‘**A Day in the Life’**

Intergenerational Dementia Project

Level 5 Higher National Diploma in Performing Arts (Acting): Gloucestershire College

Collaborative Project brings life with Dementia to young people in a unique way

HND Performing Arts students at Gloucestershire College were commissioned to create an original performance piece on dementia experience scenarios, to increase awareness of the condition among younger people. The overarching theme of the piece was, “A Day in the life of Dementia”, and within that there are several scenarios highlighted:

• Night-time disorientation

• Personal care and personal space

• Separation anxiety

• Repetitious questioning and nonsense

• Wandering

The students created a series of immersive, interactive drama sessions that takes place in a variety of public and private locations that plunges the audience directly into a realistic and sensory experience that stretches the imagination and offers the individual a powerful, enlightening glimpse into the lives of people living with Dementia and that of their carers. They held investigative workshops and meetings, working closely with professionals in the care sector as well from the personal experiences of their peers. They worked closely with their client gaining feedback and insight to develop appropriate techniques and suitable genres. They also consulted with Health and social Care students and performed their piece to numerous packed sittings of students, professionals and guests.

This is a creative assignment to explore this topic that successfully brought to life how it feels to be living with Dementia to young people of all ages and backgrounds. The students are hoping to take this piece to schools throughout this academic year.