



# DEFINING FUTURES

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 11 /// JUNE 2023

Welcome to the latest Defining Futures newsletter which covers activities from when students returned to college after the Easter holiday until breaking up for the May half-term holiday.

## What's in this issue?

The headline story in this issue is a visit by Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh to our Wellington Road campus, as part of the nationwide celebrations to mark the Coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla.

There's also chance to find out how students used pedal power to experience the benefits of physical exercise on mental health, an overview of our April open evening and details of how to book a place at the next event in June.

And there's a run-down of all the activities our students have been involved in over the last half-term and a chance to find out about the new T Level qualifications we're offering from September through a series of short videos featuring our staff.

Enjoy the issue!

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## ROYAL GUESTS JOIN CORONATION BIG LUNCH

As coronation fever swept the UK at the beginning of May, we were delighted and honoured to welcome Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh to a Coronation Big Lunch at the Wellington Road campus.



The royal couple were greeted by flag-waving students and staff before joining over 100 guests drawn from the local community for the indoor street party.

They spent around an hour chatting to people tucking in to afternoon tea on bunting-decked tables, spoke to students from a range of different courses, watched a musical showcase put on by our performing arts students, and even sampled a slice of coronation quiche made by our bakery tutor!

Louise Fall, deputy principal of the college, said: "We were thrilled that the Duke and Duchess were able to join our Big Lunch and meet some of our students and staff, as well as members of the local community to celebrate the King's forthcoming Coronation.

It was a really exciting day and a fantastic atmosphere during the lunch - and we hope that we were able to demonstrate to our royal guests that we are a college that is at the heart of the community and welcomes everyone."



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Take a look at a film of the visit [here](#), and photos below:



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## STUDENTS PEDAL THEIR WAY TO BETTER MENTAL HEALTH

During Mental Health Awareness Week (15-21 May) students and staff hopped on a stationary bike and ‘cycled to the sea’ to experience the benefits of physical exercise on mental wellbeing.

The college ran a Bike to the Beach challenge and encouraged participants to help clock-up 70 miles - the distance from Wolverhampton to the nearest beach at Wallasey in the Wirral - and use pedal power to release endorphins and serotonin which can relieve stress, aid better sleep and improve overall mood.

Staff also ran a lunchtime yoga session - with students encouraged to put away their phones and learn relaxation and breathing techniques to help them to switch off from their studies - and held tutorial sessions to raise awareness of mental health, and positive actions that can be taken to reduce any anxiety and recognise when additional support may be required.



## AUTOMOTIVE EMPLOYERS HELP COLLEGE TO REV UP INDUSTRY TRAINING

Employers in the automotive sector were invited to the college in April to find out how they can help plan the content of future courses to ensure students develop the skills and knowledge their businesses and the wider industry requires.

The event was also an opportunity for employers to find out about automotive apprenticeship programmes offered by the college, as well as IMI-recognised qualifications to train new staff or upskill existing employees.

Guests heard from Chris Cotterill from the Institute of the Motor Industry about challenges facing the industry, Richard Hewitt, automotive sector lead, about the college’s apprenticeship programmes, and Andy Moore, from our Electric Vehicle and Green Technologies Training Centre in Wednesfield, who gave an overview of how the college is responding to industry demands by offering sector-based work academy programmes and training bootcamps to address the skills gap within the industry.



## PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS GET LOWDOWN ON COLLEGE LIFE AT OPEN EVENING

Over 200 prospective students found out about courses, qualifications and college life at our most recent open evening in April.

Visitors were able to talk to tutors about courses available, tour the campus facilities, take part in activities related to the subject they are interested in studying, and chat to current students about college life, as well as get careers advice and details of financial support available to help with college costs.

Read more about the open evening [here](#) or listen to deputy principal Louise Fall talking about the event on WCR FM [here](#).

The next open day is being held on Saturday 17 June, 10am-2pm at the Paget Road and Wellington Road campuses - places can be booked [here](#).



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## CURRICULUM ROUND-UP

### AUTOMOTIVE

Following a work trial at Greenhous Commercials' new pre-delivery inspection centre in Coven during the Easter break, automotive student Reece Shutt was offered a job as a technician with the company.



Students who are in the process of rebuilding a FN2 Honda Civic with the end goal of taking it to a race track have carried out repair work in the inside of the vehicle and prepped it ready to paint, using their skills and knowledge to select the perfect primer and paint for the roll cage.



And we 'premiered' the new advert promoting car body and paint courses - take a look **here**.

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### BAKERY

Talented students studying for the bakery and patisserie technology foundation degree produced yet more delicious delights, including puff pastry treats, mousses and bavaois.




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### CONSTRUCTION

Students studying for construction qualifications have learning the art of 'setting out' - the process where future structures are meticulously mapped out on the ground - determining the perfect path for a drainage system, taking into account the essential incline to keep everything flowing smoothly.



Plastering tutor Paul gave tips on the importance of good preparation before carrying out a plastering job - take a look **here**.

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### COUNSELLING

A counselling student who founded a domestic abuse support group was featured in the Express & Star newspaper on the group's first anniversary.

Jamie Leigh Trubshaw (left of the picture), who is studying for a Counselling Skills Level 2 Certificate, enrolled for the course in order to be able to provide support to people attending the group.



