

Celebration at a time of crisis

This year's graduating cohort have gained our admiration for the way they have adapted and responded to create something different from the usual at very short notice. Not only have they gathered their work to share with us in a virtual degree show but they've also created a series of events to celebrate their achievements. I suppose this should not be surprising, as they have been learning in an environment which highly values adaptability, problem solving and creativity. They also have the support of an amazing team of staff who have also adapted and innovated.

Right now, we find ourselves in a situation where change, fear, grief, anger and helplessness can easily feel overwhelming. Each one of our students embarked on a journey which had a structure and a map of expectations, then life happened, ripping up that map, disrupting those expectations, creating danger in addition to uncertainty. For some, circumstances beyond their control have meant that they've had to delay the end point until a bit later. We look forward to celebrating with them when the time is right.

However, disaster can be a turning point and hope is always a choice available to us.

Education requires open minds and open hearts, curiosity and positivity. We learn and grow from having a vision, then an intention and then taking action. That's the creative process. We learn most from trying and making 'mistakes' and we're stronger for it, the harder it is the stronger and sweeter the success.

In a wider context you are individuals, each with your own story, ideas and dreams. You are part of a community. We have ambitions for our students that we talk about when you arrive, for you to find yourselves, to realise your potential, to play your part in the world and to be 'agents for change'. Anyone would say if asked that they want things to be better, I cannot imagine anyone, whatever their ideas or beliefs or values wanting things to be worse. If we remember that, we have hope. People have different ideas about how to achieve that betterment. But we as individuals can activate our vision, think of our intention and act. Guided by love, kindness, fairness and respect, we can make a difference.

We have key values at Cardiff Met;
Innovation, Creativity, Freedom, and Diversity
And behaviours;
Courage, Trust, Accountability, and Leadership

We were asked recently to reflect whether there was anything else that in recent times had come to the fore.

For me it is Hope. This degree show evidences our values and behaviours beautifully

Through your work shines the light of hope. Brilliantly, dazzlingly, radiantly.

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Professor Olwen Moseley FHEA FRSA

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