Moving into 2nd Year: Time to Get Serious

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Overview

► Challenges facing 2nd Year students

► Current practice in supporting 2nd Years at Aston University

► Ideas for improving the student experience

► Your input or questions?

What makes 2nd Year such a challenge?

► "The sophmore slump" (second child syndrome)

► Huge changes to their daily life (bills, house sharing, cooking)

► For many "the second year blues" have begun before they return to university

The next step

► Pressure that what they do now really counts

► Expectation of lecturers for students to take ownership of their learning – reading around the subject and independent research

► Added pressure of securing a placement as well as completing coursework and revising for exams

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When the serious work starts

► 1st Year at Aston doesn't count towards final degree classification

► 2nd year weighting depends on the programme
  ► 15% if doing a placement year, 25% if not doing a placement

Re-induction

► Target returning students in Week 1

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Key messages

► What's new in Library Services?

   ► Changes in the building

   ► Changes to rules and regs

   ► New services

   ► New resources

► Emphasising the support available e.g. 1 to 1 appointments

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Askthe**Library**

Building on the foundations of Information Literacy

► How to really read a journal article

► Critical appraisal of the literature

► Introduction to subject databases

► What about those students we haven't seen before?

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Preparing for Placement Year

► Collaboration with Careers and Employability Team

  ► Workshops part of Careers Workshop Programme and embedded into Employability Modules across Schools
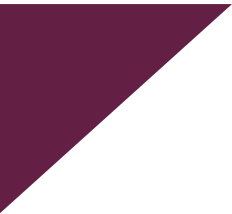

  ► Systematic Review workshop for Psychology

What can we do to further support students

► Improve the **transition** from 1ˢᵗ Year to 2ⁿᵈ Year

  ► Engage with them over the long Summer break

  ► Monthly email with latest news and developments
    ► Highlight key resources (remind them they have access to everything off-campus)
  ► Use social media to help them feel part of the Library
    ► Photos, videos, case studies

Enhancing support for students

▶ **Collaborate** with colleagues in Learning Development

  ▶ Top tips videos

  ▶ Webinars on referencing, academic writing, critical appraisal

  ▶ Work with writing mentors (peer learning)

  ▶ Promote Skype appointments

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Enhancing support for students

► Use any opportunity to get feedback and verbatim comments from previous 2nd years

   ► Student endorsement is really powerful

   ► Make use of the student ambassador scheme

"Knowing how to access journal articles and use specialist databases is so important this year…….. I now feel more prepared for final year"

"There was a big jump in 2nd year and Library staff really helped with things like critical appraisal that I previously knew nothing about!"

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Your thoughts or suggestions?