



DEFINING FUTURES

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 10 /// MAY 2023

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

What's in this issue?

The headline story in this issue is news about our Good Ofsted rating following a rigorous four day inspection in January - it goes without saying that the principal, governing body, executive management team and everyone else at the college is delighted with the result and with the national recognition that the college is one of the leading further education providers in the region.

There's also chance to find out about the latest developments at the Wellington Road campus - including plans for the new Advanced Engineering and Electrical Vehicle Centre of Excellence - the success of an employment scheme to help people get jobs in the NHS, reports on two major companies that have chosen the college to deliver apprenticeship training to their employees, and a story about an uncle and nephew team who are driving forward training in the automotive department.

What's more there's an overview of the many activities that our students have been involved in to enhance their learning - we're sure you will agree that it was a very busy term!



COLLEGE IN THE NEWS

'GOOD' NEWS FROM OFSTED REPORT

City of Wolverhampton College has maintained its 'Good' Ofsted rating following a recent inspection.

A team of 14 inspectors carried out a rigorous four-day full assessment of all areas of the college in January 2023, with the organisation being given the second highest possible grading that Ofsted can award for overall effectiveness.

In the report inspectors rated a range of types of provision as 'Good' - including education programmes for young people, adult learning



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programmes and provision for learners with high needs - as well as quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development and leadership and management.

The report highlights a number of key strengths, including the provision of a broad curriculum which meets the needs of the local economy, how the college engages with employers and stakeholders to ensure that curriculum content aligns with current industry trends and practices, and implementing courses to meet local skills needs in construction, electric vehicle maintenance, rail track safety and social care.

The inspection team praised tutors for planning lessons effectively, using a range of teaching and learning strategies to engage and enthuse students, using complex tasks to assess students' knowledge and understanding, and supporting all students and apprentices to achieve their qualification and progress to their next level of education, training or employment.

Find out more [here](#)



CONTRACTOR APPOINTED TO DELIVER TECHNICAL TRAINING CENTRE AT WELLINGTON ROAD CAMPUS

Speller Metcalfe has been awarded the contract to build the new Advanced Engineering and Electrical Vehicle Centre of Excellence at the Wellington Road campus, with construction to get underway this spring.

The £8.1 million centre has been designed for engineering and motor vehicle studies - focusing on new electric, hybrid and traditional vehicles, CAD and robotics facilities - and will secure hundreds of jobs in the local economy and create learning opportunities for thousands of students.

Read more [here](#)



NEW COLLEGE FLOODLIGHTS SCORE HAT TRICK OF BENEFITS

New floodlights on the football pitches at the Wellington Road campus are set to save money, reduce carbon emissions and improve the playing environment for students and customers who use the facility.

The project has seen 16 metal halide floodlights on the artificial 3G pitches replaced with 12 energy efficient LED lights, which will reduce annual energy consumption by 48.9% and lead to a saving of approximately £5,500 per year.

Find out more [here](#)



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COLLEGE TRAINING BUDWEISER APPRENTICES

Drinks giant Budweiser Brewing Group UK & I is on a recruitment drive for drinks dispense technician apprentices, giving people the chance to learn on-the-job by combining working for the company with studying at City of Wolverhampton College.

The 18-month Level 3 drinks dispense technician apprenticeship will enable Budweiser employees to develop the industry skills and knowledge needed to install and maintain equipment in pubs, clubs, bars, hotels, theatres, leisure centres and stadiums across the United Kingdom.



Read more [here](#)



WHEATLEY PLASTICS CHOOSES COLLEGE TO DELIVER APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING

A leading provider of plastic injection moulding services has chosen the college to deliver apprenticeship training to two of its employees.

Wheatley Plastics, based in Stockport, has enrolled the two staff on a three-year Level 3 science industry manufacturing technician apprenticeship and they will attend technical training at the college's Polymer Training and Innovation Centre (PTIC), in Telford, on a block release basis.



The duo - Luke Timblin and Michal Sekula - will complete knowledge-based assignments and injection moulding practical assessments, sit and an external examination and gather evidence for an end point assessment which will demonstrate that they have developed the skills, knowledge and behaviours required by their apprenticeship standard.

Find out more [here](#)



NEW NHS EMPLOYMENT COURSE RETURNS HEALTHY RESULTS

A new programme to help jobseekers gain administrative roles in the NHS has been hailed a success after giving employment opportunities to the first group of participants.

The Steps into Health programme - run by the college in partnership with The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust and Jobcentre Plus - aims to overcome barriers to employment by enabling people to develop a range of skills, get support in applying for jobs and help preparing for an interview.

