

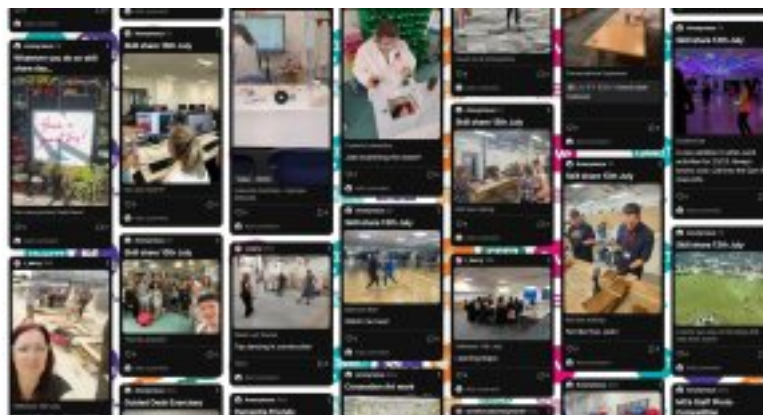


Skill Share Day

Employer: Middlesbrough College

Area: Cross-college

Theme: Keep Learning



13th July was the College's third annual Skill Share day. This is where we ask staff to share a skill they don't usually use at work with a group of colleagues. There are two morning session time slots, so even those who deliver a session can participate and learn something new. And "skill share" is a very loosely interpreted, so two colleagues brought in their dogs for a 'pat-a-pooch' session, while others delivered how to lay block-paving, hair braiding or introduction to language sessions.

This is easy to replicate for any organisation. You will learn lots about your colleagues and their hidden talents! The college provided the venue; staff sourced their own materials and the college reimbursed them for those. The majority of the sessions had no associated costs.

College staff are continually learning, mostly linked to their role, so Skill Share day offers the opportunity to re-ignite a passion for learning for fun, find a new interest, get some exercise and meet new people. The day helps to develop our "One Team" ethos and build positive working relationships.

In the afternoon, we get back to the more serious learning for our job roles, but the morning buzz continues. There were also Dementia Friends, Mental Health Awareness and Menopause Awareness sessions for staff to participate in.

We have a College "Better Health at Work" padlet page and invite colleagues to upload photos. Images attached are just some of those captured.





"I love skill share day. We have a laugh learning new things with colleagues I've never met. It doesn't even feel like learning. The tap-dancing was great. We had it in one of the construction workshops and learned some rhythms. We even picked up a brush and used that - watch out Stomp! I liked checking out the photos too, to see what colleagues got up to. I'm always jealous of what others did. There's so much to choose from. We have such talented staff. I can't wait to try more things next year."

"I think the Introductory Japanese and Silk Painting were highlights. I think it's good to have a diverse set of language skills in the college, it makes us more accessible as staff and breaks down some communication barriers often seen. It's also good to have sessions to practise mindfulness and be able to walk away from it with something that mindfulness created. Suggest a more staggered timetable to give staff a chance to attend more sessions"."

"BSL delivered by Rachael Dale was fantastic! I probably sound bias as she is a colleague but it was so beneficial and engaging I think the sessions could be delivered college wide. Also enjoyed the Plaiting, the lady delivering was lovely ... and patient! Willing to help all."

"Pat A Pooch was amazing! Ted and Joy brought us a lot of happiness and was relaxing to watch them. Resin Art was great - I really enjoyed being creative and Carolyn was a great teacher of the craft."

"Dementia session without a doubt it was excellent" "A taste of Greek was amazing - so interesting! The ballroom dancing was also excellent it made me want to do this more." "Ballroom dancing I called in the room when it



was in full swing. the energy was amazing !!! " Really enjoyed meeting other staff I probably wouldn't have met elsewhere and connect through common hobbies " "Football getting some exercise and meeting other people across the college " "I really enjoyed every session I went to, it was a great day and was nice to experience different sections of the college which I wouldn't normally go to."

