



DEFINING FUTURES

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COLLEGE NEWSLETTER ISSUE 2 /// JANUARY 2022

Welcome to the second edition of the Defining Futures Newsletter which covers October to December activities. This publication aims to bring stories of College news to you.

Staying safe!

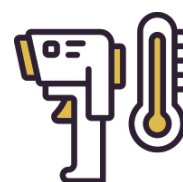


The College continues to operate fully with face-to-face teaching being accessed by all students and apprentices, adapting where appropriate to cope with absences. Some areas still continue with online studies as this way of working enabled students and apprentices to be more independent and support achievement.

COVID-19 protocols continue to remain in place such as wearing masks in communal areas and there has been full encouragement for wearing in classes too. The majority of students and apprentices continue to comply, however with the mixed messages in social settings, enforcing remains an ongoing task.

Business Support Teams continue to operate and support the student or apprentice experience through onsite rotated work patterns.

COVID cases *update*



Numbers of positive COVID-19 cases remain low, although increased during the latter stages of Term One. 45 positive cases were recorded from September to December across staff, students and apprentices. Of these cases, there have been no reported outbreaks and all reporting measures remain in place with the College and the local authority Public Health Team.

Asymptomatic Testing

Testing still continues to be a priority. Close to a thousand lateral flow test kits were provided to students before the end of term, with students very much recognising the part they have to play to enable us all to return to a safe environment.



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Use 2022 to discover a new skill!

People who want to kick off the new year with a qualification can find out about courses on offer at City of Wolverhampton College from January.

This is a refreshed offer that continues to support the economic recovery for the City, take a look www.wolvcoll.ac.uk/part-time-courses



Student nets National Lottery Funding

One of our students is celebrating after being awarded over £280,000 funding to run a community support project in her local area. Rachel Freeth, aged 35, from Moxley, who is studying for a Foundation Degree in Early Years Services, has received £283,920 from the National Lottery Community Fund to run the project for the next three years.



The Moxley Community Care project – based at Moxley People’s Centre, in Queen Street – will provide a community cohesion café, art and craft, healthy eating, knitting and sports sessions, as well as a homework club, befriending service, advice on producing a CV and home visits for those who are unable to access the centre.

Rachel initially developed the scheme during the first lockdown in March 2020 when she became aware of the effects of isolation on older people in her area and, after working with a local councillor to offer a befriending service, was awarded £61,050 National Lottery funding to provide food parcels, home activity packs and essential medical and hygiene supplies to over 200 local residents in need.

Feedback from those accessing the service showed the need for a community space where families and young people could access social activities and advice and support, prompting Rachel to develop the project and apply for further funding to extend the scheme to make it accessible to everyone in the local area.

Rachel said: *“Lockdown changed life dramatically for many people and, as a lone parent, I didn’t have a close network of support, so having live experience helps me to relate to families’ concerns and understand the positive impact that affordable, accessible advice and activity sessions can have on people in the community.*

Being at the heart of this project and knowing the difference it can make is so rewarding – starting the foundation degree changed my life and the support I have received from my College tutor has given me the knowledge and skills to grow personally and professionally and enabled me to take charge and make a change for the future.

I want to combine running the community project with completing my foundation degree and then want to progress to do a BA in Early Childhood Studies at the University of Wolverhampton, whilst continuing to support the community and continue making changes for future generations.”

Find out more about the project on the Moxley Community Care Facebook page or email moxleycommunitycare@outlook.com



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Engineering Company improved production following one of our courses!

Productivity at a Wednesfield-based engineering company has increased – and costs reduced – after staff attended a new business improvement programme offered by the College.

Six staff from Jenks and Cattell Ltd – which specialises in metal stamping, laser fabrication and welding – attended a three-month Inspiring Innovation and Creativity programme, aimed at employees in a supervisory, management or leadership role who want to learn skills to enable them to develop new ideas and create culture change within the organisation.



The programme of six one-day workshops, delivered by our Improvement Practitioners, covered business excellence and customer expectations, business improvement processes including Lean Six Sigma, effective team working, problem solving, project management, process mapping, quality assurance, data analysis and capability and control.

