



DEFINING FUTURES

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

/// MAY 2025

Welcome to the latest edition of the Defining Futures Newsletter which covers the four-week period from when students returned to college after Easter until they broke up for half-term at the end of May.

What's in this issue?

This issue looks ahead to the 2025/26 academic year, gives an update on the construction of the new campus in the City Learning Quarter, and reports on bakery students supporting The Children's Trust by taking part in National Doughnut Week.

There's also news on an exciting new employment programme that the college is leading on behalf of a number of retailers in the city's Wulfrun Shopping Centre to recruit seasonal staff in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

Plus, as in every edition, there's a round-up of activities that students have taken part in during the term and case studies of current and former students from a range of curriculum areas.

Enjoy the issue!

LOOKING TOWARDS THE 2025/26 ACADEMIC YEAR

On a sunny spring evening at the end of April, hundreds of prospective students attended an open evening at the Paget Road and Wellington Road campuses.

They spoke to tutors about courses starting in September and took part in a range of subject-specific activities to give them a taste of what they will study. Attendees were enthusiastic about the qualifications on offer and the industry-standard training facilities, and many applied for their chosen course during the evening.


As the end of the 2024/25 academic year approaches, applications-wise it is a positive picture looking



➔ **Stay in the know**

Download the **myWolvColl** app



Take a look at the College's social media platforms:     Visit www.wolvcoll.ac.uk

forward to 2025/26 with students set to benefit from studying at the best college in the West Midlands – and in the top three in England – for achievement rates.

CITY LEARNING QUARTER CAMPUS - OPENING 2025!

Construction of the college's new campus – the flagship of City of Wolverhampton Council's £61 million City Learning Quarter in the city centre – remains on-track to open to students in the autumn.

Work on the exterior cladding is continuing and decorating of some of the interior areas is underway.

Get the latest on the new campus [here](#).



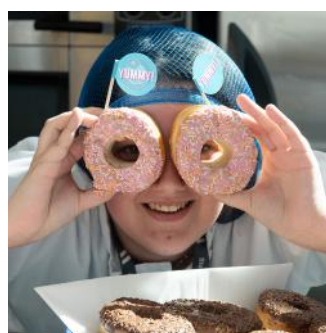
COLLEGE BAKERY STUDENTS GO DOUGH-NUTS FOR CHARITY!

Doughnuts galore were on the menu at the Wellington Road campus when bakery students took part in a national fundraiser in aid of The Children's Trust, the UK's leading charity for children with brain injury.

The students turned out hundreds of the dough-licious treats during National Doughnut Week (10-18 May) which they filled with jam and decorated with sugar, icing, chocolate and multi-coloured sprinkles.

The finished products – costing £1 each – were sold in the on-site bakery shop, with 50p from every sale dough-nated to the charity.

In a further boost, a photographer from the Express & Star captured the production process, resulting in a great online article and coverage on the front page of the print edition.



Read more [here](#).

WULFRUN SHOPPING CENTRE SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT SCHEME

Retailers in the Wulfrun Shopping Centre have called upon the college to help recruit staff for the busy Christmas period following the success of a



➔ **Stay in the know** Download the **myWolvColl** app



Take a look at the College's social media platforms: [YouTube](#) [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#) [Twitter](#) Visit www.wolvcoll.ac.uk

similar scheme last year.

Leading retailers Primark, Poundland, Warren James and Banana Republic have worked with the college and the Department for Work and Pensions to develop a free two-week training programme to equip local people with the skills and knowledge needed to work in the retail sector.

Sessions will cover an introduction to customer service and retail, teamwork, communication, behaviours in the workplace, safeguarding, equality and diversity, as well as producing a CV, searching and applying for vacancies, preparing for an interview and experiencing 'real-life' scenarios through the use of BodySWAP AI technology.

All those completing the programme will be guaranteed an interview with the participating retailers for a range of seasonal roles.

PROMOTING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Students got a taste of the wide variety of employment opportunities available when they complete their course at a Careers Day at the Paget Road campus.

Representatives from the Army, animal care, engineering and healthcare sectors, as well as higher education training providers and careers advisers attended the event to share their experiences and give advice on the qualities needed to work in a range of roles or progress to the next level of study.



SUPPORTING EMPLOYERS

Employers from across the region were welcomed to Molineux Stadium for an inspiring workshop led by international leadership expert Rune Todnem By.

Rune, who flew in from Norway for the event, hosted the session - entitled 'Leadership is all about making a difference' - which explored leadership, organisational development and shaping positive change, and also gave attendees the opportunity to share their ideas, experiences and perspectives on what leadership means in practice.

This event was hosted in collaboration with Innovate UK and Skills West Midlands & Warwickshire.



Members of the business, learning and technology team have written a book to help businesses navigate the latest advancements in artificial intelligence.

The book - entitled AI and Automation for SME Leaders - by Conrad Taylor, business, learning and technology manager, and Sage Lal, innovation consultant, is a comprehensive guide to digital transformation and provides a step-by-step guide to integrating AI into business.

The book is stocked in the Study Hubs at the Paget Road and Wellington Road campuses and is also available to purchase online.



➔ **Stay in the know** Download the **myWolvColl** app



Take a look at the College's social media platforms:     Visit www.wolvcoll.ac.uk

The employability team recently ran two 'Into Employment' programmes on behalf of McDonalds and B&M Stores which were looking to take on new staff.



