Reflection 1st Week Creative Technology

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Monday 10th of October, the new module called Creative Technology started at 9.00 am and I will be honest the first couple of hours I felt confused and terrified. At the time, I was felling that I was walking blind. For first time in my life, I heard about the open source Arduino. However, the following days everything was becoming clearer. Professor Martin Skelly and Jon Rogers were really supportive, helping each of us individually and showing us that Arduino is easier than we first thought. For me, the helpful element to begin with was how passion they were for the studio and how they were trying to highlight this to us. The first assignment was to develop different ideas about a connected home. From these ideas, we will have to choose one as our last final product due at the end of the fourth week.

I spent some time brainstorming and started to understand how the Arduino software worked. In this week, I developed three basic ideas, which would be able to help people. The first one was a product that was able to alert people when their pasta was al dente and ready to serve, as all too often people over do their pasta. Having analysed my idea, I thought that this wasn’t demonstrating how creative or innovative I could be. It didn’t represent me, and my wish to combine technology with helping people. This led me to think of the idea that I called “Magic Pillow”.

Magic Pillow was a product that could help autistic people. The main idea was to support them in waking up without feeling anxious or angry. Autistic individuals tend to be more sensitive to loud disruptive noises, such as alarm clocks. As a result I combined using Arduino a specific calm noise and vibration to be used as an alarm. This idea consequently led me to think about the different ways that individuals with a disability require different things from their home. I thought about how best to support the needs of an individual through connected home that would not be found on the market.

Research in different supportive methods can be quite scarce, especially for less common disabilities such as sever dyspraxia. After sharing my idea with Professor John Rogers, he helped to be more accurate and showed a new way to combine Arduino and Bare Conductive. This simplified my idea and gave it more practical application for disabilities in day to day life improve the quality of life as well as day to day living. Sharing ideas with PhD students gave more knowledge of how I will continue to develop my idea.

After the end of this week, I developed greater skills in Arduino, which I can now add to my repertoire of computing skills. On reflection, I understand how my levels of stress at the beginning of the week impacted my creativity as I lost precious time. Understanding my stress better would have enabled to have better ideas earlier in the week.