Following the programme, the team presented improvements to Mike O'Shea, Managing Director at Jenks and Cattell, and Fiona Latter, Programme Manager at West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA).

The team outlined the business benefits of what they had introduced in the section, including the implementation of a sustainable workplace organisation platform and improvements to the manufacturing process which has led to higher productivity and cost reductions.

Mr O'Shea said: *"The presentation from the six team members, along with the working example of a business management tool, went a long way to convincing me and the rest of the team that they understood the values in the course and that they were confident and competent in rolling out further best practice across the business."*

As an SME with limited resources it is imperative that these core competencies are built into everyday job roles, creating the opportunity for business excellence to become a growing part of our culture.

We now have a cross-functional team of six that talk the same language and my commitment is to give them the time to develop these skills, helping them to develop as individuals and potentially future business benefits".

The free programme – funded by WMCA – will benefit more businesses and is open to anyone in a leadership, supervisory or management role who lives in the West Midlands.

Staff getting muddy for charity!

Bradley Hughes, Supervisor in the Student Hub, came first in the Pretty Muddy Race for Life at Weston Park on October 30, beating off tough competition from over 500 runners to be first across the line in a charity fun run, completing the course in just 26 minutes.



Bradley said: *"The course was super-muddy, but it was a really fun event and I was proud to be part of the College team raising money for such a good cause."*

A team of staff including Helen Fellows, Luke Foster, Jodie Hathaway, Danielle Jones, Gurinder Rai and Asha Sahota took part in the event raising over £1,000 for Cancer Research.



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Students give us the thumbs up in survey!

Our students have given us a big thumbs-up in their Welcome Survey. Around 2,000 full-time students answered a range of questions about their College experience and had the opportunity to share positive comments and make suggestions on where improvements could be made.



In the survey of full-time students and those studying substantial courses, results show that 98% of students think that they are on the right course, 97% agree they received an appropriate induction to College life and 99% understand the College’s expectations around behaviour.

Steps taken to reduce the spread of Covid were deemed acceptable by 97% of respondents, with 95% saying that they would recommend the College to a friend.

Student comments about their experience so far have included:

“Very friendly and welcoming environment. Staff are very helpful when you need support. Very happy with my choice of College and course.”

“[I’m] learning from amazing tutors and gaining knowledge from my course.”

“... really enjoy it and look forward to coming every week, which I have never felt before in my education.”

“The experience at the College so far has been amazing, meeting all my new tutors, making friends and learning so much more than I did previously. It’s honestly opened up my eyes...”

“There is a safe environment in the College which motivates to learn...”

In comments about how the College experience could be improved, students highlighted the lack of seating areas in the canteen areas, which had been removed as part of Covid restriction measures but have since been re-instated, and a broken lift at the Paget Road campus which has now been repaired.



Another Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert

The College has another Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert in the form of Adam Dwight, who joins Carl Brown in holding this title.

These dedicated educators are selected through an annual nomination and selective application process. MIE Experts are self-driven, passionate about their work, have true collaborative spirit, and strive to inspire students. They are leaders and able to help support colleagues and senior leaders in digital skills and strategy.

This prestigious achievement reflects the College’s investment staff and our digital strategy.



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College takes delivery of specialist training machines



The College has taken delivery of a new plastics injection moulding machine and industrial robot, enabling it to expand the number of specialist training courses it provides to industry employees. The new Bole BL140EKS 140 tonne machine has been loaned to the College's Polymer Training and Innovation Centre (PTIC) in Telford by Wednesbury-based OEM supplier Bole Machinery Ltd.

The machine, worth £50,000, with a clamping force of 140 tonnes, is used to produce a range of plastic components for a range of sectors and will be used by the College to train industry professionals from across the UK, as well as Bole customers who need to learn how to use the new kit. The company has also lent the College a Sepro robot Success 22, worth £30,000 which is used to automate the injection moulding process.

Hardeep Khara, General Manager at Bole Manufacturing, said: "We are pleased to be able to loan the new machines to the College and to know that our equipment will be used to deliver specialist training in the latest techniques to industry professionals from the UK and beyond."

