

IN THIS MONTH'S

EDITION:

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- ★ Celebration
- ★ Artwork
- ★ Meet Ivy Taylor

An update from Kirstie Barnes, Deputy Principal

As we begin the month of April, spring flowers have started to bloom, the days are getting longer and lighter and the winters chill is (very) slowly fading away. April represents **new life and light**, new beginnings and paths and a time for growth and moving forward in a **new and positive way**.



Therefore when reviewing the Celebration Event "End of Term survey" results, I was overjoyed to see that a great many of you, feel more hopeful and optimistic, have more meaning and purpose in your lives and that you have made positive decisions and changes since joining the Black Country Recovery College.

Thank you so, so much for taking part and completing our survey. It is so important as it helps us to ensure that we are creating the best possible environment for you, for your **new beginnings, moving forward and growth in your recovery and learning**.

April has also seen new beginnings and experiences in using technology, for many of our students. We are continuing to distribute tablets to our students who have no access to technology and the internet, whilst supporting our students in gaining confidence in using technology in their everyday lives.

More and more students are expressing an interest in co-producing and co-designing courses and projects, alongside asking about volunteering opportunities both within the College and externally, with our partners, which is amazing!! But what is just as amazing, is those students that have switched their cameras on after months of having no camera, those who have not felt confident to talk are talking and engaging in groups and those that have enrolled in more courses than last term and are really learning about their recovery and what works for them. **Well done to everyone!! – we are so proud of your achievements!!!!**

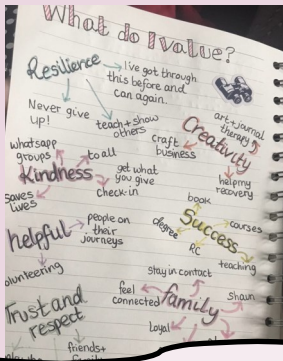
Celebration

Our online celebration took place on Thursday 1st April and we all had the BEST time! But we couldn't do it without our amazing students. We started our celebration this term with a reflective moment of remembrance led by Emma Louis, our Spiritual Care Team Lead, who gave us all time to think about family, friends and colleagues who were no longer with us. This was followed by a beautiful violin version of "Somewhere over the rainbow" played by our very talented Steve Jones. When Rachel followed a little later with an amazing rendition of Adele's "My

love" I don't think there was a dry eye in the house.

Our creative writers came to our rescue in the form of sharing poems they had written during the Poetry 4 Us course, they are certainly a talented bunch. And no celebration would be complete without one of our Quiz's to end the day. Check out some examples of our students work in Journaling, art and upcycling on the following page.

If you have a talent you would like to share with us please get in touch via email at info@therecoverycollege.co.uk - [#talentspotters](https://twitter.com/talentspotters)



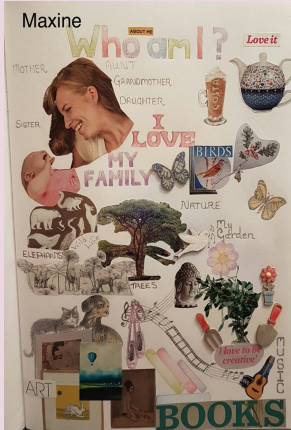
Journaling



Upcycling



Basic Art



STAFF STORY : *Meet Ivy Taylor*



Hi, I am Ivy Taylor and I'm currently facilitating courses at the Recovery College. I'm thrilled to be part of such a great team and I totally know the positive impact that the college has on students, staff and partner organisations. I have previously volunteered with Recovery College as a Board member supporting with discussions around volunteering. I have also facilitated Introduction to volunteering courses alongside students.

My previous work experience has been in Hospitality, Social Care, Mental Health and Voluntary Sector with roles like Event Coordinator, Hotel Night Manager, Support Worker, Hands On Project Manager and Projects and User Participation Manager. All these roles have enriched my experience and hopefully this is what I can bring to the team.

I am a mother, daughter, wife, friend, colleague and mentor. I love reading, baking, travelling and nature. I hope that the skills and experiences that I have learnt along my life's journey is something I can share. I have learnt a lot from the college: CHIME and Gratitude and I look forward to learning more both from students and the staff team.

I believe that we can all make a difference, however small it might be. I believe that we have to be the change we want to see and I look forward to paying it forward: sharing what I have learnt from all the people that have influenced my life in a positive way. Happy and grateful to be part of the Recovery College Team.

CONTACT US

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