

The college offers brilliant experiences that benefits students both socially and with their education, helping shape them into mature and compassionate people. At West Notts College, there will be several opportunities for you to work on various collaborative projects as well as individual projects; allowing you to meet numerous new people who share the same interests as you, as well as those whose opinions may differ. These projects will also help you define what path you want to take in your future career – all whilst giving you an enjoyable experience.

As for the tutors and staff at college, I can say confidently they've been approachable, caring and understanding of all situations presented to them (whether this be mental health related or other reasons). They do their best to offer advice and are always there if they are needed. Not to mention that they have been working extremely hard during these constantly changing times to ensure our college experience, work and grades are not affected – offering solutions, advice and help.

I am a creative digital media student at the college and have worked on several extremely interesting units such as pre-production, 3D modelling, media representations and concept art designs. As the name suggests, a vast majority of our course is reliant on digital media equipment, with some pieces needing traditional techniques incorporated. In concept art class, we do a lot of experimentation and have a mix of traditional and digital techniques included within our coursework. Tutors advise students to work outside of class times – encouraging them to develop their skills effectively to gain better experience within the industry.

The Create hub is my personal favourite place at college. There are several rooms to use in free periods without being disturbed, our own set of toilets, a stage where other create members perform and although we are a separate part of college, we are still linked onto the main building with easy access to all facilities (with the cafeteria being less than a two-minute walk!) The college also has various factors in place to help keep the college sanitised and safe throughout these difficult times – with masks being mandatory (for those who can wear them) in all hallways and open areas, sanitizing wipes in all classrooms and sanitising stations on several walls throughout the facility.

I've enjoyed my first year at college incredibly. I've learnt several new media skills which will help me later within my career. The college has also already helped me make several connections within the industry, helping my name and work get out into the open. West Notts College also helps its students not only develop media skills, but also social skills, confidence building and a sense of professionalism.

To any new student at the college, my advice to them would be to not be too nervous! A good amount of nerves is natural, however don't stress about meeting people. Everyone is in the same situation and making friends will happen effortlessly. I met my group by organically clicking with them and finding similar interests – it all takes time! Remember to just relax and enjoy the experience. Good luck and hope to see you soon!

Christopher Andrea

Level 3 Diploma in Creative Digital Media (digital design and games)