

Dear future student

I'm writing to tell you about my experience at West Nottinghamshire College, where I studied Travel and Tourism Level 3 for two years. Overall, I really enjoyed my experience at college and although it was cut short due to COVID-19, I made some great memories and have gained many valuable skills.

From the day I applied to the first day of my induction, I was kept up-to-date with college announcements and course specific information, as well as being sent messages from the teachers who were all very kind and friendly. The induction itself was a week long and was a great start to the course as it gave us the opportunity to get to know each other, the teachers, get used to college life and have an insight into the course we'd chosen. We also had to take part in team-building exercises which were so funny and were the start to some of the best friendships I have made at college. We had to protect an egg from cracking when dropping it from a balcony and building a den out of newspaper, it was crazy.

I'll be honest, there are a lot of assignments and workloads but as long as you stay on top of it and spend enough time on it each week, then it is more than manageable and you don't get too stressed. But with any course comes work so we can't really moan about it. I always made a plan of what work and assignments I would focus on each day so as long as you stick to it and stay motivated to do it, then you'll be fine.

The worst thing would be to push it to the side because it when it gets to the end of the year you don't want to be still stuck at college doing resubs when you could be having a long summer! All of the teachers I had were great and they support you if you ever need it, and they're a good laugh most of the time! They made my time at college much easier and more enjoyable, and especially in the COVID-19 pandemic when we had to work from home, they were so reassuring and supportive. As long as you put the work in, you will get what you want back out of it.

My favourite and most memorable experience was 100% when we got to visit The Gambia in Africa, where we visited schools, local villages, beautiful beaches and a monkey reserve. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity and I would recommend it to anyone on the course- it's incredible and it will stay with you forever. Take every opportunity which college gives you and make the most of every chance which you get!

I hope you enjoy your time in travel and tourism!

**Jessica Darwood-Brown**