

# WOLVES JOURNALISM

OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISCOVERY SESSIONS



# WELCOME TO WOLVES JOURNALISM

Towards the end of 2021, I left my twenty-year career as a correspondent and presenter for ITV News, because I wanted to make a difference for young people in the Midlands.

I love journalism, but I had been growing despondent. Despite significant efforts by employers like ITV, the BBC, the Guardian and Sky, most people I worked with (especially in the big network newsrooms) still came from privileged backgrounds.

When I spoke to young people in our region, I kept hearing the same refrain; journalism isn't really for "someone like me."

But how can journalism fulfil its role – how can we inform democracy – if huge sections of the community are simply not represented in newsrooms?

As a Shropshire lad, I already knew about the University of Wolverhampton's mission to make quality higher education accessible across our region. So, I was delighted to learn about its huge new investment in journalism studios and equipment as part of the new Screen School on City Campus.

This commitment to accessible journalism training convinced me to join!



And now I want to make sure that secondary school and college students across the region get chance to discover journalism for themselves, thanks to our department.

I will be delivering exciting, interactive taster sessions for a range of age groups, which can be tailored to subject areas or special interests.

You could bring your students here to our fabulous new Screen School in Wolverhampton City Centre. Or I could come to you with our mobile newsgathering kit. Or we could work on a project over several sessions, both in your college and on our campus.

Please read on for more information and do get in touch for an informal chat.

## Gareth Owen

Course Leader,  
BA (Hons) Multimedia Journalism  
University of Wolverhampton

## ON-CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

We have designed a range of different activity sessions for your students in our brand-new newsroom and broadcast studios at Wolverhampton Screen School.

Our Journalism Department is kitted out to the same standard as major broadcasters such as the BBC, ITV, Sky News and LBC Radio. Combine that with the knowledge and expertise of our Course Leader, and we can create an exciting, realistic learning experience.

Not only that, students and tutors will be able to keep recordings of their "broadcasts" to show to family and friends.



## SESSION 1: BREAKING NEWS!

**Age Group:** Year 11, Year 12,  
and Year 13

**Duration:** 2 hours

**Ideal group size:** 10-15 students

*Suitable for students with any subject or career interest.*

After a brief chat with ITV News reporter (and Wolves Journalism Course Leader) Gareth Owen, you will dive straight into an imaginary breaking news story. Each of you will take on roles as reporters, eyewitnesses, and presenters as we gather footage, stage a mock press conference, and finally get the story onto radio and TV. This is a fun, supportive and active session appropriate for all. You will be able to keep video of your completed work. (Please inform us of any individual learning requirements in advance).



### TIMETABLE

TASK	DURATION	DESCRIPTION
Introduction	10 minutes	Course leader and ITV Reporter Gareth Owen welcomes the group to Wolves Journalism and talks a little about this great career.
Story Creation	10 minutes	In a quick brainstorming session, the group will produce an imaginary breaking news story which we will cover.
Newsgathering	30 minutes	As a group we move the scene of the breaking news story, we interview eyewitnesses and record a reporter "piece-to-camera."
Press Conference	20 minutes	We now move onto a mock press conference where our reporting team will ask questions of the authorities
Radio	20 minutes	Now we have our material, we will write a "breaking news" script, and one of the team will break into normal programming to deliver it in our radio studio.
TV	20 minutes	Now we prepare TV script and one of the team delivers the report from our TV studio – including the interviews we recorded earlier!
Goodbye	10 minutes	We wrap up the session and take any questions! You will be provided with a secure link to view what you produced on the day!

## SESSION 2: NEWS WRITING

**Age Group:** Year 12 and Year 13

**Duration:** 90 minutes

**Ideal group size:** 10 students  
maximum

*Suitable for students already interested in a career in journalism, OR who have a passion for writing OR a particular news specialism (e.g., we can create bespoke sessions around sport, politics etc).*

After a brief chat with ITV News reporter (and Wolves Journalism Course Leader) Gareth Owen, you will work on your own news script. You will take part in a mock press conference, before writing material for TV, and presenting it our TV bulletin studio. This session is designed to help keen writers and potential young journalists to hone their writing skills while giving them experience in TV studio. You will be able to keep a recording of your TV bulletin.



