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February 2021

SHU APPRENTICESHIP NEWSLETTER



Yesterday you were contacted by the University about the potential to return to campus. As apprentices you will of course need to take account of your employer's policies and so we are being careful to identify the key priorities, with further information to follow. We continue to optimise the quality of delivery and

your opportunities to develop. Flexibility remains key.

Last week during an OfSTED visit I randomly received another person's monthly letter, that managed to sneak past my spam filter. I stumbled across this quote, attributed to Robert Jordan, 1994:

*"The oak fought the wind and was broken
the willow bent when it must and survived".*

The author of that newsletter was exploring the concept of *resilience*. Sometimes when we face a new challenge it can help to take new perspectives, perhaps adopt a flexible attitude. If we are open-minded as to how our values might apply when faced with a new context we give ourselves freedom to learn. Professional judgements are similar. As you progress the development of your knowledge, skills and behaviours, you will start to understand that they are not individual hurdles to be jumped one at a time, but they are more a fluid set of components that can be combined, merged and deployed with increasing creativity and impact.

Note. Upon investigating the source of the quote it became apparent that Confucius, Chaucer, Aesop and a Latin fable-writer - Avianus, to name a few, have all had something to say about oak trees, willows and reeds!

For those of you approaching your End Point Assessment. Your Course Leader and your Work Based Learning Coach will do everything possible to offer focussed support and identify strategies for finalising that KSB evidence at this challenging time. Keep focussed, keep talking.

Sam Moorwood, Head of Work Based Learning

Designated Apprenticeship Safeguarding Officer

Apprenticeship Focus - The Prevent Duty

In this edition I want to tackle a difficult topic, which applies to all Apprentices. The Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on higher education institutions, amongst others, to have due regard to the need to *prevent* people being drawn into terrorism (the Prevent duty). Balanced against this - Universities also have a general legal duty to secure freedom of speech on campus, within the law. Sometimes these legal duties create an uncomfortable interaction and ask difficult questions of us as individuals and where our priorities and values lie. As your Apprenticeship Safeguarding Officer I have always tried to encourage a space for mature and open discussion. For example, the insertion of British Values to the apprenticeship curriculum is an important part of the Prevent Duty, but must not be done without due regard to wider values sets of professional bodies and indeed your own perspective as an adult learner. Radicalisation is not a simple topic and any pre-conceptions as to who is a risk and what radicalisation looks like must be treated with caution as demonstrated by the prevalent global headlines from 2020. Visit the [Prevent section](#) of AllR for more information.

- The University has developed a process to provide a response to situations where sexual violence, harassment and hate crime have occurred.
- If you have any concerns about your own or another person's behaviour you can raise them through the [Report and Support website](#).



Andy Womble, Work Based Learning Manager

As a leading national provider of Higher and Degree Apprenticeships, with a diverse and growing Apprenticeship community Sheffield Hallam University was a big supporter of National Apprenticeship Week during February. In the last newsletter I flagged up these [Degree Apprentice stories](#).

Hot off the press, it is worth reading what these industry leaders are saying about you!: [The Value of Degree Apprenticeships](#)

If you want to build your profile including creating a case study and maybe entering an award you can speak to your Work Based Learning Coach, or drop me a line: a.womble@shu.ac.uk.

Over the coming months you will notice increasing communications about a SHU *Apprenticeship Network*. We want to bring together the important conversations and activities that take place, including:

- Course Representatives
- Competitions and Awards (including the Hallam Award)
- Academic Community groups,
- Apprenticeship Ambassadors
- Apprenticeship Alumni
- Apprentices and employers in the community
- The amazing opportunities you have with your Student's Union

Look out for future surveys as we try to build a picture of how you want to engage with, or indeed be a leader of the *SHU Apprenticeship Network*

All for now,

Andy Womble,

Work Based Learning Manager and Coach

Footnote:

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[AIIR](#) is a set of web resources developed to work alongside your apprenticeship programme, it includes: [Onboarding](#) [Succeeding in your off-the-job training](#) [Well-being and support](#) [Equality, diversity and inclusion](#) [British values and Prevent](#) [Careers information, advice and guidance](#)
