



Midlands

**HELOA Midlands Training Day Agenda  
Birmingham City University  
Tuesday 12th December 2023**

**9.30am- 10.30am - Sign in and networking**

**10.30am - 11:00am - Welcome from the committee & AGM update**

**11.00am - 11.15am - An Introduction to Birmingham City**

**11:15am - 11:45am - Looking back at 2023 with Elliot Newstead and Andy Cotterill**

This session will look at your predictions for 2023 and if they came true or not. Here is a chance to look at what happened during 2023 as we make our predictions for 2023.

**11.45am - 12:45pm - Neurodiversity- a primer with Richard Mills from AT Autism, University of Bath.**

Richard is an Associate Consultant and Head of Research and Clinical Support, ATAutism, London. He is also a Research Fellow in the Dept of Psychology, University of Bath, visiting Professor, Taisho University, Tokyo, Japan, and Research Fellow at the Centre for Brain and Behaviour UNE, NSW, Australia. For over twenty years Richard was with the National Autistic Society UK, as Director of Services, and later Director of Research, a joint appointment with Research Autism, London.

His current research and clinical interests are in programme and service evaluation, autism and mental health, forensic issues, including cybercrime, and in behaviours of concern (the Synergy programme). He is a joint lead on the SPELL programme with the Tizard Centre at the University of Kent. He is an editor of 'Autism the international Journal for Research and practice', and 'Advances in Autism'. He is an expert member of the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE). He has authored numerous peer reviewed scientific articles.

This session will provide an overview of the concept of neurodiversity. Clarification of language and terminology and examination of the narrative. Whilst also providing descriptions of the different neurodivergent conditions.

**12.45pm - 1:45pm - Lunch and festive fun**

**1:45pm - 2.30pm - Breakout sessions (pick the one you want to attend):**

**a) Working In The World of Higher Education- Danny North from Coventry University**

Join Danny North as he shares his extensive 10 years experience working in Higher Education and why he feels this is the best sector to work in. The session will include member input as to why they enjoy the sector they work in and any barriers we face at present.

**OR**

**b) Student Voice: A WP Perspective- Amanda Bishop**

This session will seek to showcase how we at the University of Warwick are supporting and embedding the Widening Participation (WP) Student Voice to current students. Through our WP Student Network and our WP Reps we bring to life and champion student voice. Meeting twice termly the network empowers WP students to feel part of a community, create a sense of belonging and raise awareness of barriers, as well as linking into University channels in order to influence University Strategy. We ran our annual WP Conference which was co-created by WP students and staff and we will also be able to share our findings and actions learnt.

This session will be co-created and presented by our WP Student Reps who we aim to bring along too.

### **2:30pm- 3.30pm - Teachers & Advisors Panel**

**Trevor Irving (Solihull Sixth Form), Heather Pryce (Joseph Chamberlain Sixth Form), Jenny North (Birmingham Met College) & Victoria Ditton (Halesowen College).**

This session will offer you the opportunity to ask questions to our teachers and advisors panel. These questions can be anything from how we can best support their students, when they prefer getting communications from us, what sort of contact works best for them, to what they want to see us doing more of. We would like to ask you to pre-submit as many questions as you would like through the booking form, but there will be time on the day to ask further questions.

**3:30pm - 4:00pm - Question & close.**

**4:00pm - Head to the Birmingham Christmas Markets (optional).**

\*All sessions are subject to change