



DEFINING FUTURES

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

/// DECEMBER 2024

Welcome to the latest edition of the Defining Futures newsletter which covers activities that took place from when students returned to college after half-term in October, until they broke up for the Christmas holidays in December.

What's in this issue?

This issue contains news on the latest milestone in the construction of the college's new city centre campus, as well as how students studying for public services took part in a Remembrance Day parade, students doing creative media qualifications featured in a Mander Centre Christmas advert, and students from the Futures Foundation Learning programme were joined by a local actor as they kicked off the festive season at their end-of-term Christmas concert.

What's more, with students now well-settled into their courses, there's a round-up of the activities they've benefitted from and taken part in to enhance their learning.

CITY CENTRE CAMPUS HITS NEW HEIGHT

Construction of the college's new city centre campus hit new heights just before the end of term, with the roof on the showpiece building now complete.

The state-of-the-art campus - which is phase two of the council's transformational City Learning Quarter masterplan - is situated around the Old Hall Street and St George's Parade area and is due to open in the 2025/26 academic year.

Louise Fall, principal and chief executive of the college, said: "After many years of discussions and planning, the latest construction milestone means that we are another step closer to the dream of a new campus becoming a reality.

"This is great news for the college and for the thousands of students, apprentices, staff, employers and local people who will benefit from the fantastic teaching and learning facilities for many years to come."



Read more [here](#).



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STUDENTS PAY TRIBUTE AT REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Students studying for qualifications in uniformed public services honoured those who suffered or died at war at a Remembrance Parade, at the Wellington Road campus, on Monday 11 November.

Around 100 students, wearing college-branded uniforms and poppies, formed up in the college quadrangle and two standard bearers paraded in the union jack and college flag before the reading of the Ode of Remembrance and a two-minute silence at 11am.



Picture copyright
Express & Star

Watch the service [here](#).

MEDIA STUDENTS STAR IN MANDER CENTRE CHRISTMAS ADVERT

Students doing diplomas in creative media production and technology featured in a Christmas advert showcasing shopping opportunities available in the Mander Centre over the festive period.

The students played the role of shoppers in the 30-second video - which was screened live on Sky and Virgin TV to households in the local area - and also got the chance to work alongside Sky's media team to see how the advert was produced.



Watch the Mander Centre advert [here](#).

LOCAL ACTOR JOINS STUDENTS' CHRISTMAS CONCERT

A West Midlands actor who featured in the 2024 hit movie Beetlejuice Beetlejuice kicked-off Christmas celebrations when he joined students from the Futures Foundation Learning programme at their end-of-term concert.

Rupi Lal, who played the role of Astrid's doctor

in the film, joined in the festive fun which included a host of popular Christmas classics which were sung and Makaton-signed by the students.



COLLEGE LIFE

During the last week of term, the college chaplaincy hosted Christmas services at the Paget Road and Wellington Road campuses, featuring carols and readings by members of the Students' Union, with free warming hot chocolate and a little gift for everyone who attended.

Earlier in the term, as part of the annual Children in Need appeal, well-known mascot Pudsey Bear



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spent a day at the Paget Road campus.

As well as collecting donations for the charity, he also worked on reception, helped out in the canteen and took the opportunity to have a rest with his feet up on the principal's desk!



Student digital champions – who will play a key role in shaping the future of digital learning technology in the college – began their journey with a training session on digital technology in education led by the business learning and technologies team.



Meanwhile, students from across the college competed in the football video game EA Sports FC 2025, with a range of prizes up for grabs.



SUPPORTING STAFF

Staff who have recently joined the college got the chance to meet members of the senior management team (SMT) at a 'speed dating' session. Around 20 new employees attended the event and spent five minutes with each member of SMT (or a representative if they were unavailable) to find out more about their roles and responsibilities and what their respective department does.



PROMOTING OPPORTUNITIES

Students from a range of courses spent five days on a Regeneration Brainery bootcamp designed to give them the tools, contacts and know-how to kick-start their future careers.

As part of the programme, the students toured Wolverhampton and the wider West Midlands area visiting companies, speaking to employers and listening to inspirational talks, as well as meeting Richard Parker, Mayor of the West Midlands.

