

DEFINING FUTURES

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 8 /// DECEMBER 2022

*Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year*



Welcome to the latest Defining Futures newsletter which covers activities from when students returned to college after the October half-term break until the end of term on 16 December.

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE?


There's chance to see some of our students on the TV, latest college news, an update on the development of the City Learning Quarter, an overview of the numerous activities that students have been involved in to enhance and enrich their learning and comments from current and former students about their courses and the skills they're gaining.

Read on to find out more!



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COLLEGE IN THE NEWS!

STUDENTS FISH FOR TROLLEYS AND TRAFFIC CONES IN CANAL CLEAR-UP

Students on our Progression to Work programme made their own headlines when their work to clear-up a section of canal in Wednesfield was featured on ITV News Central!

The group of seven students worked with the Canal and River Trust to remove shopping trolleys and traffic cones from the waterway and picked up litter from the towpath to make the area more attractive to canal users.

Reporter Mark Gough joined the group at the clear-up and interviewed two of the students, for the piece which was broadcast on the evening news bulletin at 6pm!

Find out more about the project and watch the news clip [here](#)



STUDENTS LEAD COLLEGE REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

Around 70 students who are studying for qualifications in uniformed public services honoured those who suffered or died at war in a Remembrance Day service at the Wellington Road campus on November 11.

The students, wearing their college-branded uniforms and remembrance poppies, formed up in the college quadrangle before two standard bearers paraded the union jack and college flag and the assembled company stood to attention for the national two-minutes' silence at 11am.

The service - which included readings in Lithuanian, Punjabi and English, with British Sign Language interpretation - was planned and organised by the students themselves, with many giving up their free time and attending college on their days off to rehearse.

Read more and watch a recording of the service [here](#)



STUDENT'S PET PICTURE IS THE CAT'S WHISKERS!

A picture of his pet cat taken by a first-year photography student earned him the title of Wolverhampton Young Photographer of the Year in a competition organised by the city's art gallery.

Devon Beckett, aged 16, from Bushbury, snapped the colour image of his cat, Belle, in his garden and was encouraged by his tutor to enter the competition, organised by the gallery to coincide with its current Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition.

Devon, who is studying for a two-year UAL Level 3 extended diploma in photography, said: "I only entered the competition for fun, so to win was a bonus and is a great achievement for me."

Read more [here](#)



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PREFERRED CONSTRUCTION PARTNER NAMED FOR CITY LEARNING QUARTER

Development of the City Learning Quarter has reached a major milestone with City of Wolverhampton Council appointing its preferred construction partner for the new city centre campus.

McLaughlin & Harvey has been awarded a pre-construction contract and will now develop the detailed designs and carry out some minor preparatory works ahead of construction starting in spring.

The City Learning Quarter scheme has been developed by the council in partnership with the college and will deliver a purpose-built learning facility for young people and adults at the heart of the city centre to drive up skill levels in the area.



Read more **here**

COLLEGE LAUNCHES NEW MANAGEMENT COURSE FOR CHARITY SECTOR

A new management training course for people working in charities, social enterprises or community organisations has been launched by the college.

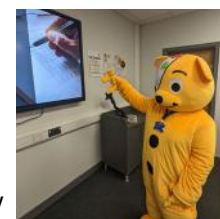
The one-year part-time principles of leadership and management for social leaders diploma - accredited by the Chartered Management Institute - is aimed at junior managers and supervisors to enable them to develop skills to help improve operational efficiency within their organisation.



Find out more **here**

In other news...

Pudsey Bear made his annual visit to college raising money for BBC Children in Need and, as always, was very popular with students and staff alike - he even tried being a tutor!



Students with high attendance were entered into a draw for the chance to bag two VIP tickets to Free Radio Live - with uniformed public services student Kyra being the lucky winner!



Curriculum planning for 2023/2024 got underway with guest speakers from West Midlands Combined Authority, City of Wolverhampton Council, the University of Wolverhampton and Colleges West Midlands - together with our partners we continue to develop our curriculum offer year-on-year to support both the progression of our students and the economic recovery in our region.



GCSE maths students took part in an exciting study to help build their confidence and resilience after Covid. They were asked to complete a goal-free task each week for four weeks, and work out what they could form the information provided, rather than having a specific goal. Marks increased by 37%, with 34% of students taking part more willing to engage with the question and 91% increasing in confidence. Learning from the exercise is now being incorporated to support all maths GCSE students.

91%
of students taking part increased their confidence



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CURRICULUM ROUND-UP

Automotive

Curriculum manager Stephanie Jones and tutor Joe Caines visited some of last year’s students who were all offered jobs as smart repair technicians with leading motor vehicle dealership Greenhous, in Shrewsbury, after representatives from the company attended college and were impressed with how they were using their skills and knowledge in the workshop.

Some of this year’s students got the chance to see the former students in action when they visited Greenhous for a tour of workshop facilities and to find out more about career opportunities with the company.

Students got hands-on and found out more about the skills and knowledge needed to service and repair electric vehicles when automotive e-learning company Electude brought their mobile experience room - which blends interactive and e-learning - to college for a day of immersive activities.



Bakery

Bakery students got into the festive spirit by producing mouth-watering Christmas cakes, mince pies, fruited rings and stollen to stock up the on-site bakery shop at the Wellington Road campus.



Business

Business students got the lowdown on what it takes to run a successful business and the skills needed to be an entrepreneur, during an inspiring and informative talk from Amelia Nutting, an award-winning cake artist and owner of celebration cake shop Shuga Budz in Compton.



Students also joined an inspiring and informative virtual talk by Tamara Box, managing partner Europe and Middle East and Head of Structured Finance team at international top 20 law firm Reed Smith. Tamara shared her educational journey, her career path and the challenges she faced along the way.