Of the 14 participants who completed the first course, one gained a permanent part-time role with the trust, while 12 were recommended for its temporary staffing bank which enables them to book shifts and work across different departments requiring administrative support.



Read more about the scheme [here](#)

Listen to an interview about the scheme with WCR FM [here](#)



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UNCLE AND NEPHEW TEAM HELPING TO DRIVE STUDENTS' TRAINING FORWARD

An uncle and nephew with over 70 years' experience in the automotive industry are supporting students doing their qualifications at City of Wolverhampton College.

Pete Takyar, aged 61, and his nephew Kieron, 52, are technicians in the college's automotive workshop and part of a team of eight delivering training to the next generation of industry employees.

The duo, who are based at the college's Paget Road campus in Compton, are responsible for setting up equipment for lessons, ensuring vehicles are ready for students to work on, and giving advice on how to complete tasks set by tutors.



Read more **here**

CURRICULUM ROUND-UP

APPRENTICESHIPS

The college showcased its apprenticeship opportunities at two prestigious regional events - the Apprenticeship, Employment and Skills Show in Telford and the National Apprenticeship and Education Event, in Birmingham - meaning thousands of young people were able to find out about the wide range of apprenticeships and full-time qualifications we offer and take part in some fun practical activities.

Property maintenance apprentices from Sunbelt attended the company's Sunbelt Rentals UK & Ireland Awards, with apprentice Harvey being highly commended in the Impressive Start category

And we were delighted to be joined by representatives from Budweiser Brewing Group UK&I came who talked to engineering, business, and automotive students about apprenticeships and career paths within the company.



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AUTOMOTIVE

Four students were shortlisted for a position at Greenhous Commercials at its new pre-delivery inspection centre in Coven and were invited to take part in a work trial during the Easter break.



BAKERY

Bakery students turned out an array of tempting treats, including extra spicy hot cross buns with chilli and paprika, breads, pastries.

Meanwhile, students studying for the Foundation Degree in Bakery and Patisserie Technology created some incredible two-tier wedding cakes!



BUSINESS

Business students gained an insight into careers in the banking industry from two representatives from HSBC who shared their experiences of working in the sector.

Students also used their organisational skills to arrange a fundraising event for Welcome St George's - a charity helping children in poverty - which included the sale of baked goodies and samosas, a raffle and a prize competition.



CONSTRUCTION

Students showcased their work - including brickwork, carpentry, plumbing and wallpapering, - in an end of term display.

Plastering tutor Paul gave the lowdown on what students can expect to learn on the course.

Click the link to see what he had to say [here](#)



CREATIVE ARTS

Students studying for qualifications in creative arts benefitted from work experience placements in Florence, through the Erasmus programme, working in a range of creative roles and also finding time to do some sightseeing!

Back at home, Performing Arts students took to the stage in their end of term production of One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest.

Watch the full show [here](#)



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ENGINEERING

During National Careers Week, engineering students benefitted from workshop with a team from The Erodex Group, taking part in a virtual reality tour of their state-of-the-art graphite machining facility and finding out about career opportunities in the company.

Away from their studies, a group of students and tutors climbed Mount Snowdon as part of the BRIT challenge, in support of young adult mental health.

And, for people interested in welding courses, Dan, one of the welding tutors, talked about our evening courses and what they will learn

Find out what he had to say [here](#)



ENGLISH

As part of World Book Day, some of our English tutors talked about their favourite books.

Hear what they'd got to say by clicking on the links below:

Hayley - **Kafka on the Shore**

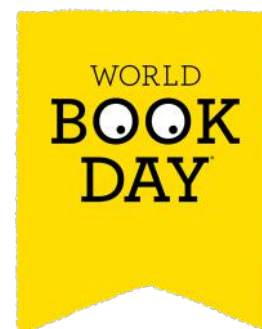
Kathryn - **The Handmaid's Tale**

Robert - **Nutshell**

Charlotte - **Animal Farm**

Gavin - **The Midnight Library**

Celebrating with



HAIRDRESSING AND BEAUTY

Students studying for beauty qualifications got an insight into working in the sector, developing a business identifying unique selling points during a visit from Tina Patel, founder of Tina Beauty and Skin, who has developed her own skincare and cosmetics line.



HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Health and social care students welcomed a former student who is now studying paramedic science at university and found out about careers in social care from a speaker from the University of Wolverhampton.