Andrew Dermody, Trainer Consultant at PTIC, said: "we are extremely grateful to Bole for the loan of the new machine which will enable us to expand the range of specialist training we offer to our clients and for them to benefit from learning how to use the latest industry equipment."

The Polymer Training and Innovation Centre provides polymer training and consultancy – specialising in injection moulding, blow moulding and extrusion training – to employees in the plastics industry, as well as apprenticeships in polymer processing and lean manufacturing and a range of industry-focused health and safety courses.

A Century Showcase by the College

The College was recently visited by colleagues from a number of educational organisations, including Hopwood Hall, Sheffield College, Solihull College, Coventry College, Gloucestershire College, Hereford Ludlow and North Shropshire College, UCB, and Birmingham Adult Education Service, amongst others. All Colleges were interested in how we have been using the software Century, especially for initial assessments.



The College has been working with Century to develop an initial assessment process for our students and we are the first College to use the platform for this purpose.

On the day they visited our century classes, saw diagnostics take place and discussed how far we had come with Maths and English over the past six years. Students also received awards for how much work they had completed in Century.

We are still working to develop our use of Century at the College but there was much positivity from the other Colleges who took away lots of our ideas – including our 'This is ME' strapline.

A link to the interviews with Conrad, Rebecca, Hayley, Matthew, and some students is available here: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/century-tech_interested-in-hearing-how-fe-colleges-use-activity-6874693902570414080-cy-M/



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New journalists celebrate job success!

Journalists who completed their industry qualification with us celebrated their success – and their new jobs – at a presentation event in November.

Seven students who gained the National Council for the Training of Journalists (NCTJ) Diploma in Journalism were presented with their certificates by Rob Mayor, Political Correspondent for BBC Midlands Today and BBC Radio WM.



They were joined by 12 students who completed their qualification in 2020, but were unable to be presented with their certificates due to coronavirus restrictions, as well as Mark Drew, Deputy Editor at the Express & Star, Anna Jeys, Audience and Content Director at Reach PLC, and Stuart Anderson, MP for Wolverhampton South West.

Since finishing their exams in June, many of the students are now working in the industry – including at the Express & Star, Stourbridge News, Berkshire Live, Oxford Mail, Hereford Times, Coventry Telegraph and The Sun.

NCTJ tutor Dani Wozencroft said: *“The College has been named as the best performing NCTJ further education College in the UK for ten consecutive years and this is evidenced by the number of students who have passed the course and gone on to get jobs in the industry.*

It has been a particularly tough couple of years with lockdowns and remote learning, but our students have coped incredibly well, adapting to a different way of teaching and continuing to thrive.

The industry has been through a difficult time as well, with lots of change, but it is great to see our students succeeding and the industry recruiting excellent trainee journalists which will make a difference in the area they serve.”

The College has been accredited by the NCTJ since 1997 and is the only accredited further education journalism training centre in the Midlands and has been named the best performing NCTJ further education College in the UK for ten consecutive years.

Research into Maths by one of our Lecturers

Maths lecturer, Linsey Jordan has participated in a research project with the Centre for Excellence in Mathematics.

Linsey undertook an action research project that aimed to discover the views of students with poor attendance for maths on blended learning. This noted that students felt overwhelmed or anxious when studying maths, which led to them not attending. They found that online lessons during lockdown was a positive experience and gave them confidence to plan to attend in person once back in College.

Read more on the research findings <https://www.et-foundation.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/32.-NSCG-Blended-Learning.pdf>

**THIS IS
ME!**
#Maths&English



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College secures £2million funding for building work



Construction training facilities at the College’s Wellington Road campus are set to be extended thanks to a £2 million cash injection. The College submitted a bid for a share of the Department of Education’s Post-16 Capacity Fund and is one of only 39 projects approved nationally.

The funding will enable a much-needed expansion of facilities at the College’s Construction Innovation Centre due to growing demand for places on courses – including two mezzanine areas with bays for electrical and plumbing workshops, increased space for gas trades training, and the installation of welfare units adjacent to the new rail track training area.