The programmes covered the skills and knowledge and qualities required by each organisation, customer service, communication, teamwork, producing a CV, applying for jobs and preparing for an interview.

Successful participants were guaranteed an interview with the relevant organisation with a number gaining employment with McDonalds and all who completed the B&M programme being offered jobs.

CURRICULUM ROUND-UP BUSINESS

Students from the business department attended a Business Masterclass at University College Birmingham.

They took part in a range of activities including a business-pitch challenge, hands-on workshops and a session focussing on the crisis curve and how businesses can manage change.



COMPUTING

Students enrolled on computing courses found out the latest developments in digital and cybersecurity when they visited the Cybersecurity Show at the NEC, in Birmingham.

During the visit they met industry experts and spoke to a range of employers about career opportunities in the industry.

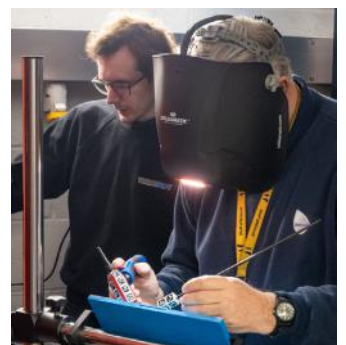


Students Ezra Keldo and Doina Surchicin hosted a college-wide forum exploring how AI could shape learning, future careers and daily life, looking at how it is currently used in college, how it might help to personalise learning, improve online safety and support ethical decision making.

ENGINEERING

Students in the engineering department are benefitting from a new augmented reality (AR) welding machine.

The new piece of kit - from TechSoft UK Ltd - enables students to safely practice welding techniques in a virtual environment before moving on to practical, hands-on sessions in the workshop.



➔ **Stay in the know** Download the **myWolvColl** app



Take a look at the College's social media platforms:     Visit www.wolvcoll.ac.uk

FUTURES FOUNDATION LEARNING

To mark the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day, students from the Futures Foundation programme hosted a celebration featuring activities, food, games and music.

The Futures football team headed to St George's Park, the official training ground of England's national teams, to take part in a national pan-disability tournament run by AoC Sport - with one of the team even managing to grab a selfie with England manager Thomas Tuchel!



PERFORMING ARTS

Students working towards qualifications in performing arts attended a religious literacy workshop to look at how faith and belief are part of further education.

Four of the students then provided character voiceovers for an animation on the subject of religion which is now available on OpenLearn, the Open University's free learning platform.



TRAVEL AND TOURISM

Student Liam Bloomer, who is studying for Level 3 extended diploma, has recently completed his cabin crew training with Jet2.

Staff from the travel and tourism department proudly attended the wings ceremony ahead of his first flight to Palma!



SPORT AND FITNESS

Education and training provided by the sports department has been officially recognised by CIMPSA, the professional development body for the UK's sport and physical activity sector.

The accolade - which follows an independent quality assurance review - recognises commitment to best practice and the provision of high quality teaching and learning to students.



➔ **Stay in the know** Download the **myWolvColl** app



Take a look at the College's social media platforms:     Visit www.wolvcoll.ac.uk

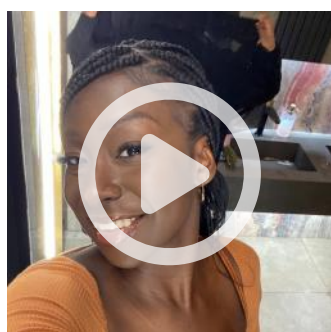
UNIFORMED PUBLIC SERVICES

Students working towards public services qualifications put their teamworking skills to the test during a day at Aztec Adventure, in Worcestershire where they took part in a range of activities including raft building and kayaking.

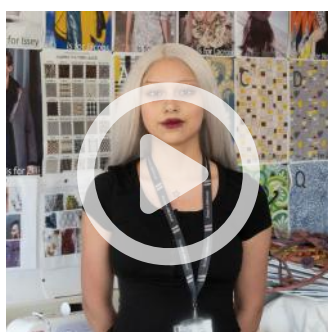


STUDENT STORIES

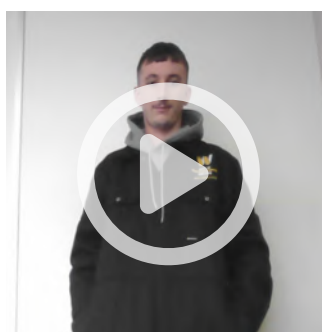
Take a look at what some of our students have to say about what they're learning at the college. Click on the individual pictures to read more.



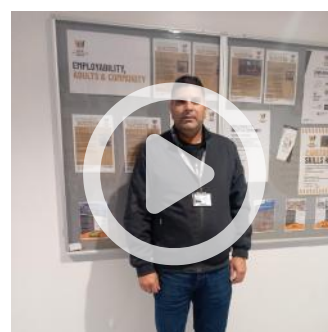
Ayanna Allen -
Social Media Content
Creator Bootcamp



Lucky-Primrose
Cambridge -
Art and Design Level 3



Jamie Chatwin -
Electric Vehicle Level 1



Jagdish Kauldhar -
Into Employment
programme - West
Midlands Metro



Harlie Nichols -
Health and Social Care
Level 3 Diploma



Shari Pendley -
Electric Vehicle Level 1
and 2

Read more stories **here**.

Thank you for reading.



➔ **Stay in the know** Download the **myWolvColl** app



Take a look at the College's social media platforms:     Visit www.wolvcoll.ac.uk