



Dear Colleagues,

Sometimes the news is sad news and we regret to inform you of the recent passing of one of our fondly-remembered past pupils.

The Open Training College were deeply saddened to learn recently of the passing of **Minini Faith Harrison**, a graduate of the OTC Management programme in 2013/14, following a long illness.

During her time with us, Minini was a determined, passionate practitioner and student. Her achievement in completing her management qualification and going on to lecture at DCU was a testament to her perseverance and character.

Minini was a valued member of our learning community, and her loss is felt across the OTC. We extend our sincere condolences to her family, friends, classmates, and all who knew her. May she Rest in Peace.

In this issue of OTC Times, we share the news of the OTC launching its second of a three-part series of management training microcredentials: Cert in Human Service Compliance Management. This short course follows on from the first and very popular microcredential: Cert in Human Service Manager Skills. More dates have been added and can be accessed below for those interested in furthering their management career. We offer you the latest strategies to cope with procrastination in our montly wellness podcast, and we are also very happy to introduce Peta Ellington, a very popular Academic Associate Tutor on the OTC Social Care team.

Thank you for reading. Please have a safe and fun bank holiday weekend!



BA in Social Care update: Application Centre opens March 18th, interviews May 22nd

The online Application Centre for Year One applications of the CORU approved, BA in Social Care, will open on Wednesday, March 18th - the day after St Patrick's Day. Last year, the course was full by early July so we ask those interested in applying to please do so as soon as they can after the opening date. Successful online applicants will be interviewed in person at a Dublin city location on Friday, May 22nd, and if successful with the interview, will be given two weeks to accept an offer of a place and pay 25% of fees.

Please meet Peta Ellington, one of the Academic Associate Tutors on the OTC team



Peta is an Academic Associate Tutor working with students completing their social care work placement. She is a past student of the OTC, having joined the College as a student in 2016 and obtained a BA & Honours Degree in Social Care in 2019, when she was also awarded the Gerry Clarke Award for expert practitionership in a social care role.

Peta currently works for St. Micheal's House. Prior to this, she has been working within the Irish Healthcare sector for over 19 years, working with clients in the areas of mental health, drug rehab, disabilities, residential and day service units, Alzheimers, and care of the elderly.

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

Wellness: Our topic this month is procrastination



"It's the job that's never started, that takes the longest to finish."
J. R. R. Tolkien.

Procrastination is doing anything different from the thing you know is the right thing, the thing you should be focusing on and completing. That distraction can be as small as scrolling on your phone or as big as spending your whole day on tasks which will not help you meet your goal for the day. Don't despair, you are not alone, we can all find ourselves faced with these challenges. The temptation to procrastinate is a very real and is a natural coping response when faced with fears, anxieties and challenges. It is more important to understand why you are procrastinating and what you can do about it.

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!
Two new management microcredential courses are now available:

[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 March.

Participants will gain key skills in areas such as managing teams, group dynamics, resolving conflict, quality systems and quality enhancements, and managing best safeguarding practices.

Course features for this microcredential:

- Delivered mainly online and totally flexible
- Only two in-person workshops to attend throughout the eleven week courses
- Flexible, user-friendly online interface for daily interactions
- Price per participant for these two-module, QQI awards is €645. Apply now!
- Manager Skills course details can be found [HERE](#)
- - Application deadline: February 23rd



[Certificate in Human Service Compliance Management](#)

The programme aims to provide participants with knowledge on the origins and rationale for regulations; how to prepare for and engage positively with inspections as well as an understanding of the necessary competencies required to abide by employment law when it comes to managing staff.

Course features for this microcredential:

- Delivered mainly online and totally flexible
- Only two in-person workshops to attend throughout the eleven week courses
- Flexible, user-friendly online interface for daily interactions
- Price per participant for these two-module, QQI awards is €645. Apply now!
- Compliance Management course details can be found [HERE](#)
- - Application deadline: April 7th



[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](#)

Application deadline is Tuesday, February 3rd

[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.

OTC, Willowfield Park, Goatstown, Dublin 14
Tel: 01-2988544

Email: info@opentrainingcollege.com

