



Dear Colleagues,

Happy Christmas!

Pictured are two BA in Social Care students, Nicole C (left) and Pippa McE (right) at a recent workshop. These students, along with others are a great example of the true spirit of giving this season; regularly baking cakes for their fellow students attending skills workshops each month. What a generous, inclusive and community driven act by two dedicated social care students.

Please see our office opening hours over the Christmas holidays below. For those dedicated folks wishing to kick off the new year with a popular management course, I have included details below of our HIQA compliant 11 week management course for PICs or simliar roles. There are also some details about our Patient Safety Complaints Advocacy course and our Supported Employment course starting in Spring 2026.

Wishing all of our students, past pupils, colleagues, supplier partners and fellow OTC team members the best of times over the Christmas holidays, and into the New Year!

Thank you for reading.



Christmas hours:
Closed 5pm, December 24th and reopening 9am on January 2nd.

Welcome to another year at the OTC, Debbie!

Deborah O'Donovan is a former student of the Open Training College and a very experienced member of the OTC team. She completed a Bachelor of Arts in Applied Management in 2019 and became an Academic Associate Tutor soon after.

She holds a BA (Hons) in Social Care from Cork Institute of Technology and has worked in various human service settings since 2007. Deborah has a keen interest in:

- Transition Planning,
- Person Centred Practice,
- Human Rights,
- Positive Behaviour Support, and
- Service Quality.

[Click here](#) for more info on the Academic Associate Tutor team.



Wellness: Our topic this month is self-care

"Self-care is the most important tool that you can have as a student, as a social care worker and as a person" (Chloe, 2023-2024 OTC student).

Our topic this week is making self-care a priority in 2026. Many of you might shout out that's all very well making plans to do this but this is very difficult to implement with so many things to juggle and challenges to overcome. Yes indeed balancing our professional and personal lives is difficult and it does place more stress and demands on us daily. So for now the one thing that is in our control is how we journey through this upcoming year - and how we decide to take care of ourselves during this time.

You can listen to the podcast [HERE](#)



Please take our quick survey which will help support our CPD planning for future CORU-registered practitioners

What is your attitude to CPD? As you know, after registration with CORU, there will be an annual CPD requirement for all. What will that landscape look like? Please click the link below and take our short survey which will inform our efforts in supporting our sector into the future. Please do not ignore this survey as it will paint an invaluable picture of how the OTC can position itself so that you get the most from our education and training options.

Please complete our very short survey [HERE](#).



CPD options: Upcoming Continuing Professional Development courses

Perfect for PICs! New management microcredential course - the [Certificate in Human Service Manager Skills](#)

I am happy to report that this HIQA compliant course sold out again last month so please don't delay in booking your place for January.

Course features:

- Delivered mainly online and totally flexible
- Only two in-person workshops to attend throughout the eleven week course
- Flexible, user-friendly online interface for daily interactions
- Price per participant for this two-module, QQI award is €645. Apply now! All course details can be found [HERE](#)
- Application deadline: January 12th



[Certificate in Patient Safety Complaints Advocacy](#)

Students will learn about the complaints process within the HSE and the role of advocates in supporting people wishing to make complaints. Students will also gain an in-depth knowledge of the Empowerment model of advocacy which will form the basis of the approach taken by the new Patient Advocacy Service.

All course details can be found [HERE](#)



[Certificate in Supported Employment](#)

This Certificate in Supported Employment Level 7 course is a professional qualification targeted specifically at the needs of people working as job coaches and employment facilitators.

Course commences in Spring 2026 and is numbers dependent so please enquire now.

All course details can be found [HERE](#)

The OTC is of the sector, for the sector!

Best wishes,
Conor
086 0756580 (9am - 5pm please)
cmurray@opentrainingcollege.com

PS Please feel free to forward this to an interested colleague.
Thank you.



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