The students also got a behind-the-scenes look at progress of the construction of the college's new city centre campus, which is being developed as part of City of Wolverhampton Council's City Learning Quarter



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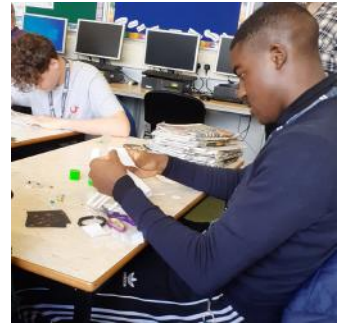
masterplan and is due to open in the 2025/26 academic year.

Participants on an Aspire in the Community course – run at Fifth Avenue community centre – gained a range of skills to get them ready for work and also learnt how to cook as part of the programme.

As well as developing communication, customer service and leadership skills, they added cooking skills to the mix thanks to weekly practical sessions run by a community chef from the WV10 Consortium and were able to take whatever they'd made home with them.

Students on a Get Ahead Programme took part in a range of activities to enhance their learning during the college's enrichment week.

Activities were designed to enable them to apply their learning in new ways, further develop their communication and teamwork skills, and support their mental wellbeing.



CURRICULUM ROUND UP APPRENTICESHIPS

An apprentice from a local engineering company who is doing his training through the college was named as one of the contenders for a national apprenticeship award.

Dan Collins, a toolmaking apprentice at Jenks & Cattell was shortlisted for the Aluminium Federation (ALFED) Apprentice of the Year award.



BAKERY, HOSPITALITY AND CATERING

Students doing professional cookery qualifications got a behind-the-scenes look at how a commercial kitchen operates when they paid a visit to the head office of Marston's PLC.

They toured the head office and took part in a masterclass with the company's development chef and tasted some of the dishes on offer.

Meanwhile, bakery students helped everyone get into the Christmas spirit by turning out a range of festive goodies including iced cakes, yule logs and mince pies.



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CONSTRUCTION

Students on carpentry programmes are getting hands-on experience of fitting high-quality kitchens thanks to a donation of brand new units from the Wolverhampton branch of Howdens.



ENGINEERING

Equipment in the new Advanced Technology and Automotive Centre, at the Wellington Road campus, continues to be expanded with the recent arrival of a range of new kit - including a CNC machine, bandsaw, lathe and milling machine - which will enable students to work accurately with metal and other materials during their course.

Students studying for automotive and engineering qualifications got the chance to find out about employment opportunities in both sectors at a careers fair in the new Advanced Technology and Automotive Centre.

Around 250 students attended the event and talked to employers from different companies across the region about the range of jobs available and the skills and knowledge needed for successful careers in the industries.



ENGLISH

Students doing English qualifications took a step back in time during a visit to the Black Country Living Museum.

They discovered what 19th century England was like and heard stories about life from the start of the Industrial Revolution until after the end of World War Two.



FUTURES FOUNDATION LEARNING

The Futures football team took part in a tournament playing matches against Walsall College, Heart of Birmingham College and Stoke College - winning all three matches and the overall competition. Players of the tournament were John Haynes, Mikee Malek and Alex Bird, with John being awarded a trophy for being voted



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player of the team by the other colleges.

In the last week of term, students helped staff and fellow students get into the Christmas spirit by holding a mini market in the reception area at the Wellington Road campus where they sold a range of festive goods and sold raffle and tombola tickets with a range of prizes up from grabs.



GAMES DESIGN

Students studying for diplomas in games design got the lowdown on how social media influencers are sued by companies to promote their brands in the online gaming world through a link-up with an industry-leading esports marketing agency.

Representatives from Ireland-based Feenix Group ran a workshop for students to give them an insight into how brands integrate into online gaming platforms how the company identifies and recruits influencer talent to connect brands with the global esports audience, and the skills needed to work in the gaming sector.



HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Students on the new Health T Level programme have been learning about the healthcare sector and getting hands-on experience of carrying out CPR on training 'manikins' - and they have been proudly wearing their new college uniforms too!

The students also benefitted from a visit by John Harper, managing director of Complesso Healthcare Solutions, to find out more about what they will be required to do when they start their industry work placement with the company. Meanwhile, students studying for health and social care diplomas have been developing their mentoring skills by working alongside students on the Futures Foundation Learning programme and support them in lessons.