Malcolm Cowgill, Principal and Chief Executive, said “As the number of young people in Wolverhampton continues to grow the City will have the 14th highest rate nationally over the next ten years and this, combined with the College’s increasing popularity and demand for places on courses, means that we have reached full capacity in the Construction Innovation Centre.

“I am thrilled that the College has been successful in this bid which will enable us to provide more high-quality training for young people not in education, employment or training.”

The College developed the bid in partnership with City of Wolverhampton Council and a range of construction industry organisations including British Gypsum, CITB, Duplex Business Services, Flannery Plant Hire, Gough Group, McAuliffe Group, National Infrastructure Solutions and Sunbelt Rentals.

Mental Health Support

The College now has a team of Mental Health First Aiders across all differing roles and across both campuses. This is a newly formed team that is supporting to raise the profile and fulfill the College’s Well-Being for Success Strategy.



This strategy sets out our aims to support our students, apprentices and staff to develop the understanding, skills and behaviours to lead fulfilling, worthwhile and happy lives. The College has committed to clear actions as part of the strategy to be undertaken in areas such as leadership, transitions, promoting wellbeing, support for students and apprentices, learner voice and stakeholders and partners.

Key SMT members are leading on this who include Anil Sharma – Safeguarding and E&D Manager, Rose Urkovskis – Head of Student Entitlement and Mary Carter – Head of Human Resources, supported by Louise Fall – Vice Principal Student Engagement.



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Students to participate in building their own training facilities!



Students studying on our construction courses will now get the chance to work on an extension to their own training facilities, thanks to a partnership with a local building company.

The College has awarded the contract for a £1.7million extension to its Construction Innovation Centre, Wellington Road, to Interclass Plc which provides new build, design and build, and extension and refurbishment services to the public and private sectors.

The new area, which is due to open in September 2022, will feature dedicated purpose-built electrical, plumbing and gas training workshops and will be developed with funding from the Department of Education's Post-16 capacity fund.

The College is a committed partner of the Wolverhampton Pound – a pledge by major local public sector organisations to keep spending power in the local area – and are delighted that Interclass has been awarded the contract as it is an opportunity for us to invest in a thriving local business and for the company to invest in local skills for local people.

Work experience is an important part of our courses and provides our Construction students with the chance to work on the extension alongside Interclass employees who have been in the industry for many years is a fantastic opportunity for them all.

Des O'Neill, managing director at Interclass, said: *"We are really proud of our local roots and are delighted that we can support the College and the construction workforce of the future which, in turn, will help more local people secure jobs in the industry."*

The project was procured through Constructing West Midlands, a publicly owned and managed framework which has a 16-year track record in the delivery of public and third sector projects.

Students to benefit from knowledge of local author!

Engineering and manufacturing students at the College will be benefiting from the experience of a Lean Sigma Black Belt, after copies of a new book were purchased for each campus.



The book – BASICS: Be Always Sure Inputs Create Success – 12 Lean Sigma Six Tools and Techniques to Reduce the Cost of Quality from the Coal Face Out– has been written by Tettenhall-based author Paul Cunningham, who has used the processes in four different manufacturing industries over the last 30 years.

Ian Browne, Vice Principal Student Success said: *"We have purchased copies of Paul's book for the Study Hubs at the Paget Road and Wellington Road campuses, as well as for our specialist Polymer Training and Innovation Centre in Telford, so that our students can benefit from his many years of experience of using business improvement techniques."*

Paul Cunningham said: *"People fix problems not processes alone. Always measure from the process out and get the best for the people and the business at the same time and Be Always Sure Inputs Create Success."*



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Minister for Skills visits us!

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Apprenticeships and Skills met students during a visit last term.

Alex Burghart, Minister for Skills at the Department for Education, toured the College’s Paget Road campus and spoke to students about the proposed City Learning Quarter (CLQ) and the benefits that the new development will bring.

The College is working in partnership with City of Wolverhampton Council on plans for the site which, subject to funding bids, will see the construction of a new City Centre campus, as well as investment in the surrounding buildings and public realm.

