

Dear new student

I understand it can be a scary experience when you are coming straight into college from a school, but it's an experience worth having.

When I was introduced to West Notts, I wasn't exactly confident and it was a completely new environment to me. I didn't know who anyone was, I didn't know where I was going and it was for sure a scary experience. This year I studied an IT Technician course, and I must say it's one of the best courses I've ever engaged in as it's right in my area and it's something I feel comfortable doing. I met new people, I engaged with my new tutors and overall had a great experience that I was not expecting. I was expecting a college where nothing was ever getting sorted, there was no stability and there was no proper support available when I needed – yet I was wrong, completely! West Notts definitely has an amazing support system and I could list an endless amount of people that have helped me make it to where I am now.

The course I studied in computer science was scary and a bit confusing at first, but once we started getting into the course properly, I learnt a lot more than I could ever imagine doing so. My GCSEs weren't the best because of the school environment I was in didn't really feel comfortable to me, but college is complete opposite and I am on track to achieve a Distinction\* on my course, which I have never imagined achieving before.

This year, I volunteered as a student representative for my group where I was able to voice the opinions of students that felt things needed to be improved, introduced or changed. This was the best role I ever had and I was always finding ways to improve college and voice the opinions of those who have genuine concerns. The role was important to me and I was lucky to have such a role being assigned to me, I had great support backed by staff and our head of department was determined to make amazing changes to the college and was always welcoming any feedback she could get. The tutors are extremely friendly and understand every point you put across, they are always on hand to provide support in their free time and are determined to ensure every student is on the road to success – without doubt.

Personally, I've had a few bumps on the journey to where I am today, but they were easily overcome with the support of our head of department for computer science, who is really supportive. Without her and my tutors, I doubt I'd be where I am today. That just shows to me that staff are always there to help me out, whenever and wherever I need it and the same would apply to anyone.

Finally, if you do pick West Notts as your college, I wish you the very best. You have many resources available to you, always speak out and be confident, people are wanting to hear your voice and opinions.

Yours sincerely

**Josh**