

Dear New Student

Whilst studying BTEC 90-credit/Extended Diploma in Travel and Tourism, it's been an insightful journey. From the very beginning of the course, you are required to attend a few hours of enrolment. This will allow you to start the process of joining West Nottinghamshire College. My enrolment was extremely welcoming, the tutors and staff help you with any questions or concerns you may have. Additionally, potential students had the opportunity to acknowledge who was attending the course and meet new, amazing friends. Tutors provided activities related to travel and tourism, by setting you off with an individual task and getting you to find an appropriate holiday for customers, with a specific budget and requirements.

My first official day as a college student, tutors knew I was nervous, however they soon encouraged me to feel at ease, with a fun and creative environment. Over the two years, many thoughts and feelings did cross my mind. From determination, commitment to many aspirations this course will give me. I have learnt a lot about myself by identifying I do need to work in relation to time management, punctuality and increasing my awareness relating to the travel and tourism industry. My achievements soon rocketed by having a positive mindset and with these in mind, it's easier to handle your workload accordingly and maintain a healthy lifestyle in the process. For instance, at the beginning of the year, my predicted grades consisted of DMM, due to the lack of effort in my GCSEs. However, with the help from my tutors, family and friends, my grades increased to D*D*D*.

Trips and visits are the most amazing part of the course. This will give you the chance to see some inspiring parts of the travel industry and country. Whether it's in the UK or Europe! It's important to embrace these opportunities as you will gain valuable knowledge for your assignments and provide employers with the useful experience you've already had. I went to Blackpool on a residential, The Gambia, Alton Towers, and the Christmas pantomime.

I have learnt many inspiring lessons about myself and college life. To be confident, ambitious, and passionate about my goals, and aspire to be the best version of myself. Therefore, even with many challenges and hurdles ahead, try not to let them distract you. Assert yourself with the task at hand such as your assignments. My family and friends were the people pushing me through, as I recognised it will get me further in my future career. They will give you a purpose to push through, and the efforts you put in will ensure you achieve in the end.

There are many difficulties you may face when studying travel and tourism such as, the content you are required to include in you work, completing your work to deadlines, putting together presentations and re-enacting role plays as well as preparing yourself to enter employment or higher education. However, all of this preparation helps to build your confidence and shape you into the desired individual employers look for. There are many ways to help yourself, including, balancing your work life to your hobbies and interests, maintain a healthy lifestyle (eat appropriately and exercise regularly). Put in place a realistic schedule and a daily timetable, of when it is possible to do your work. Most importantly,

allow yourself to make new friends on the course, as it will benefit you both to help each other in times of need.

Other tips:

- Mute all distractions such as, mobile phones. To ensure your full attention is focused on your work.
- Give yourself regular breaks and rest your eyes from screen time.
- Motivate yourself and be confident when presenting your assignments or acting out role plays.
- Go to sleep at suitable times, and ensure you are getting atleast eight hours of sleep a night.
- Ask your tutors for help if you are struggling with anything, that is what they are there for!

Good luck and I wish you all the best.

Amy Salmon