

DEVELOPING THE CREATIVE CURRICULUM AT HEREFORD COLLEGE OF ARTS

Sarah-Jane Crowson & Neil Hadfield

Context

- HCA: specialist arts college with 20 year history of delivering HE courses
- College-based Higher Education; also have thriving FE centre
- Around 400 students on 12 degree pathways
- History of high NSS scores for teaching and learning
- Institutional drive to support our learners' creative futures

Flexibility in a world that is essentially fluid

- Inky goodness – wider learning ecosystems
- Joined up thinking:
- “the fuzzy interface where exciting things happen” (Eaton, 2016)

Modular Curriculum

Knowing

The Modular Curriculum with emphasis on 'deep' learning of discipline specific skills

Being

Reflective practice embedded curriculum.
Critical Studies module

Acting

Professional practice modules

Many opportunities for external collaboration

What is our journey?

We needed to create spaces for ambitious external collaboration:

- We are not metropolitan - 1 ½ journey away from Urban centre
- Our heritage is that of 'Crafts' and 'Fine Arts'
- We have to 'travel' conceptually and geographically

Case Study: Illustration at the Hay Festival



The Verb



On Now : Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert

LISTEN

Playing: Variations on a Theme of Mozart

[Home](#) [Episodes](#) [Clips](#) [Galleries](#) [Podcast](#) [Presenter](#) [Contact](#)

The Verb @ Hay 2016

The Verb recorded at the Hay Festival 2016, with guests Peter Carey, Tahmina Anam, John Mullan, Jasmine Gardosi, Danielle Lewis and students from the Hereford College of Art.

1/28



Hereford College of Arts Letterpress

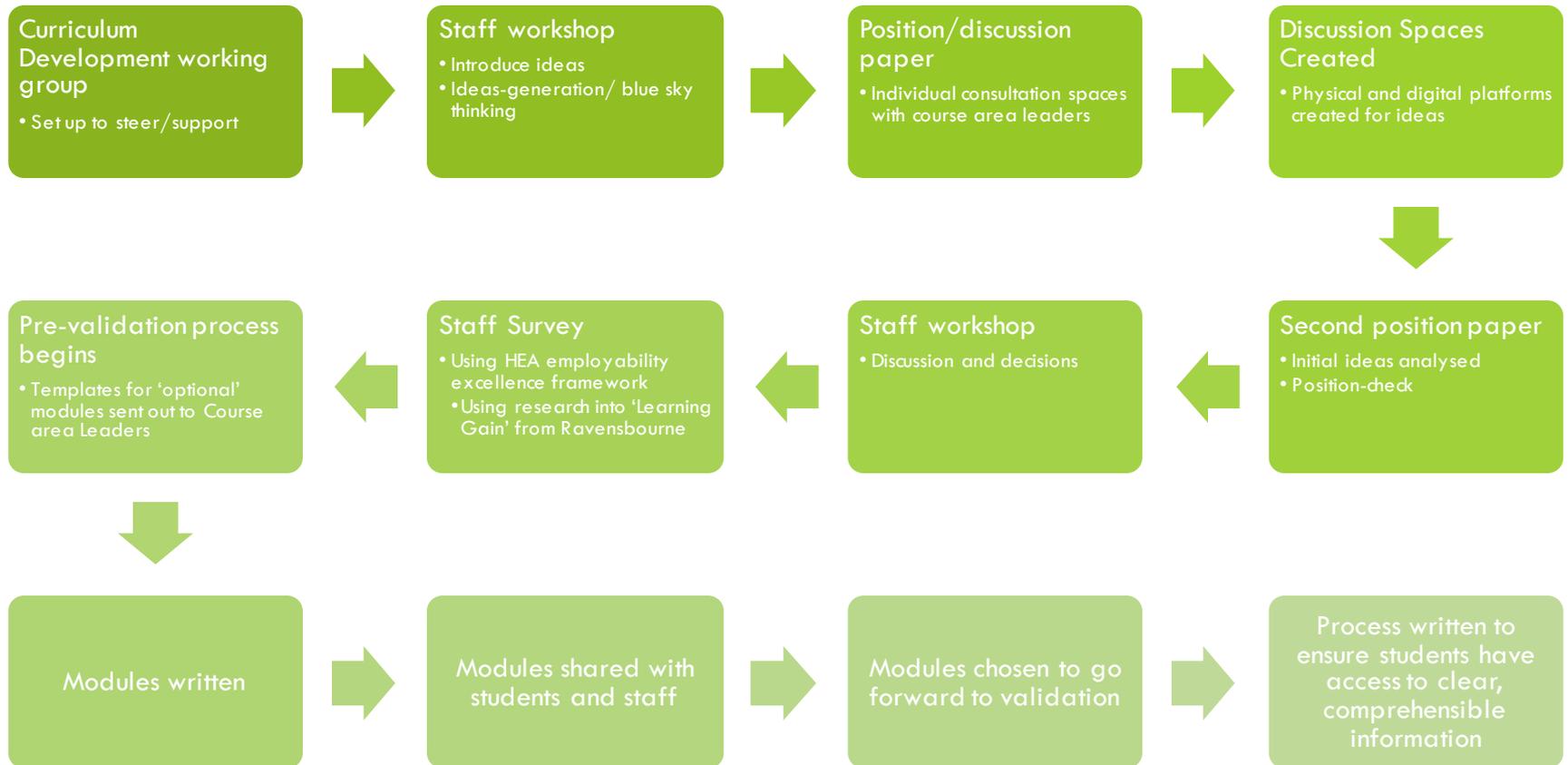
Students from the Hereford College of Arts brought their Letterpress to the festival



Evolving the curriculum -

- We reviewed how ALL courses deliver employability in order to improve experiences for ALL our students
- A complex process was set in motion to explore opportunities to further develop the curriculum – to articulate, embed and enhance our offer
- We thought about ideas of ‘scholarly spaces’; how we can create this across college
- We based ideas around the principle of having every module engage with an external experience

Process



Where are we now?

- Have **elective modules** written for L4 and L5
- Have cross-college off-site **collaborative event** planned at L5 ('The Great Hereford Take-Over')
- Begun to develop a network of non-assessed **freedom spaces** through a pop-up programme of audio-visual & discussion events
- 'Making Hay at Hay'

Workshop

- SWOT analysis – your existing curriculum
- Create ideas for optional or collaborative modules
- Consider our examples – how might these support learners skills of being, knowing and acting and enhance their employability skills
- Blue-sky thinking: what would enrich the curriculum at your own institution?

Process has supported staff self-reflection

- Ideas around 'place'
- Ideas around specialism and specialist pathways
- Holistic, developmental process
- We are building our course offer around our expertise and staff base
- Encourages staff and student scholarship and research
- Once collaborations start, pathways evolve organically and are student-driven