

## **TechMeet 5**

Hosted by Mike Hughes, Teaching Laboratories Manager, UoManchester

Theme: Opportunities and challenges after Covid-19

Attendees : 18, from HEIs including Bath, Belfast, Huddersfield, Reading, York.

Discussion around how technicians had responded to the increased responsibilities and challenges in returning to labs and the preparations they had been putting in place to ensure socially distancing compliance.

E.g. operating labs at 20% capacity, monitoring access and sign in to buildings, communicating the new rules to staff and students, shift changes to ensure staff cover to lab operating hours, face coverings and timetabling practical chemistry sessions for students.

Opportunities discussed were: Completing CPD, H&S courses, fire marshall, masters, IOSH courses, professional registration.

Having time to do CPD was always a barrier previously.

Mike highlighted he had had time to contribute as a second author on a Cto hem Ed paper - On the loss of skills from A level to Year 1.

Covid-19 lockdown also gave a chance to reflect on team diversity issues, which resulted in a successful RSC Grant bid for a Work experience for BAME Y10/11 pupils to showcase technical skills at University.