# ***Reflective Report***

On the whole, the website I have developed achieved what I set out to achieve. Everything described – excluding changes to the use of JavaScript – was fulfilled, including the timeline on the history of JavaScript. Every HTML and/or CSS page comes out as valid against the W3C validator.

The website is made up of thirteen different pages, with a navigation bar allowing access to four of these pages, a hover-over drop down allowing access to three, and the rest being accessible through a directory. It has a simplistic, monochromatic blue colour scheme, and teaches the three web design programming languages with the use of code snippets and examples. It features five pages going through the lecture notes and detailing their information with examples, relevant images (all labelled for non-commercial reuse or from Wikimedia Commons), and thorough explanations. It also has three introductory pages for the three languages, as well as a resource page, and a timeline.

The main changes between the final product and the initial pitch is the usage of JavaScript. The website still uses a navigation bar with an on-hover dropdown, but the other two JavaScript uses have been changed to be examples on how JavaScript works. I thought this would be more useful to the target audience than an image carousel, and instead of every image being a modal image, I wrote a tutorial on how to construct a modal image, with one image used as an example. The third usage of JavaScript on my website is through form validation: The fifth lecture notes page features an input box which asks for an input number between 1 and 5. If a number outside this range is entered (or nothing is entered when submitted), text will appear asking for correct input, but if correct input is entered, the text will mark the input as valid. I also included code snippets to explain how this works, and how to use this.

I believe that the example piece, and an explanation of how to achieve that themselves is a better resource than webpage appearance enhancement, and value to educational purposes of the website more than the design prospects. Therefore, I believe these changes were warranted.

Due to the website’s core information being based off of CSC1026 content, the resources provided on Blackboard were very helpful, more notably the uploaded lecture notes. Additional information has been provided, and the formatting has changed, but the core information is the same. The first CSC1026 assignment also came in handy, and my website uses the same centred, set-width style as the first assignment.

The resources page links to three different websites that can be used to learn HTML, CSS, and/or JavaScript. On this page, the logos to each website are shown. W3Schools was the most useful resource for the creation of my website, and is therefore on this page. The base code for the modal images and the form validation came from W3Schools, but underwent some changes. For example, the modal image on W3Schools uses an ‘X’ in the corner to close, whereas the one on my website can be clicked anywhere to close once open.

Overall, I am happy with how my website has turned out. I believe the colour scheme is unobtrusive whilst also not being too plain, and I like how the notes and code snippets are designed. I think the information included is thorough, but succinct, and the explanations of the examples are broken down well, and easy to follow.

There are, however, changes I would make if I were to attempt this project again.

Firstly, I would make improvements to the information on the three language-based pages, including a portion that lists every possibly tag, attribute, etc. Maybe this would be deserving of its own separate page, but I believe the information is important enough to be required on the website, but due to time constraints, this cannot be achieved on this iteration of the website. Additionally, I would provide more information on how JavaScript works on the whole, as it is a very difficult language to learn if the student has no prior understanding of an OOP programming language.

Secondly, I would include more images on the first three lecture-based pages. These pages are rather bland, with a lot of blocks of text, which can be very tedious to read, especially to students. Additionally, it is much harder for visual learners to understand concepts when they are only explained through text, and images can be much easier to understand and get a point across. In addition to more images, I would include more notes, giving good practice information to students.

Thirdly, I would spread the information out more, resulting in more lecture-based pages. I believe this is necessary due to the pure amount of information covered in some pages, specifically weeks three and seven to eleven. The final code line count for lecture page two is 133, but the final code line count for lecture page three is 532. It can be hard for students to take in large amounts of information in one go, and spreading the information out more would help them retain the information better, as well as making it much easier to revise.

Fourthly, I would ensure all images are my own. If the project had more time, I would ensure that every image other than website logos (W3Schools and CodeAcademy) was created by myself, just to ensure that the webpage was entirely safe. Some if the images in the fourth lecture-based page are screenshots of the lecture notes, whereas previously I had recreated the image using a HTML table, or recreated the image in my own software and taken a screenshot. I personally feel the screenshots of the lecture notes are lazy, and make my website seem like a copy-paste of the lecture notes, which goes against the amount of work that went into finding additional information and typing everything out. I would like it for every aspect of my website to show the same amount of work input, but this is unachievable at present due to time constraints.

With these changes, I think the website could be a very apt and easy-to-use tutorial website, and very helpful when coincided with CSC1026 being taught in lectures. Additionally, the website is a very good revision tool, and making the website has helped me personally prepare for the webpage design exam to a large extent.