



DEFINING FUTURES

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 12 /// SEPTEMBER 2023

Welcome to the final Defining Futures newsletter for 2022/23! This edition covers activities that took place from when students returned to college after the May half-term break until the end of the academic year in July.

What's in this issue?

The headline stories in this edition are about our annual apprentice awards and student celebration events which took place in July, and there's also chance to read about the success of our football teams in a national competition, find out about a St John ambulance course equipping students with first aid skills to help their friends in an emergency situation, and the chance to watch a recording of our performing arts students' spectacular end-of-year production of Matilda the Musical.

Enjoy the issue, and we'll be back after October half-term with news about what our new and returning students have been getting involved in during the first few weeks of the new academic year.

APPRENTICES' SUCCESS CELEBRATED AT AWARDS EVENING

The end-of-year celebrations got underway with our annual Apprenticeship Awards, which were held at the glittering Rose Garden banqueting hall in Parkfields and attended by The Right Worshipful Mayor of Wolverhampton, Councillor Dr Michael Hardacre and The Mayoress, Lynn Plant.

The event, sponsored by Budweiser Brewing Group UK & I, saw around 300 guests gather to celebrate the success of apprentices working for local and national companies and find out the winners of Apprentice of the Year Awards in 12 industry categories, before the announcement of the overall winner for 2023.

And Becky Bowden, aged 29, an apprentice at Complezzo Healthcare Solutions in Wolverhampton, triumphed on the night, beating off tough competition to be named Apprentice of the Year 2023 for the benefits she brought to the company during her apprenticeship.

Becky - who was also named Apprentice of the Year in the business services category - was selected by the judges as the overall winner for her



Deputy principal Louise Fall, with The Right Worshipful Mayor of Wolverhampton, Councillor Dr Michael Hardacre and The Mayoress Lynn Plant.

Please note: The City Crest is covered for the period of mourning following the death of Councillor Ian Brookfield, Leader of the Council.



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



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

exceptional personal qualities and the tangible contribution she made to the success of her employer through the innovations she developed and new ways of working she implemented throughout her training.

Becky said: *"I was overwhelmed at winning the award! I learnt so much during my apprenticeship and developed a range of skills which has given me the confidence to introduce new ways of working in the organisation. I love my job and am looking forward to progressing further with the company in the future."*

John Harper, managing director at Complesso, said: *"We are thrilled for Becky and it is an award that she truly deserves - as a company we would be lost without her!"*

Apprenticeships enable us to recruit talented individuals who we can develop to benefit the business - we currently have three apprentices who are training through the College and all are guaranteed jobs with us when they have completed their programme."

Apprentice of the Year awards for specific industry sectors announced during the evening also went to Jay Deakin from Hot Wheelz in the automotive category, Nikhil Patel from FH5 Barbers for barbering, Matthew Martin from DSP Construction Management Services for building services, Callum Jewkes from Wulfrun Building Solutions Ltd for construction, and Hannah Walsh from the BBC in the creative and journalism category.

In the engineering category, the winner was Rob McAllister from Budweiser Brewing Group UK & I, with awards also going to Holly Coggins from Cafe Roux for food and drink, Megan Perry from Lisa Millner Hair for hair and beauty, Tammy Harris from Bradley Medical Centre for health and social care, Lily Ford from South Staffordshire Council for IT and digital, and Stephen Morgan from City of Wolverhampton Council for leadership and management.

See more pictures from the awards here: **Apprenticeship Awards 2023**



Becky Bowden, right, City of Wolverhampton College Apprentice of the Year 2023 and John Harper, managing director at Complesso Healthcare Solutions



Apprentice of the Year Award Winners

COLLEGE STUDENTS TAKE CENTRE STAGE AT END-OF-YEAR CELEBRATIONS

The day after the Apprenticeship Awards, the achievements and successes of full-time students were celebrated in two awards ceremonies.