Photo credit: Express & Star



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## CREATIVE ARTS

The Creative Arts department has launched a Student of the Week accolade, each week recognising a different student and their outstanding efforts that have impressed tutors.

Latest winners are:



**Eliza Austin**, music technology who has been working hard on her final major project, producing a soundtrack for a computer game trailer. Tutors say her determination to achieve the very best outcome in her end result is truly inspiring and they are proud to have her as part of the team.



**Manraj Dhari**  
STUDENT OF THE WEEK

**Manraj Dahri**, music technology, who was the first to complete his final major project and created a series of soundscapes to compliment a range of images.



**Andre Smith** - music technology, who has demonstrated an excellent professional approach to creating foley sounds and his orchestral score is sounding great! Tutors say he is a great example of what you can achieve when you set your mind to it.



**Ben Raybould**, games design, recognised for his outstanding work in producing music and sound effects for his video game project. Tutors say they are thrilled to have such a talented and hardworking student in the team.

In other news from the department, performing arts student Rylee has been offered places at a number of universities to study for a BA in Acting - tutors say that wherever he chooses will be lucky to have him on their course!



## EMPLOYABILITY

The latest cohort of students who want to work for Midlands Metro have completed their preparation for work programme which helped them to develop the skills the company looks for when recruiting staff, and covered producing a CV, searching for and applying for jobs and interview techniques.



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## ENGINEERING

The engineering department has taken delivery of some new robots, keeping technician Kane busy putting them together for use in lessons and at open events.

For people interested in a career in engineering, curriculum manager Jim talked about the range of courses available - from beginner to university-level - and the skills that students can learn - take a look [here](#)




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## HAIR AND BEAUTY

Residents and staff at a local care home were treated to relaxing hand massages and colourful manicures when our beauty students spent a day offering the pampering treats.




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## HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Health and social care students got hands-on in a workshop by St John's Ambulance, as part of the Young Responders programme, learning how to correctly use a tourniquet, which is used to control severe bleeding in an emergency situation.




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## MATHS AND ENGLISH

On National Numeracy Day, maths tutor Dan talked about why maths is important, how it can benefit you, and the support provided at college.

Take a look at the video [here](#)




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## PRINCE'S TRUST

Prince's Trust Team programme leader and activity instructor Martin, explained all about the 12-week programme in a short video.

Take a look at the video [here](#)



Prince's Trust



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Students got hands-on for their community project and re-decorated the community room at Bilston Methodist Church.



And three participants in the Team programme shared their stories! Watch the video [here](#)

## SPORT

During Stress Awareness Month, in April, students heard from Wolverhampton Wanderers player Joe Hodge about the stress and pressure in football and the effects of social media abuse.



Pic Credit: Wolverhampton Wanderers Foundation

Take a look at a video of the visit [here](#)

Footballer and Wolverhampton Wanderers Foundation ambassador Karl Henry paid another visit to the Wellington Road campus to deliver a coaching session to students on the football academy programme.



Pic Credit: Wolverhampton Wanderers Foundation

## STUDENT STORIES

This edition we're focussing on four employees at City of Wolverhampton Council who have recently completed Level 3 and Level 5 leadership and management apprenticeships and told us how the programme has benefitted them in the workplace - click on their picture to find out more.



**Stephen Morgan**



**Charlotte Rose**



**Stacey Homer**



**Amy Cooper**

For more apprentice stories click [here](#) and read what students have to say about their courses [here](#)



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## IN OTHER NEWS...

### DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

**Students from across the college have benefitted from innovative learning through the cutting-edge Bodyswaps virtual reality platform.**

The immersive sessions have enabled students to practise and develop their communication, teamwork and leadership skills and equip them with the knowledge needed to embrace future technologies.



### SHOWCASING MATHS AND ENGLISH

Curriculum managers Rebecca Brownrigg and Rowena Tooth, took to the stage at the national CENTURY Tech FE conference to showcase the college's groundbreaking "This is ME!" marketing strategy for GCSE English and Functional Skills maths and explain to delegates how the approach is driving change and empowering students studying the subject(s).



### T LEVELS EXPLAINED!

**T Levels are new qualifications which focus on the development of vocational skills and include an in-depth industry placement as part of the course.**

Our staff have filmed some short videos to give more details about the scheme, how T Levels can help employers, and the three T Levels that we will be offering from September - click the links to find out more!

**T Levels explained /// How T Levels can benefit employers  
Carpentry T Level /// Digital Support T Level /// Healthcare Science T Level**

### WEST MIDLANDS COMBINED AUTHORITY ADULT LEARNING AWARDS

**Two former students from our Electric Vehicle and Green Technologies courses triumphed in the recent West Midlands Combined Authority Adult Learner Awards which celebrate the achievement of learning providers, tutors and employers who have gone above and beyond to make a positive difference in adult learning.**

Sarai Richards, who enrolled on an electric vehicle course to ensure she had the latest skills and knowledge to succeed in the constantly evolving sector, so impressed tutors on the course that, when she'd finished her training, she was offered a role as a tutor which earned her the Inspirational Adult Learner Award.

Meanwhile, electric vehicle tutor Adrian Howard was highly commended in the Tutor of the Year category, and the college was highly commended for its commitment to promoting and encouraging adult learning across the city.



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