



DEFINING FUTURES

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 7 /// NOVEMBER 2022

WELCOME TO THE FIRST DEFINING FUTURES NEWSLETTER OF THE 2022/23 ACADEMIC YEAR!

This edition provides an overview of college activities from the start of term in September until the October half-term break, as well as details of the work we did over the summer break to ensure prospective students were well prepared to start their studies with us, and to support those whose GCSE grades weren't quite what they expected.

There's an overview of some of the activities our students have been taking part in during their first half-term and details of the feedback we received from them in our annual student welcome survey, a report on our October open evening, news of accolades won by some of our staff, details of a new employer partner scheme to ensure our learning programmes give students the skills and knowledge local businesses require, and the chance to take a virtual tour of the new training facilities at our Wellington Road campus.

Read on to find out more - we hope you enjoy the edition.

DISCOVERY DAYS

In July, new students due to join us in September got a taste of college life at a series of Discovery Days.

Each curriculum area hosted a session which gave students the opportunity to meet their tutors, get to know their classmates, familiarise themselves with the college layout, see their classrooms or training areas, take part in a range of activities related to their course, and enjoy a free lunch in the on-site Food Hubs.



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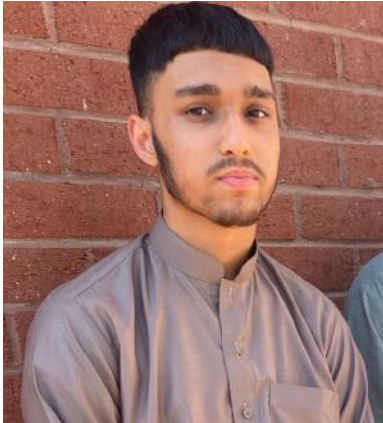
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GCSE AND A LEVEL RESULTS DAY

On GCSE and A Level results days we were delighted to celebrate the successes of our students.



Amad passed GCSE maths and said: *"I feel so proud of myself for everything that I have done with you guys. It was a fantastic time to be able to learn from both of you and you're both really good teachers!"*



Abdus achieved ABB in his A Levels and has gone to the University of Leicester to study physics with astrophysics.



Ash achieved an A in A Level sociology.

We also supported prospective students who had received conditional offers from us based on their exam result but whose grades weren't what we asked for, with careers staff on-hand to advise them on different study options and alternative routes to their chosen career.

WELCOME WEEK

A range of activities took place during the first week of term to enable students to have fun with their classmates during their breaks from lessons.

Free ice creams, candy floss, popcorn and slushies were on offer at both campuses, as well as the chance to bag prizes on a Spin the Wheel game and win a high street shopping voucher for taking part in a general knowledge quiz.



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STUDENTS PAY TRIBUTE TO HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 8 September, we participated in the official 10 days of national mourning.

During this time, students studying for uniformed public services qualifications worked together to plan a two-minute silence, which took place on 15 September.

The group of 70 students were joined by Malcolm Cowgill principal of the college, members of the senior management team, teaching and support staff and fellow students and apprentices for the tribute, whilst students at the Paget Road campus joined the tribute via live video link to their classrooms.

Mal said: "As future members of the country's uniformed public services, the students recognised what an important role they will have to play in ceremonial events and wanted to give their fellow students and college staff the opportunity to come together to pay tribute to Her Majesty and honour her memory in this way."



NEW CONSTRUCTION TRAINING FACILITIES

Over the summer, work was completed on the new construction training facilities at our Wellington Road campus.

The new £1.93million extension, built by Wolverhampton-based construction company Interclass Plc, has provided two purpose-built mezzanine areas to house new electrical and plumbing workshops, as well as refurbished training areas for students doing qualifications in gas and painting and decorating.

The scheme also includes two additional classrooms, equipped with cutting-edge hybrid learning technology to give access to high-quality interactive teaching to students who are unable to attend sessions in person. Take a look around our new facilities [here](#)



NEW ERA HAIR SALON OPENS

The start of term also saw the opening of a new hairdressing and barbering salon at the Wellington Road campus.

The New Era hair studio is staffed by trained stylists, as well as hairdressing and barbering students and apprentices who are studying for their professional qualifications at the college, giving them the opportunity to gain hands-on experience of working with clients in a commercial salon during their training.

The salon is open to the public and provides a range of hairdressing and barbering services at competitive prices with prices starting at £13 for a cut and blow dry and £20 for a colour with discounts available for students, staff, NHS and council employees.



Take a look at the price list [here](#). To book an appointment call 01902 821321.



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UNIVERSITY AWARD FOR ESOL TUTOR

ESOL tutor Jenny Phillips has received an Outstanding Mentor award from the University of Wolverhampton for the support she provided to a student training to become a teacher through its Postgraduate Certificate in Education programme.



Jenny, a tutor at the Paget Road campus, mentored the student throughout the academic year, advising on how to structure lessons and make content engaging, as well as passing on tips, hints and advice gained through many years of teaching experience.

Jenny, who has worked in education for 11 years and employed at the college since 2017, said: *“The role is an opportunity to pass on some of the knowledge I’ve gained during my career and to inspire the next generation of teachers to deliver informative and innovative lessons which will keep their students engaged and motivated to learn more.”*

STAFF SELECTED AS MICROSOFT EDUCATION EXPERTS

Two members of college staff have become part of a global community of educators, promoting the benefits of information technology to students, apprentices, tutors and support staff across the organisation.