Over 500 students attended the ceremonies and were presented with certificates of achievement by College deputy principal Louise Fall, who also gave out Student of the Year awards to those who excelled in individual curriculum areas.

Louise said: *"Our students work extremely hard throughout the year to meet the challenging demands of their courses - often combining studying with jobs or other commitments - and the events were an opportunity to recognise their dedication and commitment to learning, celebrate their achievements with family, friends and tutors, and wish them the very best of luck as they take the next steps to their future career."*

The ceremonies were sponsored by College partner Greenhous - which provides a range of work experience and employment opportunities for our automotive students - and hosted by BBC presenter and reporter



Deputy principal Louise Fall with some of the Student of the Year Award winners. Picture - Express & Star



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



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

Levi Jouavel who completed her professional National Council for the Training of Journalists at the College in 2020.

See more pictures from the events here: [Celebration Event Pictures](#)

STUDENTS DON CAPS AND GOWNS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION GRADUATION CEREMONY

Following the two student celebration events, those who had completed university-level Higher Education courses at the College during the year were joined by tutors, friends and family for an evening graduation ceremony.

Many of the graduates donned caps and gowns and were presented with framed certificates of achievement by deputy principal Louise Fall.

Graduates were joined at the ceremony by students who have completed Access to Higher Education programmes - 12-month university-recognised study programmes which bridge the gap between existing qualifications and what is needed to study at degree level - who also received certificates of achievement to mark the completion of their course.

See more pictures from the graduation ceremony here:

[HE Graduation 2023](#)



Students celebrate the completion of their course at the higher education graduation ceremony

STUDENTS GO BACK TO SCHOOL IN END-OF-YEAR SHOW

Talented performing arts students went back to school when they took to the stage for their end-of-year musical spectacular.

Around 30 students, who studied for University of the Arts London diplomas and extended diplomas in performing arts, showcased their acting, dancing and singing skills in a series of toe-tapping performances of Matilda the Musical at the Paget Road campus at the end of June.

Students rehearsed for the show from the start of the summer term and developed dance routines, designed the set and sourced costumes as part of their final course project whilst also working alongside students studying for qualifications in music technology on technical aspects of the production.

Watch the show here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LNf4Ek-DYqQ>



Performing arts students take to the stage in their production of Matilda the Musical



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

TOP OF THE LEAGUE TRIUMPH FOR COLLEGE FOOTBALL TEAMS

Players from the College’s prestigious football academy had cause for celebration after being named league champions in a competition featuring teams representing Premier League and English Football League clubs from across the country.

Students on the academy programme – run in partnership with the Wolves Foundation – represented Wolverhampton Wanderers FC in the Community and Education Football Alliance competition, accredited by the English Football League.

Two teams from the College took part in the league competition, playing home and away matches against teams representing Aston Villa, Birmingham City, West Bromwich Albion, Derby County, Port Vale and Nottingham County.

In the Central 3 competition, for students in the first year of their qualification, the team finished on 40 points – 11 ahead of second placed Aston Villa – with the Central 2 team, for second year students, finishing on 34, two points clear of runners up West Bromwich Albion.

The victorious teams were presented with their trophies and medals at the EFL Championship play-off final between Luton Town and Coventry City at Wembley Stadium, on Saturday 27 May.



Members of the Football Academy with their winners’ trophies



STUDENTS LEARN VITAL ‘STREET FIRST AID’ SKILLS FROM ST JOHN AMBULANCE TEAM

Students working towards qualifications in health and social care got hands-on to find out how to deal with emergencies in a series of first aid workshops run by St John Ambulance.

The group took part in the charity’s Young Responders training, a ‘street first aid’ pilot programme which teaches young people vital skills to deal with stab wounds and acid attacks, as well as how to help someone who needs assistance after taking drugs or alcohol.

