



# SCIENCE

Welcome to our Science newsletter specially created for you to see what's been happening in the department you will be joining this September.

Our students have been studying harder than ever, despite the lockdown restrictions, which meant new ways of working from home for much of the year.

Highlights include a trip to Barcelona and some great university offers.

## BARCELONA

Students managed to fit in a trip to Barcelona this year prior to the Covid-19 lockdown and travel restrictions.

Applied Science students explored the CosmoCaixa Science Museum and submitted project work to the Barcelona Institute of Science and Technology. Their Business to Business Communications Strategy profiled the skill sets of industry research scientists and outlined a networking career event bringing together researchers and industry.

But it wasn't all work and no play. Students visited all that Barcelona has to offer taking in Gaudi architecture, war bunkers on the hills above the city and of course Catalan cuisine.



## UNIVERSITY OFFERS

Level 3 Applied Science student, **Samuel Ngoma** has offers from the **University of Plymouth** and **University of Exeter**. The former The Westleigh School pupil wants to follow a career in marine biology.

**UNIVERSITY OFFER**

**SAMUEL NGOMA**  
 Course: Level 3 BTEC Extended Diploma Applied Science  
 University Offers:  
 - BSc (Hons) Marine Biology - University of Plymouth  
 - BSc (Hons) Ocean Science & Marine Conservation - University of Plymouth  
 - BSc (Hons) Marine Biology with Study Abroad - University of Exeter

**UNIVERSITY OFFER**

**MICHAEL COLIN LONG**  
 Course: Level 3 BTEC Extended Diploma Applied Science  
 University Offers:  
 - BSc (Hons) Psychology - Oxford Brookes University  
 - BSc (Hons) Psychology - Liverpool Hope University

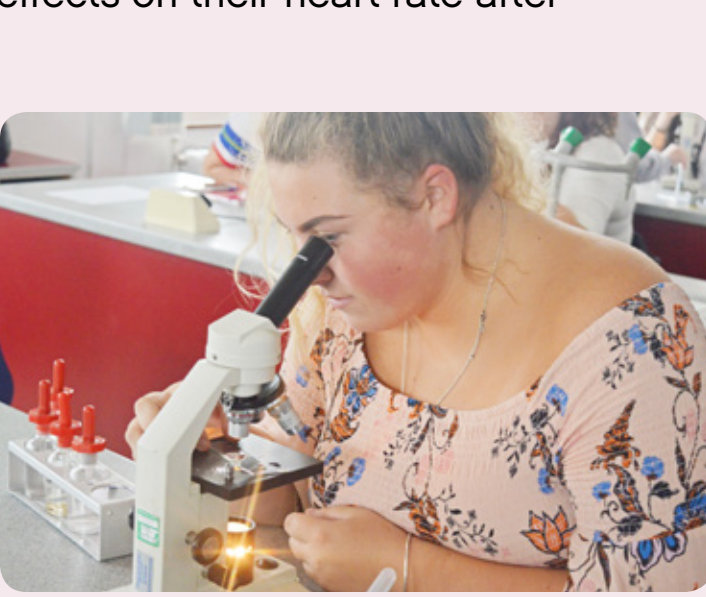
Level 3 Applied Science student **Michael Colin Long** has offers from **Oxford Brookes University** and **Liverpool Hope University**.

The former Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Engineering College pupil is considering a career as a therapist or social worker.

## BIOLOGY TASTER SESSION

Activities for Level 3 BTEC Applied Science and Animal Management students were certainly not for the faint-hearted, in a practical HND Applied Biology taster day at the University Centre Wigan & Leigh College.

The dissection of lambs' brains was just one of the activities, alongside studying Daphnia (water fleas) and the effects on their heart rate after exposure to drugs.



## HANDS ON AT UCLAN

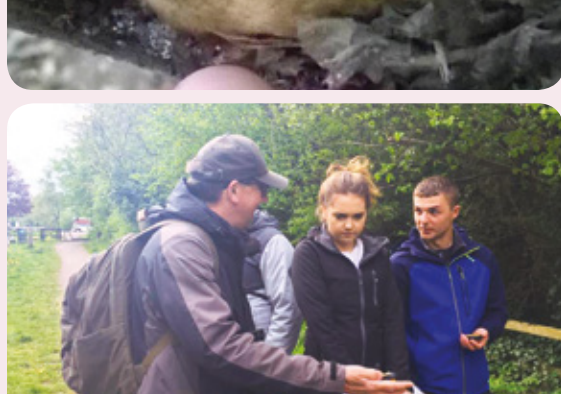
Students visited the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) to find out more about Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR).

They attended an undergraduate lecture on the background theory of NMR prior to viewing the machine in action, preparing and running a sample of a medicine.

As a core studies topic the experience of witnessing NMR in action was invaluable in developing their understanding.



## VOLE PATROL



Science students got out and about to explore water vole habitats along the Leeds Liverpool canal.

Experts from the Canal & River Trust and Lancashire Wildlife Trust's Carbon Landscape Project led sessions from canoe, land and classroom.

Students learned more about the ecology of the endangered small rodent, including its decline since the introduction of mink from America in the 1980s. Animal activists released minks from captivity to protest against unethical farming. Some escaped into the wild to prey on water voles, leading to a decrease in numbers.

During the eight-week project the group developed skills in surveying habitats using GPS mapping to plot and document findings.

They were looking for evidence such as small droppings and latrines, grasses that had been cut at 45 degree angles and burrows along the canal stretch.

Local reports from lock keepers suggest that the water vole has been spotted and the wider area does provide opportunities for them to flourish.

Student, Jake Sharland, is interested in a career in ecology and hopes to take up a degree apprenticeship. He added: "The project was great fun. Exploring the environment and local wildlife was really interesting."

To see more science students, staff and facilities click [here](#).

## COLLEGE TIMES

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Download the latest edition.

<https://www.wigan-leigh.ac.uk/news>

