

Barnsley College Deliver Technology Master Classes for Apprentices in Shropshire

Over two days, nearly 30 apprentices had a master class delivered by a Learning Technologies Specialist from Barnsley College at the Shropshire Apprenticeships base in Shrewsbury Business Park.. The master class was supporting both the Teaching Assistant Apprenticeship and the Information Communication Technician Apprenticeships, on how



technology can support teaching, learning and assessment and collaboration in a classroom, for all ages and for pupils in schools who require additional support.

The apprentices had a 2 hour session where they were shown accessibility software that is available in Microsoft products, specifically to support dictation, reading and understanding grammar. The technology also supported those pupils who find it difficult to read black writing on a white background – enabling the screen backgrounds to be changed to accommodate an individual pupils' needs.

During the session, held across the 24 and 25 January, the apprentices engaged with Rob Lea, from Barnsley College's main campus in South Yorkshire, who came over to deliver the sessions, using collaborative software, such as Nearpod and Padlet. The apprentices used their devices, phones, tablets or laptops, to answer questions, engage in quizzes as a group or as individuals, and even draw an image. The apprentices also experienced virtual reality (VR) to take them to Cape Town in South Africa!

One apprentice commented: "This is going to help me to support my pupils so much, and engage them through using the technology"

Another attendee added: "The immersive reader is brilliant – I never knew it was there – that will help focus some of my pupils line by line especially where it reads back to them what they have written!"

One student said: "The dictation option – wow! – that is really going to help pupils that have physical disabilities to engage – this is great – can't wait to get back to school to try this out!"

Rob Lea who delivered the sessions said it was great to come over and talk to the apprentices to see what they use now in the classroom and how some of these packages can support them to support the pupils to achieve and progress. Rob added: "As I work



mainly with 16 year olds and older students in our main college, it was great to hear some of the uses that these packages can do in primary and secondary schools. I look forward to coming back in September or October to repeat this session to new apprentices and also to hear how the current apprentices are now using the packages they've seen today."

For information on apprenticeships offered by Barnsley College in Shropshire, at our base in the Shrewsbury Business Park, please contact Karen Roberts via email

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