

Sixth Form Psychologists Encouraged to Consider How their Built Environment Feels



Psychology students at a West Midlands sixth form college have been considering the thoughts, feelings and actions triggered by their college building and classrooms. Sandwell Central Sixth is housed in a landmark building in the Black Country, previously known as 'The Public', which was originally created as a gallery and repurposed as a campus for A-level students.

Psychology Lecturer Kalbinder Berrick said, “When Kathryn approached me to create an assignment for the AS-level students, I thought it was a really interesting proposition. We don't cover environmental psychology as part of the A-level curriculum, but this was a great way for the students to dip their toes into it”

Over a period of three weeks, students participated in classroom learning and then created posters and leaflets describing areas of the college building and their associated feelings and actions. They also suggested ideas that could improve their learning and study experience during their time at the college.

These leaflets and posters were shared digitally, via the Built Environment Skills in Schools platform, allowing the students to continue working with employers and construction specialists to suggest solutions to the concerns and issues raised.

Kathryn Lennon Johnson, founder of Built Environment Skills in Schools, said, “Our digital platform is designed to get young people talking about the built environment in a way that makes sense to them, something that has been traditionally been lacking in the usual awareness-raising activity of courses and careers. Many of the students attending this taster course had dismissed such jobs, but now could see how they might actively play a part in a better built environment.”



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