The duo - Conrad Taylor, business, learning & technologies manager, and Adam Dwight, learning innovator and lecturer in education studies and professional development - have been selected as Microsoft Innovative Educator Experts (MIEE) for the 2022/23 academic year, the third year in a row that they have achieved the accolade.

Each year, Microsoft selects MIEEs experts for their passion about their work, their collaborative spirit and how they strive to inspire others to use technology in education.

Since 2020, the college has used the national Inspiring Digital Enterprise Awards (iDEAS) programme to increase the digital skills of students, apprentices and staff across the organisation.

The programme enables participants to complete online challenges to earn digital badges and work towards industry-recognised bronze, silver and gold awards.

NATIONAL AWARD FOR SEND MANAGER

The college’s SEND and inclusivity manager, Samantha Jones, has been honoured with a national award for the support she provides to students.



Samantha picked up the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) Award at the annual Dyslexia Awards in September and was praised by judges for the work she does with local schools to ensure students plan for transition to college and going the extra mile to help them become more independent and successful in their studies.

Samantha said: *“Doing what I do has always been about making sure people understand that we are who we are and then empowering them to develop the confidence to achieve their goals and ambitions.*

“The judges were so impressed at the number of students we are able to support, and I told them I couldn’t do it without the help of my fantastic team and our teaching staff. Without an inclusive all-team approach, our students would never have seen the successes they have.”



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OCTOBER OPEN EVENING

On 12 October, we welcomed over 260 prospective students to the first of our new-look interactive open events, and they all walked away with a bag of college goodies, including a guide for students, pen, pencil and re-usable drink bottle.



Visitors were able to tour the campus facilities and take part in activities related to the subject they want to study - including business games, science experiments, engineering tasks, construction challenges, creative activities, cupcake decorating and command tasks - as well as talk to current students about college life and get careers advice and details of financial support to help with college costs.

What's more, parents and carers accompanying students to the event were able to drop-in to interactive workshops to pick up tips on how to support young people with their learning, including developing positive study habits, revision strategies and time management techniques.

And, even though it's a long time until next September, some attendees were so impressed with what they saw that they applied for their chosen course whilst on site, had an interview with one of our admissions tutors and left the event with an offer to start their course next year!

Our next open event is on Saturday, 14 January 2023 and places can be booked [here](#)



NEW EMPLOYER ADVISORY SCHEME LAUNCHED

Employers from across the region have been invited to join an advisory board to help develop training programmes for the workforce of the future.

Over 30 local employers attended the inaugural Employer Advisory Board business breakfast earlier this month and pledged their support to help the college ensure that students and apprentices develop the skills and knowledge their businesses need.



Feedback will enable tutors to adapt their learning programmes to ensure students have the qualities employers look for when recruiting new staff and put them ahead of the competition when applying for jobs in their chosen sector.

If you, or anyone you know, would like to become part of the Employer Advisory Board, email employerenquiries@wolvcoll.ac.uk or call **01902 836000 (option 5)**.



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STUDENT WELCOME SURVEY

The college's annual student welcome survey aims to gain feedback from students about their first few weeks at college.

The 2022/23 survey was conducted from 26 September to 14 October, with 1,929 students studying full-time or substantial courses submitting their response to 18 questions covering topics from their initial college interview to the knowledge and skills required by their chosen industry.

Responses to all 18 questions rated 94% or above, with a number of standout strengths:



99%

agree

'The college's behaviour expectations have been made clear to me'

98%

agree

'Overall, I feel safe whilst at college'

98%

agree

'I am developing the skills I need to get into my selected industry'

98%

agree

'I am already aware of the progression opportunities after I have completed my course'

98%

agree




'Overall, I feel I have received an appropriate introduction to my course and college life'

In addition, students were given the opportunity to comment and suggest ways that the college can improve their experience further, details of which will be fed back to the relevant curriculum areas for consideration.



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CURRICULUM ROUND-UP



Uniformed Public Services students visited the Emergency Services Show at the NEC



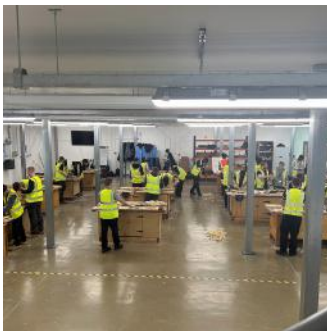
Students from our Boxing Academy got to grips with the basics of boxing during a visit to local boxing club RG Boxfit.



Business students attended the Women in Business EXPO in London, attending seminars and speaking to inspiring and successful business women



First year photography students had an introduction to working in the dark room



Level 1 carpentry and joinery students got hands-on in the workshop in the brand new mezzanine area in our construction block



Hairdressing apprentice Liv Moore, who works at Evergreen Hairdressers, started her training at the New Era Hair salon at the Wellington Road campus



Students on our Pathways programme held a coffee morning - complete with bake sale and prize draw - and raised £217 for Macmillan Cancer Support



Members of the Students' Union also held an event for Macmillan Cancer Support and raised £108 from the sale of cakes and cookies



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