They also participated in practical sessions covering bed baths, dressing, changing beds and personal care, took part in Dementia Friends training to learn more about the condition and how they can support those affected, and held a bake sale which raised £70 for The Haven charity.



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SCIENCE

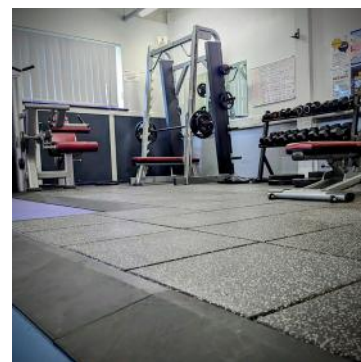
Students studying for science qualifications donned protective suits and put their detective skills to the test to solve a challenging mystery in a forensic science workshop run by Pulse CSII.



SPORT & FITNESS

Sports students who are currently studying a sports injury module as part of their course learnt about injury prevention, treatment and rehabilitation at a sports therapy workshop run by the University of Worcester.

In other news, some sports students took part in a Ramadan football tournament at the University of Wolverhampton, and the gym at the Wellington Road campus has been kitted out with brand new flooring.



UNIFORMED PUBLIC SERVICES

Students studying for qualifications in uniformed public services, along with those on sports courses, received emergency first aid at work training, led by the AAA Ambulance3 team, giving them valuable skills and practical knowledge on how to handle a first aid emergency.



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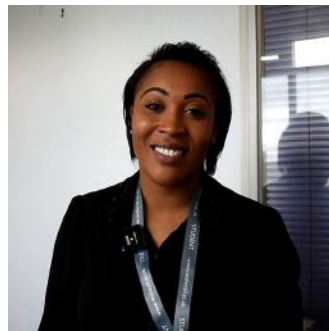
STUDENT STORIES

This term we've heard from participants from the Steps into Health NHS work programme, students on a plastering course and a former student on one of electric vehicle courses who is now helping to deliver the course to others.

Hear more about what they've got to say by clicking on their pictures below:



Tapiwa Hakutangwi
Steps into Health



Hasina Riley
Steps into Health



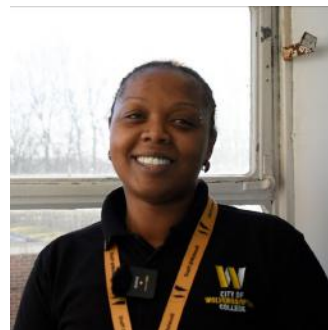
Sadie-Ann Madourie
Plastering



Balkar Chopra
Plastering



Jake Smith
Plastering



Sarai Richards
Electric Vehicle

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Employers and guests from a range of organisations across the region joined us at the Wellington Road campus to take a tour of the new construction training facilities, find out about the next stage of development on the site, and get an update on progress towards the new campus in the city centre as part of the City Learning Quarter project.



In partnership with McLaughlin & Harvey and City of Wolverhampton Council we hosted a Meet the Buyer event, aimed at engaging with companies in the local supply chain.



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Experts from across the construction industry joined us for a Women in Construction event - organised in collaboration with our partners National Infrastructure Solutions (NIS) - to talk about spoke career prospects in the industry and women's representation in the workplace. The event was concluded with an engaging Q&A and networking session.



Guests from across the region attended a Midlands Networking Event where we welcomed the team from Pearson to discuss all things T Levels, particularly digital T Levels!



DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

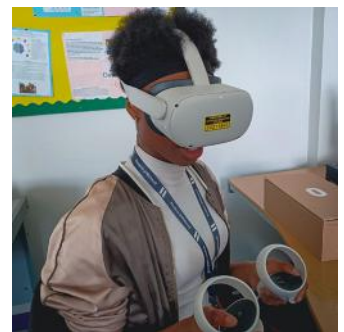
Adam Dwight, one of our learning innovators, spoke about ChatGPT and its benefits as a tool in education and how the college is using immersive simulation skills to help students develop skills and knowledge and develop the confidence to take advantage of AI tools available.



Listen to what Adam had to say [here](#)

Hundreds of students have taken part in innovative immersive learning sessions through the cutting-edge Bodyswaps® Platform.

The immersive experience has empowered them by developing their soft skills, boosting confidence, and equipping them with the knowledge needed to embrace future technologies.



We proudly hosted a webinar on 'Artificial Intelligence (AI): ChatGPT and the Future of Education. We were joined by Professor Mairéad Pratschke, PhD whose insightful and engaging presentation captivated attendees from all over the world, including Canada, Germany, Ireland, Malta, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, USA, and the UK!



Watch the full webinar [here](#)



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