They also benefitted from a visit from representatives from the University of Wolverhampton and found out about career opportunities in the fields of midwifery, nursing, public health and social work.



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MATHS

A participant on a Get into Work for people who want to become support workers at the college reaped double benefits by doing the course.

Joshua Cox was not only offered a full-time job but he also improved his maths skills through the Multiply programme, so that when he was decorating at home he was able to calculate the size of the room and how much paint he needed to buy.

Meanwhile, tutors from the Multiply programme have been working with parents at Villiers Primary School, in Bilston, helping them to develop confidence in maths (and English) so that they can not only support their children with homework, but also use their new skills in day-to-day life.



PERFORMING ARTS

Pupils from local schools got a glimpse of what it takes to be a successful actor when they attended a Perform Fest event organised by the performing arts department.

Former performing arts student Priyasasha Kumari - who went on to star in the popular TV series Waterloo Road - was joined by representatives from the city's Arena Theatre who gave pupils advice on the skills and knowledge they need for careers in the industry.



Hear from actor Priyasasha [here](#).

SPORT

Six female students from the Football and Education programme, run in partnership with Wolverhampton Wanderers Foundation, took part in trials for the England College's team, with Tirana Grizzle and Courtney Bengner selected to progress to the next stage of trials for the national team.



TEACHING AND EDUCATION

Trainee teachers on the CertEd/PGCE course attended an inspiring session led by Dr Lou Mycroft on the role of educators in fostering a fairer and more sustainable future, as part of the GreenChangemakers initiative.

The session encourages the group to explore the importance of green skills and also addressed social and economic injustice and inequity.



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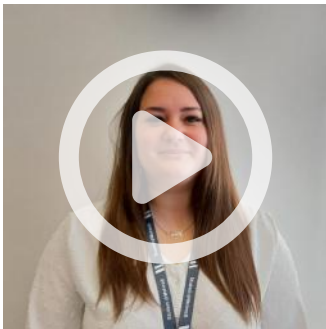
TRAVEL AND TOURISM

Students doing travel and tourism diplomas found out about what it's like to work on board an aircraft when two members of Jet 2's cabin crew paid a visit to the Wellington Road campus.

They also benefitted from a visit to University College Birmingham - where they took part in a tourism and aviation masterclass, explored the aviation suite and learned about planning flight routes and handling crisis situations - and a trip to the National School and College Leavers' Festival - where they chatted to representatives from Easyjet and Ryanair about different career opportunities in the travel industry.



STUDENT STORIES



*Timea Asztalos -
Preparation for Work -
Retail and Customer
Service*



*Clarice Barlow -
Social Media Content
Creator Level 4 Award*



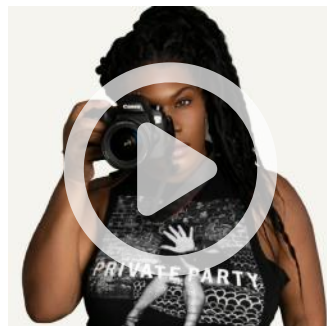
*Lee Guest -
Social Media Content
Creator Level 4 Award*



*Ben Homer -
Automotive IMI Level 3
diploma*



*Mandip Lachhar -
Travel and Tourism
Level 3 Diploma*



*Sophia Loren -
Social Media Content
Creator Level 4 Award*



*Kristian Marshall -
NIS Gateway to Rail*



*Mvande Ohiaeri -
Social Media Content
Creator Level 4 Award*



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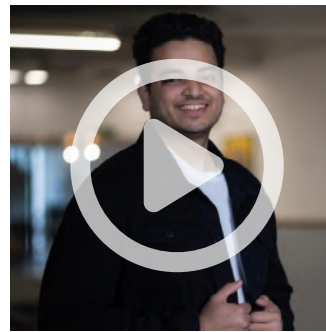
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Jacob Porrett -
NIS Gateway to Rail



Joshua Robertson -
NIS Gateway to
Construction



Advait Shetty -
Social Media Content
Creator Level 4 Award



Jerome Wilson -
Gateway to Rail

Read more student stories [here](#).

Thank you for reading.



Season's
Greetings

From



**CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COLLEGE**

Christmas card designed by college student Doina Surchicin



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