Construction

Bricklaying students on the Level 2 diploma have been hard at work crafting amazing projects, including a Flemish bond wall and chimney.



Painting and decorating students have been working on a wallpapering project, gaining valuable skills and experience that they can use in the workplace!



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Students on the British Gypsum Site Ready Skimming course got an insight into working in the industry and advice from experts during a visit from two members of staff from Broughton’s Plastering Contractors.



Rail training apprentices from McGinley Support Services started their training - delivered by the college in partnership with National Infrastructure Solutions - at the Wellington Road campus.

Creative Arts

Photography students strode out on a photo walk to sharpen their skills and get the imagery they need for their assignments.



The students also went on a trip to Wolverhampton Art Gallery to visit the amazing Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition.



ESOL

ESOL students found out more about Wolverhampton during a scavenger hunt around the city, walking 8km in 90 minutes completing challenges and tasks along the way.



The students also explored Bantock Park - following a map and instructions to get to a meeting point where they found out about the local history and tried on clothes from the Victorian era.



Futures

Futures students organised and ran a Christmas market and tombola at the Wellington Road campus, raising around £200, and a donation from the proceeds was made to Save the Children.



Hairdressing and Barbering

Barbering students took part in a workshop with the owner of Markies Barbers and found out about different techniques to create different styles.



Hair and beauty students benefitted from an inspiring and educational talk from an account education professional at Wella.



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Health and Social Care

Health and social care students raised money for The Haven Wolverhampton by organising a charity leg wax. Sports tutor Michael and student representative Katie both volunteered to take part, with the waxing carried out by beauty student Diya.



Students gained an insight into working in health and social care during a visit from John Harper, chief executive at CompleSSo Healthcare Solutions. John talked about CompleSSo’s role in the sector, as well as work experience opportunities with the company with a view to long-term training and employment.



Sport

Two sports students attended a student activator event - a day of learning, planning and challenges - organised by the ECFA, the national governing body for football in further education colleges, to help them discover how they make a difference at college and in the local community.



Final year sport students were inspired to begin their coaching journey thanks to a masterclass delivered by football coaching students from the University of Wolverhampton.



The Football Academy topped their group and secured their place in the next round of the EFL CEFA Cup after a thrilling 3-1 victory over Lincoln City FC.



Student Daniel Jones won the annual Association of Colleges (AoC) regional table tennis tournament and will now represent the college and AOC Colleges West Midlands at the AoC Sport National Championships in April 2023.



Travel and Tourism

As part of an assignment on cruise destinations, students visited Liverpool and enjoyed a day exploring the city and all its tourist attractions.



The students also spent a day in Birmingham and visited the German market, went ice skating in Centenary Square, met with Virgin Atlantic for a panel discussion on inclusion and stopped off at the airport to learn about the passenger journey and employment opportunities, before finishing their trip with a visit to Resorts World.



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Uniformed Public Services

Student Louis Johnson was honoured with a special recognition award at this year’s Young Citizen of the Year awards. Louis, who has raised over £48,000 for charity, was given the award by the Rotary Club of Tettenhall and proudly sported his college uniform at the ceremony.



Students got a drones-eye view of the Wellington Road campus during a visit by the West Midlands Police drone team. They learnt about the importance of drones and how they are used by the police, as well as piloting a flight across the campus.



A new 3WV (COWC) West Midlands Police Cadets unit was launched by Chief Inspector Paul Southern. The unit - run by the college in partnership with West Midlands Police - aims to encourage young people to become more active citizens and gain the skills needed to support police officers in their local community.



Students found out about what it’s like to work for the police service and what it takes to become an officer during an inspiring talk from officers from West Midlands Police.



The students also found out about democracy, the government, MPs and the rule of law during an engaging presentation from Clare Mullin, outreach officer at the House of Parliament.

WHAT OUR STUDENTS THINK...

During the AoC’s Love our Colleges week in October we asked students to share what they love about college - here’s what they had to say...



What do you enjoy most about college life? 🙌

Playing football with my friends



What do you enjoy most about college life? 🙌

Meeting new people

What do you enjoy most about college life? 🙌

Definitely friends

What do you enjoy most about college life? 🙌

Seeing the best tutors/ teachers ever!

What do you enjoy most about college life? 🙌

Doing a course about my favorite thing: Media

What do you enjoy most about college life? 🙌

Get to dress the way I wanna

What do you enjoy most about college life? 🙌

The darkroom 📷

What do you enjoy most about college life? 🙌

Actully getting a bit of freedom



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We're always keen to get feedback from current students about how their courses are going, the skills they're gaining and their plans for the future - click on their pictures below to read what they have to say.



Promise Anoke
Business



Mason Freeman-Causier
Computing & IT



Daniel Jones
Sport



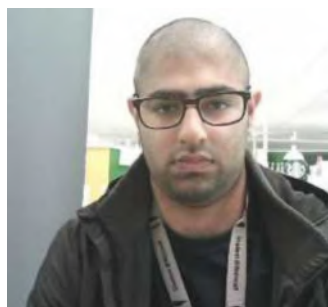
Louis Johnson
Uniformed Public Services



Deacon Joyce
Sport



Trinity Mason
Painting and Decorating



Mohammed Shiraz
Computing & IT



Lewis Smith
Sport

We also like to get feedback from former students about how college has helped them to progress to the next stage of their career - click on their picture to read more.



Lydia Fosuah
Say Yes to the Job



Tom Coates
Automotive



Kerry O'Brien
'Say Yes to the Job



Robin Tinsley
GCSE maths



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