

The transition from school to college was easier than I imagined it would be, due to the resources the college has to offer. During the first couple of weeks, we took part in activities that introduced students to other students, teachers and staff, which quickly removed any nerves that we had. The teachers couldn't put more work, effort or dedication into their roles influencing and shaping our career paths, nothing was ever too much trouble for any teacher. Very quickly, we became introduced to the college and the support system within.

The projects that we took part in were not only educational but were extremely enjoyable. The teachers helped us reach our potential with work that I could only dream of producing. My favourite project was a surface pattern project in my second year, which incorporated my love of illustration and colour, creating strong professional patterns. Each member of the teaching team motivated and helped us through any problem or issue we were facing.

We have studied a wide range of topics such as the body project, where we used various media such as printmaking, creating textiles, 3D work, using machinery such as saws, sewing machines and over-lockers, which was a really interesting skill to learn. As well as that I also had a really good time learning professional photography skills in the studio, one of the most intriguing parts of the course was learning to develop negatives using traditional specialist techniques. We were widely encouraged to produce work to showcase our individual talent. The course obviously has lots of drawing and painting and sketchbook work but being able to combine that with textiles has been really good fun. I have enjoyed creating multimedia work.

I found tutorials especially helpful, a dedicated time to catch-up on any work, learn about issues going on in the outside world and keep our tutors up to date on any issues we have in or outside of college. The tutors also use this time to review our grades and guide us on how to improve. During my time here I have made friends, laughed and had an amazing variety of opportunities throughout the two years such as work experience in a gallery and fundraising for charities.

I am now going to study Illustration at the University of Derby. West Notts College has moulded me in to the creative I am today. In year one I lacked confidence but the tutors supported me. In year two I found my niche with textiles and illustration and decided that was what I wanted to do.

**Christopher Dolman Extended Diploma in Art and Design**