The session covered how to use a tourniquet, perform CPR and put an injured or ill person in the recovery position, as well as how to assess an emergency situation and ensure they protect their own safety as well as others affected by or involved in an incident.

And students involved in the training appeared in a feature about the workshops on BBC Midlands Today, talking about the importance of the course and the skills they were learning.



Students are instructed in resuscitation skills by St John Ambulance course facilitator Sharanjit Kaur
(Photo by Express & Star)



Stay in the know Download the myWolvColl app



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

CURRICULUM ROUND-UP

AUTOMOTIVE



Robert Powell from Keltruck Scania



Interview candidates with Christian Oldham from Greenhous and tutor Joe Caines.



Progress on the soapbox kart so far!



Joe Caines, automotive body repair and paint refinishing tutor

Students studying for automotive qualifications got an insight into working in the industry when Robert Powell, general manager resource development, at Keltruck Scania visited the Paget Road campus to talk about his career journey and the opportunities available in the sector.

Students on automotive body repair and paint refinishing courses had the opportunity of an interview for a position with Greenhous Commercials.

Automotive tutors teamed up with a tutor from the engineering department to build a soap box kart in which they will compete in the Wolverhampton Krazy Races in the city centre on Monday 28 August.

And at the end of term, tutor Joe Caines retired after 36 years at the college. Joe, a body repair and paint refinishing tutor, was presented with a clock made by his automotive colleagues from a brake disc and painted in the colours of his favourite football team.



CONSTRUCTION

Pupils from local schools got up close with a range of plant equipment during a visit to our groundworks training site at the Wellington Road campus.

The session, run in partnership with Sunbelt Rentals UK & Ireland, gave the visitors chance to find out about different types of machinery and how it is used on construction sites.



A range of plant machinery was on display for pupils to see



CREATIVE ARTS

The talents of video production students were showcased in a pop-up cinema, whilst the work of art & design and photography students was displayed in an end-of-year showcase, enabling students and staff from other curriculum areas, as well as family and friends to see the fantastic work they produced throughout the year.

And there was cause for celebration when Lily Jasper, who is studying for an HND in photography, was named winner of the Wolverhampton Coronation Photographer Competition with her black and white picture of construction workers in the city centre.



Above: Video production students' pop-up cinema
Left: Photography student's end-of-year showcase exhibition



Lily's winning picture



Lily Jasper, winner of the Wolverhampton Coronation Photographer competition

ENGINEERING

Engineering students got an insight into the industry and got hands-on with a range of engineering equipment during a visit to the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Institute of Technology.



Students get hands-on at the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Institute of Technology.

FUTURES FOUNDATION LEARNING

Futures students had fun when they took part in a charity colour run.

They walked, danced or sang their way along a 100-metre trail and were showered with colourful powder as they went, with a great time had by students and staff alike!

And, in memory of Futures student Liam Asquith, staff and students wore football shirts to College for the day, with proceeds from the event donated to YoungMinds.



Fun at the charity colour run



Staff teamed up in their favourite football shirts



HAIR & BEAUTY

Students on our social media video content creator bootcamp programme, run in partnership with BlackRook Academy, put their skills in to action and produced short videos highlighting the services and treatments available at the New Era beauty salon at the Paget Road campus.

Take a look at the videos here:

<https://www.facebook.com/wolvescollege/videos/663780372005613>

<https://www.facebook.com/wolvescollege/videos/480421030963151>



HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Students working towards health and social care qualifications went back in time and found out about the health issues that people faced in the past and the creation of the NHS during a visit to The Black Country Living Museum.

Meanwhile, course tutor Delia recorded a video about the careers that a health and social care qualification can lead to and the topics covered on the course.

Take a look at the video here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-l8aPar_mP0



Students at the Black Country Living Museum



Health and social care tutor Delia Whitworth

UNIFORMED PUBLIC SERVICES

Students from the College's 3WV police cadet unit - run in partnership with West Midlands Police - completed their final drill practice, with six senior cadets expected to earn their first-grade award and a further 10 cadets to achieve the award by Christmas.

