

PodMag Episode 18

16/04/14

Karen:

Hi, and welcome to the PodMag, I'm Karen Foley.

Dave:

And I'm Dave Middleton.

Karen:

And today we're broadcasting from the Associate Dean's office.

Dave:

Which is fantastic actually.

Karen:

It's brilliant, I'm so delighted I managed to sort this out this week, and there's lots of very interesting books here.

Dave:

Yes, and some of them still need colouring in so you could do that.

Karen:

(Laughter) Yes, excellent, I like doing that, ok, brilliant. So Dave, what have we got on our list this week?

Dave:

Well, I think the first thing we need to talk about is Easter.

Karen:

I knew I should have done the list.

Dave:

Why?

Karen:

Easter is not the most important thing to talk about this week Dave. Right, I've got my list here, hang on, oh yeah, the Easter break.

Dave:

Yes, next week there will be no PodMag we're having a complete week off whilst we try and find a venue that is really suitable for the kind of talent that we have.

Karen:

Yeah.

Dave:

So somewhere small probably.

Karen:

(Laughter) Yes.

Dave:

And don't forget to keep sending in Easter eggs because Karen has done nothing but go on about having Easter eggs and I can't afford to buy them on my wage.

Karen:

Well, the only thing is Dave, no one is going to find me now that we have to be in hiding.

Dave:

Well that was your fault.

Karen:

It wasn't my fault.

Dave:

Well you got us into the greenhouse.

Karen:

Yeah, you got us out of the greenhouse.

Dave:

Very rapidly

Karen:

Yes, so I don't think I'm to blame for that one. Anyway the long and short of it is that we're going to have to try and figure out something entertaining to say in this period, bearing in mind that we're confined to this office.

Dave:

We are confined to this office, and we have to keep an eye open in case the security guards come past. I tell you what, let's go on to the news.

Karen:

Ok, where's your iPad lets log onto the w-fi.

Break:

Music

Dave:

Damn, it won't take my password, they've changed my password.

Karen:

Friday thinker, ok, so the Faculty Facebook page, what's been going on in this week's Friday Thinker Dave?

Dave:

The Friday thinker is going really, really well, as ever, and this week's Friday thinker is, if only I knew, I'd be able to tell you.

Karen:

I've got no idea (*laughter*)

Dave:

I've got no idea, well there won't be a Friday thinker this week of course because it's Good Friday, that's the news.

Karen:

Okay, right, fine. Okay, so no Friday thinker this week, but do keep logging on, now there was a really interesting discussion on the Faculty Facebook page about study tips.

Dave:

There was wasn't there, I found that really fascinating, this was students telling students about the best ways to study, I actually liked the one that said don't read study tips.

Karen:

Yeah, that was quite a good one, do you know what, I'm going to text Sarah next door.

Dave:

Sarah Frain?

Karen:

Yeah, because she said she'd do a top five list with me so I'm going to text her and see if she can come in in a minute.

Karen texts on her phone:

Beeping noise.

Karen:

Do you know what, I think that doing a programme all on our own would be really, really boring, I don't think the listeners want to listen to you all the time.

Dave:

What do you mean they don't want to listen to me?

Karen:

No.

Dave:

I get more fan mail than you do.

Karen:

No, technically not.

Dave:

I had... well more than one.

Karen:

(laughter) Right, anyway, I've sent her a text and she'll be in in a minute.

Break:

Music

Karen:

Right the other item on the news is that we've had lots of fun this week in Milton Keynes, we've been with our students for the Digital Storytelling event and this is where students are getting together and making videos about the things that they'd like to share with people about being an OU student and these will be broadcast at the conference and now we have a special report from our fan Harleyjack who was one of the participants at the Digital Storytelling event.

Harleyjack:

Hi, I'm Harleyjack, although most of you will know me as 'The Fan' I'm at the OU campus for the Digital Storytelling project, most of you may not know what this project is about so I'm off to breakfast and I'll be talking to some fellow students about the project.

At breakfast:

Sound of crockery, cutlery and conversation.

Harleyjack:

Alright, so how would one of you sum up the Digital Storytelling project?