Mr Burghart, the MP for Brentwood and Ongar, said: *“It was great to visit City of Wolverhampton College and meet some of their ambitious students and staff. You can feel the whole community rowing in behind the College and its students to take further education in the area to the next level.”*

Malcolm Cowgill, Principal and Chief Executive, said: *“The College has ambitious plans to transform the student environment and the CLQ will provide first class facilities allowing people from Wolverhampton and beyond to gain the skills and knowledge required to succeed in their chosen career.”*

The College forecasts that over a 10-year period, approximately 45,000 people will benefit from learning at the CLQ. In addition, the site will also generate and safeguard 750 jobs in the local economy.

The exciting proposals for the CLQ have been supported by an initial £6.2 million investment from the Council and Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership, which has enabled the completion of design work, site surveys, ground investigations, site acquisition and clearance. The Council has also bid for £20 million from the government’s Levelling Up Fund to help deliver the City Learning Quarter vision.



Another Minister visits us, this time the Shadow Minister for FE and Skills!



The Shadow Minister for Further Education and Skills, Toby Perkins MP, visited the College during National College’s week in October. Mr Perkins, accompanied by Pat McFadden, MP for Wolverhampton South East, was given a tour of the Wellington Road campus and met with students studying for qualifications in Bakery, Construction and Sport and said *“he was hugely impressed with the work going on at the College”*.



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Electric Vehicle Students star again on TV and Radio!



Students studying for qualifications at our new Electric Vehicle and Green Technologies Centre have talked about skills they are learning on Channel 5 News and BBC Radio WM.

The learners, who are studying at the Centre at Wellington Road, appeared in a 5 News piece about the need for more trained electric vehicle technicians, and spoke about their courses on Radio WM’s breakfast show, with the features coming hot on the heels of a report about the Centre on BBC One’s The One Show last month.

The Training Centre – developed in partnership with West Midlands Combined Authority – offers a range of courses designed to support people into careers in the developing sector, with qualifications available at beginner to advanced level.

The three-to-four week courses are free to attend and suitable for unemployed people wanting to improve their employment prospects in the automotive industry, those already working in the sector who want to upskill and gain knowledge and experience of working with electric vehicles, and people working in different industries who want to retrain to enable them to change career. All courses are taught by IMI-qualified tutors and, depending on the level of study, cover basic electric principles, high voltage components, hazards and health and safety, electric/hybrid vehicle system layout and components, removing and replacing high voltage components and diagnostics and trouble shooting.

On completion of the course, students will gain a recognised IMI qualification, as well as a guaranteed interview with a relevant industry employer.



Curriculum Updates!

The **Access to HE** teaching team have started supporting students to ensure they have the tools to make informed decisions on their next steps by having guest speakers from the University and also past students in to talk about the options and career choices available to them.



Work continues to support **Health and Social Care** students with their chosen charities in line with course objectives and developing their team working skills. Students have been able to support Sunnyside, a dog’s home, with two bake sales. For The Haven, students have been asking for donations for women and children residing in the hostels, plus students also did a guess the number of sweets in the jar to raise money to support them further, For Cruse, bereavement charity, student have chosen to go in house and had a movie day during the final week of last term. £1 entry and popcorn. Students voted for the movie of their choice! For The Beacon Centre for the Blind, students chose to brighten their day and were sponsored to wear bright clothing!



In addition, students took full advantage of the College Enrichment week, attending Sister to Sister, about empowering young females. Students provided excellent feedback for this event and discussions are taking place to invite them in to deliver more sessions. From this, 12 have now chosen to volunteer at New Cross Hospital and 3 more for St. John’s Ambulance.



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Sport students have been busy attending a day at the University of Wolverhampton, taking part in coaching and sports analysis activities all in the University's million-pound suite. The Wolves Academy students have also enjoyed a tour of the Molineux and participated in press conference activities and shirt signing poses, followed by a talk from Wolves coaches.



Travel and Tourism students developed their leadership and management skills during a trip to London recently. After some general sightseeing, they then lead their fellow UPS students on a bespoke tour of the big smoke, all to support their qualification.