And, in June, some of the cadets took part in Wolverhampton Pride, talking to visitors about the scheme, the personal and community benefits it can have, and the need for more participants.

They were joined at the event by staff from the College's admissions and marketing teams who gave information on courses available and handed out over 200 goodie bags to festival-goers.



Police cadets line up for drill practice



Police cadets at Wolverhampton Pride



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

WORK EXPERIENCE

Students on automotive, bakery, construction and electrical courses said arrivederci to England as they headed off to do work experience in the Italian city of Florence.

The scheme - run through the Erasmus programme which supports education and training in Europe - gave students the opportunity to gain experience of jobs relating to their course, as well as take part in cultural activities and do some sightseeing as part of the trip.

From 2024, placement work experience opportunities abroad will be funded through the Turing Scheme, with over 40 pupils of our Level 3 students set to complete placements in Florence and the Portuguese city of Braga.



Students take time out for sightseeing in Florence

ENGAGING WITH STUDENTS

From advice about enrolment and information on the services on offer in our Student Hub, to what to do if a student's going to be late to class or absent from College, our staff have recorded a series of helpful videos for current and future students.

Take a look here...



Enrolment



Study Hub



CALMS team

This year's Learner Voice student conference focussed on safety and included themed workshops and activities, as well as team activities to encourage students from different curriculum areas to work together.

The conference was attended by class reps and other students from across the College and was also an opportunity for them to discuss College life and get an update on current activities and future plans to feed back to their fellow students.



Team activities at the Learner Voice conference



GETTING LOCAL PEOPLE IN TO WORK

Our Sector-based Work Academy Programme (SWAP) is expanding with the launch of a new Telecoms and Fibre training scheme, in conjunction with our partners National Infrastructure Solutions.

The scheme aims to address the local skills gap by offering pre-employment training a work experience placement in a relevant area and a guaranteed job interview or help with an employer's recruitment process at the end of the course.

Meanwhile, local people interested in working for Midlands Metro or providing direct learner support have benefitted from our sector gateway programmes which cover the key skills employers in their chosen field are looking for as well as improving digital skills, producing a CV and applying for jobs.

Job seekers needing to improve their interview skills have had the chance to practice their techniques through the Bodyswaps virtual reality platform. The immersive experience enables them to learn at their own pace, practice in a safe environment, increase their confidence and prepare them for real interviews in the future.

The latest cohort of job seekers have completed a one-week workshop, run by Job Change, at our new Careers and Skills Hub at the Wellington Road campus.

The course covers key employability skills, such as communication, team work and problem solving, as well as personal development, confidence building and careers advice and guidance.



Participants from the Direct Learner Support programme



Participants from the Midlands Metro programme



Practicing interview skills in a virtual environment



Participants in an employability workshop in the Careers and Skills Hub

ENGAGING WITH THE COMMUNITY

Staff at Wolverhampton Wanderers Foundation have benefitted from mentoring skills training, delivered by our employability team.

The course enabled them to further develop their skills in active listening, providing feedback and relationship building to enhance the support they give to the young people they work with.

See what the participants have to say about the programme here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fcazC09f4Gk>



Staff from Wolverhampton Wanderers Foundation



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

College staff hosted stalls at Wolverhampton Pride and the UK Black Business Show in Birmingham and gave information on courses and training opportunities, as well as handing out our goodie bags to visitors.



UK Black Business Show



Wolverhampton Pride



STUDENT STORIES

This edition we’re featuring participants in a Midland Metro sector gateway programme - run by the College in partnership with the company - which gives an overview of careers available, helps with job applications and CV writing, and guarantees an interview with the company for those successfully completing the course.

Click on their picture to read more...



Colin Todd



Bhuvanesh Mehton



Yeukai Makinzi

Read about other students on our **Student Stories** page