Sue Sutherland:

I think it's been really useful because it's been working with people who are fellow students but from different disciplines so the diverse range of ideas and disciplines has been useful to give you a broader perspective of looking at things, I, personally think it's been worth it.

Harleyjack:

Well, we've been creating videos for these students starting on their OU journey, what would you like to see them get out of it?

Brendan Lavery:

Well I'd like to see them get out of it a good understanding of what the OU is about, and actually, sort of, enjoy it and look at their studies and say, do you know what, I can do this here, especially when they're at the start, at the beginning and they're looking at the whole course and they're saying God this is going to be boring, they can look at these sorts of things to keep themselves entertained and enjoy it.

Harleyjack:

Most of the time we only interact with OU students at tutorials or online, what's it been like working with students outside that environment?

Ami Harti:

It's been really brilliant, all you hear about from the OU is that people are so diverse and you can do it anywhere and you can be anyone and there's flexibility but I think that doesn't really seem apparent until you actually, you know, go out and meet people and talk to them and realise that actually is the case. You know the eight of us, the group is all different ages, from different countries, from different backgrounds and things like that and I think that epitomises what the OU exists for really.

Harleyjack:

How do you think the diversity in the group then has benefitted the project, do you think it's a good thing or a bad thing?

Ami Harti:

Yes I think it's a good thing, if we were all you know, from the same tutor group or from the same postcode there probably wouldn't be as much point.

Harleyjack:

Bridget, what has been the best part of this project for you?

Bridget Scanlon:

Meeting you all, and seeing how you think and hearing how you think and how it's expressed and put together in a very cohesive way that can be useful and really encompasses how we study as well because all the points raised were really linked to turning out work and to help the students at the beginning to improve how they should set about what it is they want to do.

Harleyjack

Sara, what do you think you're going to take away from this project for your OU experience and coming forward as a first year student?

Sara Hook:

I think that for me, I've learnt a lot of tips from the other people that are doing the project as well that are sort of further down the line, in terms of exam revision, of just time management, all the sort of things that actually you don't learn until you get further along, and there's one particular tip that someone said of repetition, which is the best way to get something into your head and actually I think that's something that's really stood out for me. All the ideas that everyone's had have been really helpful and I think and I can see what potential this project has for first year students and new students and it's absolutely brilliant.

Harleyjack:

Thank you.

Dave:

The Digital Storytelling event was a fantastic success, we had great fun as you've just heard from some of the students there and Karen and I really enjoyed it.

Karen:

Yeah, absolutely and as they said the feedback was excellent, they said that you were much, much taller than they'd initially thought and I was much better dressed. Right, so, a great week had by all and more to do on that when we do the next event in May.

Dave:

Okay, what's on next, let's have a look at the list.

Karen:

Okay, the list, right.

Dave:

Karen, will you stop kicking me under the table, Quick, under the desk, under the desk.

Karen:

I'm not getting under the desk.

Dave:

Under the desk.

Karen:

(speaking louder) I'm not getting under the desk, I've got a pencil skirt on. Oww!
Oooh! Dave!

Dave:

That was a pencil and I've just stabbed you with it, now get under the desk.

Karen:

Right, right, you know...

Dave:

It's alright, I'll just have a look, I think they're going, aww this is just, Karen this is disastrous.

Karen:

I'm not happy.

Dave:

Nor am I, aww this is not what I had planned for my career at all, I had my career mapped out, it went degree, PhD, Nobel Prize, fame and fortune, it didn't go, degree, stuck under a desk with some halfwit in a pencil skirt.

Karen:

(Indignant) I am not a halfwit!

Dave:

Oh, I was just exaggerating for effect.

Karen:

I didn't even want to be a PodMag presenter, I just wanted to do some teaching.

Dave:

Well I'm sure we can find someone else to do it Karen.

Karen:

Yeah, well.

Dave:

And they might be a bit more professional and find me some decent places.

Karen:

(Laughter) I don't think they will Dave.

Dave:

You've got me into no end of trouble.

Karen:

Well you've got me into lots of trouble as well.

Dave:

But my careers in tatters, you never had one to start with.

Karen:

That's not fair, I don't think that's a very nice thing to say, that's not what my friends say at the Faculty of Health and Social Care.

Dave:

Hmm, well maybe you should go and work at the Faculty of Health and Social Care.