### TIMETABLE

TASK	DURATION	DESCRIPTION
Introduction	5 minutes	Course leader and ITV Reporter Gareth Owen welcomes the group to Wolves Journalism and talks a little about this great career.
What's the Story?	10 minutes	You will be talked through the basic details of a news story which we will all work on.
Press Conference	20 minutes	We stage a mock press conference where you will be able find out more information through careful questioning
Scripting	20 minutes	Now, it is over to you! You need to write a 20 second, "breaking news" TV script with help from Gareth.
Going Live!	25 minutes	Next, it is into our news studio where you will present your news item.
Goodbye	10 minutes	We wrap up the session and take any questions! You will be provided with a secure link to view what you produced on the day!

## SESSION 3: WELCOME TO NEWS

**Age Group:** Years 8, 9 and 10

**Duration:** 60 minutes

**Ideal group size:** 15-20 students

*Suitable for younger students as an introduction to journalism and news reporting.*

After a brief chat with ITV News reporter (and Wolves Journalism Course Leader) Gareth Owen, we will explore what makes a news story and try to produce a list of ideas together. You will then get chance to read a news bulletin on the radio and on the TV! You can keep recordings of your starring moments to show friends and family!



### TIMETABLE

TASK	DURATION	DESCRIPTION
Introduction	5 minutes	Course leader and ITV Reporter Gareth Owen welcomes the group to Wolves Journalism and talks a little about this great career.
What is News?	5 minutes	A video montage of some stories which have hit the headlines this year ... some big and global, some local but no less important.
Radio Bulletin	15 minutes	Your chance to have a go at reading a news bulletin in our radio studio.
TV Bulletin	15 minutes	We head into the TV studio to present a bulletin on our virtual set using an autocue!
Goodbye	10 minutes	We wrap up the session and take any questions! You will be provided with a secure link to view what you produced on the day!

## JOURNALISM ROADSHOW

Contact us directly, and together we can create a bespoke session in your own classrooms, building on some of the activities mentioned above. We could even work in projects or themes from your own curriculum.

### Newsgathering Sessions

We will bring newsgathering cameras, audio recording equipment and laptop editing software if you can provide the classroom and the students!

In large or small groups, students can be guided to work on news stories happening around the school or college.

We can create TV news reports, podcasts, online magazine coverage, or any combination.

### Guest-editing

Do you have a student-run college e-magazine, radio station, or newspaper?

If so, our Course Leader and ITV News reporter Gareth Owen can join the team for the day to discuss their publication, and to advise on the next edition, or on any forthcoming big projects.

### Careers Talks

If you would prefer a short careers talk and Q&A session, Gareth is available for this too. He can talk about his journey from being a pupil in a West Midlands comprehensive school to reporting live from the Houses of Parliament. It is a career which has taken Gareth across the world, given him access to global sporting events and music festivals, and allowed him to rub shoulders with the stars.

Gareth can then talk about the new and exciting opportunities opening in journalism through platforms like TikTok and YouTube, and how there is still a route into traditional mainstream media.



## THE BIG PROJECT: COLLEGE TV

Do you want your students to produce their own TV show from our brand-new Screen School studios?

Combining all the above elements, we can work with you across a few weeks to create a fabulous piece of work.

It will start with a trip to the Screen School for a tour and a planning session.

Over the following weeks, we will come out to support groups as they film reports and features about school or college stories.

The project will culminate with another trip to the Screen School, where two or more of your students will present their own programme.

This will not be available until the Spring of 2023, but you can express an interest now and we are more than happy to talk through any ideas you may have.

## CONTACT

To talk about any of the opportunities described here, or anything else connected with Journalism at the University of Wolverhampton please contact.

### **Gareth Owen**

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