

4 JANUARY 2021



PROGRESS REPORT MINISTRY OF LIFE EDUCATION CIC



WCVA - Voluntary Services Recovery Fund

Comic Relief - Voluntary Services Emergency Fund

MOL EDUCATION



CORONA VIRUS RESPONSE

It has been a rollercoaster of a year since Covid-19 forced our school to close in March 2020 but we have been determined to keep going. When the news of lockdown came, we had over 40 students on role over 5 different projects. We had to find a way to continue to teach and support them through tough times.

In conjunction with Cardiff and Vale College we were delivering two full time courses for post-16s at Level 1 and Level 2. We were also running a project for pre-16 learners who have struggled in mainstream education alongside Cardiff Council and Vocational Education Cardiff.

It is very important to us to make sure that the students keep receiving an education and that their mental and physical wellbeing is looked after. Luckily, pre-lockdown we helped a number of our students to obtain £250 Development Award Grants from the Princes Trust to buy equipment. This proved to be crucial for our ability to teach the students remotely using Zoom, Teams, Emails, Social Media and Phone calls. We managed to get all our students to finish their courses for the 19/20 academic year.



In September 2020 we managed to recruit 30+ students for our Level 1 and Level 2 courses, including 10 continuing students who moved from our level 1 on to our level 2. 100% of the students that completed the 19/20 Level 1 reenrolled for the second year. 6 of our learners from the 19/20 Level 2 progressed on to the Level 3 at CAVC. We also restarted our Pre-16 project and have enrolled 13 students. Fewer numbers for this project than the previous year due to the schools being closed for periods.

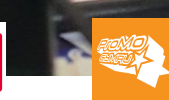
To be able to begin face to face teaching in September 2020, we needed to create a safe environment for the learners and the staff. We agreed with centre management at Eastmoors Youth Centre (where we deliver), that we would only have 4 socially distanced students on site at any one time, implement a one way system, adhere to regular hand sanitising and mask wearing in communal areas, encourage social distancing and deliver online classes to the students who were unable to attend or had received reduced contact hours.

During this period we found that we needed to increase our number of teachers to make sure that we could deliver one to one lessons whilst complying with the social distancing protocol. It also became apparent that we needed a designated tutor to cover the lessons delivered online at the same time. Our organisation had had no

assistance or grant funding for 4 years before the pandemic. Corona virus brought increased staffing costs and a loss of at least £36k in cancelled contracts. We needed some help.



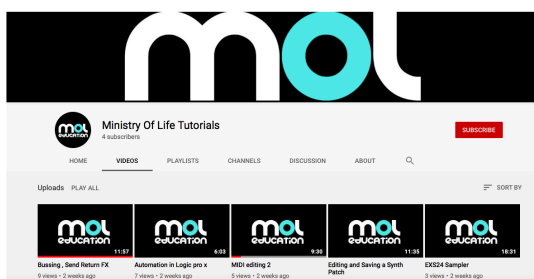
After applying for many grants, we managed to get £4.5k from the Comic Relief Voluntary Services Local Emergency Fund. This allowed us to purchase tech to lend to students so they could work from home. This was essential. Just having spare working laptops made a huge difference. We were also able to buy enough masks, wipes, sanitiser and gloves that we had enough to give to the students that didn't have any.





We have been able to make sure everyone entering the building is safe and has enough supplies at home to keep themselves and their families safe.

We also managed to obtain a grant from the WCVA for £26k, which allowed us to hire 2x full time members of staff on a fixed term contract of 6 months. One member of staff to help run the extra one to one classes that we needed to put on and the other to help develop our new website, online teaching portal and online tutorials. They are also delivering Zoom lessons for the students that are unable to attend class or have reduced classroom hours. The website is due to be launched in January 2020. It includes a log in facility so that students can have their own accounts and manage their learning through the portal. It has all the online tutorials and course documents needed to complete our courses.



We are very grateful to our funders, partners, staff, volunteers and to all our service users and families for their continued support and understanding in the last academic year and the current one. Our team has been dedicated to helping current and former students throughout the first and subsequent lockdowns. We are committed to continue to support them as best we can.

As part of the commitment that we offer our community we have:

- Organised online beat making and logo making competitions.
- Made regular phone calls to our existing and previous students.
- Worked with Cardiff Youth Service to deliver food parcels.
- Donated Tesco vouchers for independent students.
- Held weekly Zoom calls for health and well being.
- Created and distributed online tutorials.
- Delivered one to one online sessions for students.
- Run a socially distanced education provision for the Autumn20/21 academic year.
- Continued to run the pre-16 programme with Cardiff Council.
- Delivered education provision to over 40 students.
- Sign posted young people to essential services.
- Helped young people to obtain funding and access food banks.
- Lent out 10x Apple Mac computers to students without It facilities.
- Produced 4x Music Videos and content in conjunction with young people.



Now that we have received news that we are going into another lockdown from December 2021, until possibly the end of March 2021, it is important that we continue to provide our young people with the best education that we possibly can.

We have restarted the weekly one to one Zoom lessons with every student enrolled and we have allocated each teacher their own cohort to look after. The website is ready to go and the tutorials continue to be created and published.

The situation from now until March is unsure but we are going to continue to push forward, grow as a team and invest in the organisation and our students to make it the best experience it possibly can be, during and post Covid.

We would like to thank *Cardiff and Vale College* for their continued support, *Ministry Of Life* (our partner organisation) who have helped us with shared resources and projects including Cardiff Music Conference, *Cardiff Council* and *Vocational Education Cardiff* for our pre 16 project, *The Prince's Trust* for providing our students with equipment, *Cardiff Youth Service* for working in partnership with us and for the use of their venue, *WCVA* and *Comic Relief* for our Corona Virus response funding - which



has been so important for us to keep going during this difficult time and *Promo Cymru* for providing business consultancy and helping us during what has been a challenging time for everyone.

The Ministry Of Life Education team hope people stay safe and think of others at this testing time. We hope the pandemic does not last much longer and that we can all fight this together and come out the other side.

Much Love

The MOLE Team