Karen:

Well I might just go and do that because they've invited me out for lunch again today.

Dave:

Am I coming?

Karen:

No.

Dave:

You're going without me?

Karen:

They want to talk about my latest research.

Dave:

Right, I'm going to do the latest conference news.

Karen:

Fine.

Break:

Music.

Dave:

What's the latest registrations looking like Karen?

Karen:

Let me get my list. 384.

Dave:

Are you sure? Have you checked it lately?

Karen:

No Dave, that's your job.

Dave:

Well I've checked it lately.

Karen:

Actually, I don't know how to check it.

Dave:

Exactly, you leave all the technical things to me.

Karen:

All the menial tasks.

Dave:

It's 383, Okay, and rising though by the second, so registrations are going really well, we've now got an external registration system and the numbers just keep going up and up. Perhaps you should tell them the website address Karen, that would be the professional thing to do.

Karen:

The website address is connections.kmi.open.ac.uk . I'm still not happy.

Dave:

Well let's talk about workshops Karen, they've been going really well

Karen:

Actually they have been Dave, they've been going really well, it's really nice to see such positive students coming to the workshops with such good ideas, I've been really enjoying them.

Dave:

They've been fantastic, Karen and I have been running the workshops obviously.

Karen:

Together.

Dave:

I've been doing most of the work.

Karen:

No you haven't.

Dave:

Well alright.

Karen:

Been doing most of the talking.

Dave:

And they are really fantastic. If you would like to do a presentation and you're not attending the workshops yet then it's never too late to get involved and they're every single Monday.

Karen:

No, they're not Dave.

Dave:

They are Karen.

Karen:

They're not every single Monday because of Easter and all these holiday things coming in, the next one is on the 28th April.

Dave:

And we'd love to see you there.

Karen:

Yeah, if you haven't come along before do pop in, there are people dropping in all the time and basically we're working in groups or individually on presentations or some form of content for the conference, so it will be great to see you there.

Dave:

Super. Okay, I think that's all the conference news for now

Karen:

Hmm, I'm still not happy.

Dave:

Oh, can I make you happy?

Karen:

Well, no Dave, my skirt is ruined under this desk.

Dave:

Well I did tell you to wear appropriate clothing for hiding.

Karen:

I'm not wearing that jumpsuit again, do you know how much stick I had over that?

Dave:

Ooh look, there's Sarah.

Karen:

You stay under the desk, don't talk. Ah Sarah, thanks for coming in.

Sarah:

Why are you sat in the dark Karen? It's lovely outside.

Karen:

Well, I just, I didn't want to waste electricity, you know what the Dean said.

Sarah:

Well I wouldn't take him that seriously if I were you, do you want me to put the lights on?

Karen:

No, no, no no, we'd best not, anyway this will only take a minute.

Sarah:

If I don't put the lights on I won't see the list that I brought.

Karen:

Here, I've got a torch, right okay, I've got my list too. Okay, so Facebook, top five study tips.

Sarah:

Actually I've increased it to top six.

Karen:

Ohh.

Sarah:

We had four that were the same with the amount of likes so we can't leave anyone out it wouldn't be fair.

Karen:

Ok, alright, well let's go through them then before Dave comes back?

Sarah:

Where is Dave?

Karen:

Oh, he's erm..., he's er..., out, er... right, what's on your list?

Sarah:

Well, the sixth one came from Ian Pointon and he said when you're making notes always make them traceable to their source and include their page numbers, it saves lots of time when using those bits that you later use in assignments.

Karen:

Ah, that's a very good idea because we like referencing don't we, so that would make sure that your referencing was always done. That was a very good tip and how many likes did that one get?

Sarah:

That got five.

Karen:

Five likes for Ian, that's brilliant.

Sarah:

And five likes again from Darryl Bower, the books aren't sacred text so highlight and scribble away.

Karen:

Ahh we like that, because Dave's actually been colouring in some of the books up here.

Sarah:

Not in this office I hope.

Karen:

No, no, no, no, no, no, no I mean separate to that and it's mainly really ones that no-one reads anyway, no, no, no, no don't worry.;

Sarah:

Okay, and the fourth one is from Neil Garrett, again with five likes and his is short and sweet, he says little and often.