Uniform Public Services students have immersed themselves in the legal system and have visited the National Justice Museum, in Nottingham to help them with their Criminology Unit. Whilst with the Travel and Tourism students in London they also took a trip to the Houses of Parliament and received a workshop on Law Creation Supports Government and The Protective Services. In addition, students have attended the Military Army Challenge at Nescliffe, which was a skills activity weekend that supported across a range of units. Competitions were entered and our students won on both days. They were a mix of teams from different groups to reinforce teamwork – well done UPS!



Industry and employability have been high on the agenda for the Professional Chefs as **Hospitality and Catering** students visited Weston Park for a tour of the kitchens, restaurants and received a talk from the Head Chef and Catering Team. They also have visited the Molineux for a talk from the Wolverhampton Wanderers Head of Catering, where some students were even offered a part time job to help with match days and events.

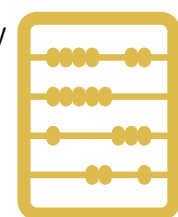


Hair and Beauty took full advantage of the College's Enrichment week. Not only attending cross College events, but attended workshops from industry specialists to support not only the course they are doing but their skills and knowledge once they progress to their chosen career. Bespoke sessions on semi and temporary colour, adding hair, hair up for weddings, hair extensions, wig making, creative workshops, clipper, creative, competition, micro bead and tape extensions. Barbers took advantage of demos and a Q&A session with industry barbers, plus a workshop on plaiting and twisting. Beauty students stretched their skills with sessions on nail art stamping, facial massages, back massages, gel polish application, one stroke nail art design, waxing, behind the mask, airbrushing plus also received Barbicide Certifications. Level 3 students explored algae body wrap training and high frequency back cleanse training, plus gel art design.



Great news for our **Early Years** higher education provision. The National Students Survey results completed by last year's students are exceptional!

For the Foundation Degree Supporting Children in Primary Education, students rated 100% for Assessment and Feedback, and 100% Teaching on My Course and 100% Overall Satisfaction. It is the only programme in the Faculty at the University of Wolverhampton that has achieved this.



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Our **Environmental Science** students experienced University life by completing a Climate Change Masterclass from Staffordshire University hosted by Dr Tim Harris on 'Saving Salluit: Should we stay or should we go?'. It focused on the Arctic which is experiencing rapid warming - faster than any other region on the planet - and it questions what it really means for people and places now. Whilst our **GCSE Science** and **A Level** students have been completing mock week in readiness for indicators to how well they are doing so far with their studies to further build on in preparation for their end of year examinations.



Since the launch of our ESports Team in October, the **Games Department** now take part in weekly tournaments with all other schools and Colleges. The fixtures take place on a Wednesday afternoon and have gathered interest from the British ESports Team, with them winning most of their tournaments so far!



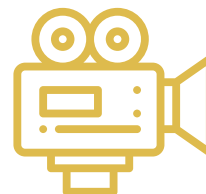
The Internal Heats have taken place for the ARTiculation competition with our **Art and Design** student, Charlie Collins, competing successfully against her peers to be successful in representing not only City of Wolverhampton College, but Wolverhampton Art Gallery in the Regional Final of the competition to be held at the Herbert Museum in Coventry in March 2022. Good luck Charlie!



The awarding body, The University of Arts London (UAL), have selected the College to star in their promotional footage regarding the value and quality of their delivery within our very own **Art and Design** facilities. This will be used for the UAL's own marketing resources and materials.



Media students are taking part in BBC Young Reporter Scheme - a scheme that allows our students to engage in the BBC's journalism and media project that supports them to develop content, and participate in forums with those with careers in broadcasting and also provides a platform for them to share their own stories.



Performing Arts are to launch their association with 'Flexus' Dance Collective as lead practitioners on all upcoming Flexus projects, including those associated with Theatre in Education and BAS9, as well as involvement in the Commonwealth Games.



