

Meaningful Learning Experiences

Strategic Commitment	✓	Part of a regional, ESF-funded 'Careers Local' programme
Curriculum Provision	✓	Allowing students to research contemporary practice
Employer Partnerships	✓	Purposeful challenge in spite of organisational changes
Reflective Young People		
Informed Career Choices	✓	Up-to-date guidance about careers in photojournalism

GCSE Photography students test their skills against a picture editor's brief

The project was one of two presented to students at Bramcote College in Nottingham who were studying GCSE Art & Design (Photography). The teacher brief for the project stated that, *'Several students have expressed interest in using photography in their career or making a career from it, so real-life situations, specifications and opportunities would give them the understanding of how to incorporate it in their life after school.'*

A discussion with the picture editor and a staff photographer from the Nottingham Post resulted in a memo-style brief in which students were challenged to take photographs showing 'Hidden Nottingham'. The photographs were then submitted to a school Instagram page, using the tag #nottinghampost so they could be reviewed by the paper.

The project was completed successfully, in spite of staff changes within the school and, more significantly, a change in ownership of the local paper, with the new publisher making most of the staff photographers redundant.

A press release about the jobs threat provide information unlikely to be in textbooks: *'All of our journalists now have technology that allows them to take photos and video. We also have increasing access to copyright-free material. In addition, our readers submit their own high-quality images.'*

Benefits for the Students

- *'One of my teachers said (my photograph) looked quite professional'*
- If the picture editor said the same: *'... I'd be very happy and very encouraged to carry on with photography. It would make me feel a lot better because they are genuinely interested'*
- About the changes and job losses at Nottingham Post: *'In a way it would make me feel more encouraged and motivated to make people think differently and show them that I would be able to do it'*
- Finding out about the risks and uncertainty around the changing nature of photojournalism helped guide students considering further study and work in Photography

Benefits for the School

- The GCSE specification states that, *'In order to provide sufficient opportunities for research into contemporary practice, students can explore practitioners working in such areas as advertising, photojournalism, fashion, wildlife, industrial and technical photography, high street photography studios and film, television and video'*
- The Nottingham Post theme provided the focus for activity on a city centre field trip organised for the students by one of the teachers

Benefits for the Employer

- After initial discussions with the paper, the plan was to create a short, day-in-the-life set of video clips from one of the staff photographers
- Takeover of the publication and subsequent reorganisation understandably required a change in priorities with the staff changes
- In spite of all this, the project still enabled young people to submit their pictures for consideration by the paper using the #nottinghampost tag on Instagram



Instagram

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bramcotecollege Look at our talented photographers out and about snapping away for the #nottinghampost competition #bramcotecollege



11 likes

MAY 17

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Photographic roles under threat at Midlands dailies

By Paul Lester
Two Local-Word-owned dailies in the East Midlands are planning to axe up to five staff photographer roles in a radical restructuring of their picture-gathering operations.
The Nottingham Post and the Leicester Mercury are replacing their existing teams of photographers with smaller units with a view to making greater use of submitted content.
At Nottingham, the current team of five staff photographers will be reduced to one full-time content curator and two part-time photographers, one working three days a week and the other four days.



part-time content curator, one full-time of the existing photographic team of

with 11 employees, five in

"We have recently reviewed our changing to a new model that two part-time multi-media image

we employees.

them to take photos and video. We

images."

Nottingham Post
print • online • mobile

Memo

To: Year 9 students at Bramcote School
From: Marie Wilson, Picture Editor

Mobile phones have placed a camera in the hands of virtually everyone to record images that are shared routinely through social media. Photography is also an exciting subject to study and can become a rewarding professional career.

Nottingham Post is always on the look-out for great images and we want young people who are starting to study Photography to use everyday mobile phone cameras to find extra-ordinary images of their city. We want you to find 'Hidden Nottingham'.

You should use your creativity to interpret this theme, but here are a few suggestions:

- Discover the architecture above street-level when you in the city centre
- Find views that are framed through bridges and arches around the city
- Look for interesting and unusual reflections in rivers, canals and puddles

We will provide some top tips from one of our staff photographers and you should use our website and Instagram sites to get an indication of the standards we expect.

<https://www.nottinghampost.com/>

<https://www.instagram.com/nottinghampost/>

We expect young people to have a fresh view of the City of Nottingham, which is the subject of our publication, read by thousands of people every day. I am told your teachers will share your work on an Instagram site and you would tag your pictures #nottinghampost so we can provide feedback and - if they are good enough - use them in our publications.

Marie

A memo from the picture editor at the Nottingham Post challenged photography students to submit pictures of 'Hidden Nottingham'. A take-over of the paper mid-project provided a reality check for students considering a career in the profession.