Karen:

Little and often, so he says to study little and often, which is a good idea.

Sarah:

Yep, that's it, three words. The third one from Helen McGillian is go somewhere quiet with no internet access.

Karen:

Very good, very good point because I always check my emails from all our fans, oh and by the way if you do want to send us an email it's podmag@open.ac.uk, but yes, always pinging and it always distracts me from what I'm doing.

Sarah:

Well it's nice and quiet in here, so maybe you've been working hard with that in here.

Karen:

Hmm, yeah, next.

Sarah:

Number two is from Vicky Riley and this got six likes, advice for newbies, ignore where other people are up to and what they got this is your journey, it's about you getting what you want out of it, she then goes on to say, advice for experienced students is continue to try new ways of learning, listen to how other people learn and give some of those methods a go.

Karen:

Well I think that's more than one tip.

Sarah:

Yeah it is, she's sneaked in a few there.

Karen:

Yes she has hasn't she, but lots of good points there so about just being in charge of your own journey and comparing yourself to yourself and making it all relevant to you and doing what's right for you as a student, good tip Vicky. Right, next number one.

Sarah:

The number one with nine likes came from Lucy Moore, set your own mini deadlines and goals, with a treat at the end, if a TMA is due in on a Tuesday, get it done by the Friday then give yourself a guilt free couple of days off.

Karen:

Fantastic, you could maybe catch up on some episodes of the PodMag or This Student Life as a treat.

Sarah:

You could do, and you could have a look on Facebook, the more likes we get, the more people will view the pages.

Karen:

Okay, brilliant, well thanks for that, I'm glad you brought a list because mine, I don't know where I put it, ah thanks for that Sarah.

Sarah:

You're welcome, is there anything else you need.

Loud bang:

Banging noise.

Sarah:

What...

Dave:

Owww!

Sarah:

What on earth was that?

Dave:

Oww, ooh, ouch, erm, ah... hello.

Sarah:

Hi Dave, what are you doing under there?

Dave:

Erm, er, I was looking for Karen's list.

Sarah:

Hmmm, you're not hiding from anyone are you?

Dave:

Hiding from anyone? Is there anyone out there?

Sarah:

Er, no, but do you...

Dave:

In that case, I'm not hiding from anyone.

Sarah:

Do you need me to call security?

Dave:

NO! No, no (*laughter from Karen*) Definitely, no.

Sarah:

Well if you're worried? You haven't got a stalker or anything have you?

Dave:

No, possibly, but no, erm no, I found the list Karen.

Karen:

Oh thank you Dave.

Dave:

It's been really nice to see you Sarah

Sarah:

I'm going now, this is... er, slightly odd.

Dave:

Yes, it's erm nice in here though.

Sarah:

Really?

Karen:

Very nice, we might stay in here for a bit.

Dave:

I'll just finish this colouring in and then we'll be out of here.

Sarah:

I told you not to touch any of Ian's books.

Dave:

He hasn't finished them all though

Karen:

(*Laughter*)

Sarah:

(*Tuts exasperated and leaves*)

Dave:

Ah thanks Karen, I'm really hungry.

Karen:

I know.

Dave:

It's made me a bit grouchy.

Karen:

Yeah, I did think that had something to do with your really bad mood.

Dave:

Well I haven't treated you quite as well as I could have today.

Karen:

No, well you haven't.

Dave:

I'm going to make it up to you.

Karen:

Oh good, that's what I like to hear, what are you going to do?

Dave:

I'm going to share my snacks with you.

Karen:

Oh lovely (*laughter*).

Dave:

Which you've paid for.

Karen:

Yes (*laughter*) still Dave that's a lot nicer than you have been.

Dave:

And I do want to still carry on being a PodMag presenter.

Karen:

So, right, what are we going to do about our venue?

Dave:

We're going to have to look for somewhere else, we need somewhere permanent.

Karen:

We need an office, we'll sort this out within the next two weeks listeners, and we'll see you then, fingers crossed, from our brand new studio.

Dave:

Yes, where's Sarah with those snacks?

Karen:

Ooh, I know.

Dave:

Happy Easter everybody.

Karen:

Yeah, have a great time and don't eat too many Easter eggs.