Exciting times for our **Music** Department! The Outdoor Projection Project has been launched with the first outdoor projection on the Paget Road campus taking place in November, the Music Team once again have been nominated for Educational Establishment of the Year at the Birmingham Music Awards and our 'Live Loud and Local' has been identified as best practice for final assessment as part of the University of Wolverhampton Research Project. In addition, one of our former students is now employed as a Music Educational Ambassador for the Wolverhampton Music Service focusing on engaging schools and young people in music education and careers.



The College has joined forces with brewers and drinks manufacturers across the country to offer a UK-first **apprenticeship** scheme. The organisations have teamed up to develop a structured programme to train drinks dispense technicians responsible for the installation and maintenance of



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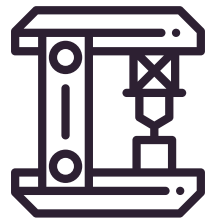
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equipment in pubs, clubs, bars, hotels, theatres, leisure centres and stadiums. We have just started our second cohort of apprentices and have now set up our drinks dispensing training academy at Paget Road, supported by the Budweiser Group who have supplied both training cellars and a training bar in the facility.

Daniel Mainwaring has received the City of Wolverhampton College Apprentice of the Year Award during the 2021 RBSL Awards Ceremony which took place in November. Daniel was recognised for his ability to achieve high standards when developing new skills as part of his apprenticeship. Daniel often exceeds expectations set by the delivery team and demonstrates natural leadership skills when working with his peers. He really is a credit to the course team who support and work with Daniel as part of his apprenticeship programme which has also been recognised by the executive leadership of RBSL.



Electrical Engineering student Zach Derbyshire accompanied staff from **Engineering** to visit Jaguar Land Rover. The meeting involved senior leaders within JLR who are responsible for organisational development and business growth. The purpose of the visit was to offer solutions to test dexterity and mechanical aptitude of apprenticeship applicants. During the meeting Zach demonstrated the assembly process of the "Robot Car" and was able to provide a clear vision for leaders and managers who have now embedded this practical activity into the selection process for new apprentices. During the visit Zach had the opportunity to take part in a guided tour of the Engineering facilities at Gaydon where he had an insight into a number of departments including Design, VR and Innovation. Zach also had the opportunity to see some prototype vehicles and concept designs which has inspired him to further his chosen career as an Electronics Engineer.



College Enrichment Week

Overall, 1,169 students engaged and participated in sessions by various guest speakers that focused on key topics and themes to support general wellbeing. One particular session was a puppet show covering topics of BV, Prevent, Mental health, Sexual harassment and consent with students sharing "It was very good and meaningful", "It was eye opening" "It was good, informative, he talked well about situations we all face" and "Motivational, spoke truth and awareness".

Other sessions included: Stop and search topic "Know your rights" hosted by West Midlands Police, Sister2sister hosted 'Empowering females', which discussed consent, the SAME Academy hosted a session on 'Road Safety and Driving Education' in addition to talks by Claire Birch - 'Don't stand in the way of your dreams', Aldrich Gonsalves - 'Bags of Character' and Stephen Seki, a motivational speaker.



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Support for our Care Experienced Students

The College is proud to be supporting 54 Care Experienced students, of which 45 are in care, 7 are care leavers and 2 in independent living.

Each student has a Personal Education Plan (PEP) in place which is a statutory requirement. A PEP is the key tool in supporting looked after children and care leavers to succeed with their education which is being led by key staff in the Student Hub.

In addition, Claire Birch – from Care Leaver Covenant has supported 32 Care Experienced students with 1-1’s covering maths support, budgeting, mentoring, support with University research, behaviour in class, time management and volunteering.



Student Success Stories

With a passion for motor racing, an Engineering Apprenticeship is enabling 17 year-old Lewis Evans to work in the industry he loves so much.

Stock car racing enthusiast Lewis, a leading driver in the BriSCA F1 League, combines working for race car manufacturer RCE in Sutton Coldfield with studying for the Level 3 diploma in Engineering after progressing from the Level 2 qualification last year.

