it be?

It would have to be learning to play the piano again, and Farsi for literature purposes only.

What are 3 words you'd use to describe CECOS College?

Opportunity, Homely, Familiar.

What music is on your iPhone/Android phone?

A mix of neo-soul, alté, 90's soul and r&b.

What chore do you absolutely hate doing?

Taking out the trash.

If you could meet anyone, living or dead, who would you meet?

Mimar Sinan, Fatima al-Fihri.



MARKS CORNER

Life working from home for all of us is a challenge and although many of our students are home teaching their children, I have been attempting to keep my menagerie under control. During Zoom meetings my naughty little ginger kitten Lubey makes regular appearances and she loved my Christmas Tree that did not survive Christmas:



My other gorgeous Bunty Boy who I thought was a girl when I bought her and named after my great aunt fell off her perch and dislocated his Shoulder and had to have an operation poor boy he is on the mend :



Finally the snow arrived in Stoke on Trent and allowed me to find a lonely student in my garden !!



AND IN OTHER CAMPUS NEWS

January marked the start of another Lockdown so please follow the rules and stay at home.

At-a-glance: New rules in England

People cannot leave their homes except for certain reasons, like the first lockdown last March.

These include essential medical needs, food shopping, exercise and work for those who cannot do so from home.

All schools and colleges will close to most pupils from Tuesday with remote learning until February half term.

Early years settings such as nurseries will stay open.

End-of-year exams will not take place this summer as normal.

Elsewhere, university students should not return to campuses and will be taught online.

Restaurants can continue to offer delivery for food, but takeaway alcohol will be banned.

Outdoor sports venues - such as golf courses, tennis courts and outside gyms - must close.

Amateur team sports are not allowed, but elite sport such as Premier League football can continue.



AND IN OTHER CAMPUS NEWS

January marked the start of Lockdown 3.0 and the inductions for our HE and FE students.

We want to wish the students all the best in their student experience and well done to the staff in adapting to their online campus. A big virtual welcome back to our returning and new students for the new term. Our lecturers and tutors are geared up for another exciting term of online teaching.



A BIG VIRTUAL WELCOME BACK TO OUR RETURNING
AND NEW STUDENTS FOR THE NEW TERM.
OUR LECTURERS AND TUTORS ARE GEARED UP FOR
ANOTHER EXCITING TERM OF ONLINE TEACHING.

WELCOME BACK

Finally from all of Team CECOS have a great 2021 and make all your dreams come true.

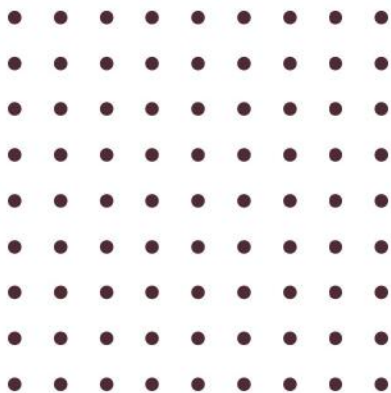


20/21

NEW YEAR
NEW HOPES



No matter how hard the past has
been, it is nearly time to begin again.
New year, new start and new career.



REFER — A — FRIEND

Please contact us for details if you want to Refer a Friend for our following courses:

HNC / HND in Business
Diploma in Education & Training Level 5
Functional Skills (English & Maths)



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