

Derwen College is a residential vocational college for young adults with learning difficulties and has approximately 250 learners from across the country who follow a three year course.

We are only too aware that the transition between what we are familiar with and what is to come can be an anxious time. So, in an attempt to ease some of the anxieties for our learners we have introduced a new approach whereby we use technology to open lines of communication between learners and their next placement.

As part of the transition process, where possible, our learners have the opportunity to talk, through the use of video technology, with learners and/or staff at the organisation they will be going on to.

**The impact** Without exception, those involved have had a positive experience and the impact has been expressed through feedback:-

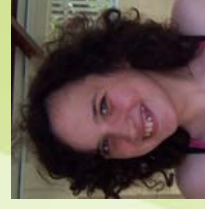


"I now have an idea about what to expect " - Ben

"It has helped me because I now have been able to ask questions about lessons and what they do in the evenings " – Hannah



"I feel excited about seeing them -  
I will be happy all afternoon now" – Mari-Fion



"I know a bit more about the college now and I will recognise the students when I go" – Mari-Fion

## Derwen College Horticulture



Moving on....

## Group Video Linking



*An excellent way to introduce communication technology and to make 'real' the idea of moving on.*



*"We all had a wonderful time, we are really keen for this to carry on in September and are even thinking about the possibility of integrating this activity into communication and IT lessons. I feel that the possibilities are endless"*

Walsall College 17/7/09

### **Think that you can't do this?**

*There is always an option ...*

- \* Video conference
  - \* Skype
  - \* Teleconference
- .....and more.*

*"We really enjoyed the link, it was a great experience for everyone including the IT team as it was the first time the college had used the equipment"*

Newbury College 22/6/09

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# Flash Forward



Using technology to open lines of communication



Giving learners the opportunity to talk to students at their transition organisation