Lewis, who proudly sports the College logo on his stock car, said: *“The course covers all aspects of welding, as well as health and safety in the workplace, and I’m getting the chance to improve my maths as part of the course too.*

An apprenticeship in an area of the industry where I also have an interest is an ideal combination as, not only can I use the skills I’m learning on vehicles at work, but I can also use them on my stock car too.”

Lewis is already making waves in the BriSCA F1 League, with three race wins to his name already this season and is currently ranked 25th nationally.



19-year-old Felicity Lloyd is proof that our Pathways to Work programmes lead to paid employment!

The course is aimed at young people who want to move into employment but need to build their skills, knowledge and self-confidence, and equips them with the skills they need through learning ‘on-the-job’ during work experience placements.

As Felicity was initially considering a career in retail, her first placement was at a Co-op food store where she organised stock, filled shelves and helped with customer enquiries, and she gained further experience by volunteering in a charity shop.

Felicity then moved to a placement with the cleaning team at the College, working three days a week – she became a valued member of the team, learnt how to use cleaning equipment and about health and safety, was able to work independently and showed great commitment with early starts, long days and even coming in during the College holidays.

Equipped with new skills and increased self-confidence, Felicity applied for a job as a domestic assistant at Engelberg Residential Care Home, in Compton and, following an interview, was offered the position. She has fitted in well with the team, interacts well with the residents and helps out in the kitchen when required – with the home manager commending the College for preparing Felicity for the world of work so well.



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After moving to the UK from Afghanistan, 18-year-old Muhammad Nabi signed up for an ESOL qualification to improve his English. Speaking to us after he'd done a practice interview session to prepare him for applying for jobs in the future, he said "You need to learn the language – without English you can't get on in society. Practising interview skills has helped me feel better about applying for jobs in the future.

I know that I need to find out about the job I'm applying for and what to expect in an interview, as well as the importance of being confident and talking clearly.

I recommend the College 100% and after completing my course want to apply for an Apprenticeship in Gas Engineering, as well as continuing to improve my English skills."

Muhammad completed ESOL entry level 2 last year and has now progressed to entry level 3.

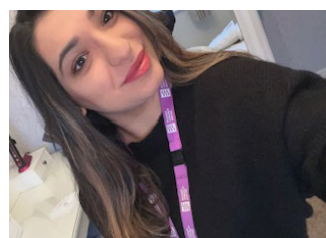


"I am currently a probation officer which is my dream job and without going to College to get my foundation degree I would never be where I am right now," said 24-year-old Suvern Sidhu who completed the Foundation Degree in Health and Social Care in 2017.

Suvern added: "I struggled academically at school and, as I was unable to go straight to university, I completed the foundation degree before moving on to university to do a one-year 'top up' which enabled me to gain my degree. And then my dream job.

I got an unbelievable amount of support from the course tutor – he took a lot of time to explain subjects that I did not fully understand, and even when I left College and went to university to do my top-up course he cared enough to still take time to explain things to me and my peers.

If you are someone who struggles academically and feel that going straight to university will be difficult, do a foundation degree first because, once you have, you'll feel that you are able to overcome whatever you'll face at university."



Sports student Mason Leek is celebrating after being named the first recipient of a new educational award from the Wolverhampton Wanderers Foundation.

Mason, aged 17, who is studying for a Level 3 Diploma in Sport, was presented with the Ian Millard Award for Outstanding Educational Achievement during half-time at the Wolves v Newcastle match at the Molineux Stadium on Saturday, 2 October.

The annual award – set up in memory of the former foundation trustee who died in September 2020 – recognises a student who displays outstanding educational achievement on any of the foundation's courses and was given to Mason after he submitted exceptional course work and achieved a distinction at the end of his first year of study.

Mason, who hopes to train as a physiotherapist in the future, said: *"I am really appreciative and honoured to win this award and feel that I can bring my success from last year into the new academic year and achieve the grades that I require for my future."*

Dan Clarke, Curriculum Manager, said: *"Mason is a motivated, hard-working and determined student. He is a key member of the Sports course and the Foundation's Football Team which represents the Wolves Foundation in the EFL league, and I have every confidence that he will progress to achieve his ambition of becoming a physiotherapist in the future."*



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