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Spring is very much in the air and they're even promising some kind of heatwave in the next few days. It's always a pleasure to hear the birds singing outside our office at this time of year.

The DLC newsletter this month offers some useful and essential information on moderation for our Access to HE, so please do take the time to read carefully.

Our 'Meet the People' subject this month is Jason O'Mahoney, who as you'll see has been with DLC in so many roles for many years.

And once your assessments are complete what better way to let off steam than to throw some sharp metal objects around? Fiona McNamee has been doing just that and tells us more about it below.

## MODERATION INFORMATION

### Access to HE Moderation

You will have heard from your tutors and on forums that to pass your Diploma you will need to go through moderation. So what does this mean and how does it work?

Moderation is when subject specialist external verifiers (or moderators) from Ascentis (our awarding body who issue your Access to HE Diplomas) come into the Centre to check your tutor's marking, grading decisions, and the quality of your work. This is all part of a continuous process of internal verification and standardisation that takes place throughout the year, where our tutors get together with the moderators to make sure that all the tutors are marking to the same standard and that the grades tutors give are correct.

The timeframe is:

- **March** = Ascentis subject moderators came to the Centre to look at your work and examine our marking. This was completed last month so all grades up to the end of March have been agreed and cannot change.
- **June** = the moderators come back and do the same again, this time checking the work that has been completed between April and June. Grades awarded between these dates can be changed if the moderators can prove an error has been made. After this moderation all grades are agreed and checked by both Ascentis and us.

- **July** = The Final Awards Board (FAB) takes place to look at all the grades and to discuss any extenuating circumstances. Once the results from the FAB are uploaded to Ascentis's database, they are able to start generating certificates. We will also inform you that moderation is complete and that the grades you see on your account are a true reflection of your final award.
- **Early August** = the certificates arrive at the Centre. We then check all the certificates for any mistakes and send them out to you by signed-for post.
- **Early August** = Ascentis informs UCAS of your results, and this is passed onto your university. However it is unlikely that your offer will change on UCAS until after the A level results are released to those students on the 16<sup>th</sup> August.

#### What you need to do before moderation is complete

- Check that your name on your account is correct, or your certificate will have the wrong name on it.
- Check that your address and postcode are correct, or we will send your certificates to the wrong place.

**You must check this information is correct because Ascentis will charge you £50 for a replacement certificate**

#### What you need to do when the certificates have been posted

If you're not at home to receive your signed-for post, your postie will leave a 'Something for you' card. You can use this to either arrange redelivery or to collect the certificate from your local collection office. Please see this link for guidance: <https://goo.gl/yu83qA>

If you do not receive your certificates then please contact [exams@distancelearningcentre.com](mailto:exams@distancelearningcentre.com) and we will look up the tracking number for you.



## MEET THE PEOPLE



This Month's Meet the People is Jason O'Mahoney

Jason has been a teacher for 18 years, teaching 'A' levels and Access to Higher Education courses in Psychology, Sociology, Criminology and Law in a number of FE and Sixth Form colleges.

He joined Distance Learning Centre in September 2009 and have had a variety of roles including Tutor, Exams Officer, Head of Dept (Social Sciences) and he is now the Tutor Support Manager.

Jason has a BA (Hons) degree in Sociology, a Post Graduate Diploma in Political Science and a Post-Graduate Certificate in Education.

He spends most of his free time with his family; walking and often visiting National Trust Parks and Historical Houses (the photo was taken outside Bramhall Hall in Cheshire: a beautiful Tudor House with the oldest parts dating back to the 14th century). He also enjoys travelling, having visited lots of major European countries with Italy being the next planned destination. In preparation for this Jason is looking to learn basic Italian. He also enjoys football (Man United), music and reading, and has recently returned from Cornwall where he tried his hand at surfing, though as Jason says - *"I think I'll stick to walking!"*.

## EXTRA CURRICULAR

A few of our staff got up to some interesting things over the Easter break, none more so than tutor Fiona McNamee who went Urban Axe Throwing at [Whistle Punks](#) in Manchester. We didn't even realise this was 'a thing'! Here Fiona tells us about her adventures - perhaps we'll hear more axe-related exploits from her in the future?

"The instructors at Whistle Punks taught us how to throw axes with one or two hands as I have never done it before. There were 12 people in each lane and after the practice you go into a competition, I won 2 of my three matches and went into the play offs and was narrowly beaten in the final.

I also managed to score 3 bullseyes. Who knew you could have so much fun throwing sharp implements at a target? I always knew I had a hidden talent, but the fact that it is axe throwing surprised even me!"

