



DEFINING FUTURES

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 18 /// SEPTEMBER 2024

Welcome to the final edition of the Defining Futures newsletter for the 2023/24 academic year which covers activities from when students returned to college after the half-term break in May until the end of term in July.

What's in this issue?

This issue features news about the college's new principal and chief executive, the latest developments in the multi-million pound campus transformation project, details of an award won by the staff from the college's rail training academy and a look-back at a thank you lunch held for college partners and local businesses.

There's also coverage of the annual apprenticeship awards and end-of-term celebrations held for students, as well as a round-up of activities from a range of curriculum areas.

Plus, there are case studies of current students and apprentices giving views on their courses, as well as former students and apprentices detailing what they have achieved since completing their qualifications.

NEW PRINCIPAL APPOINTED

Louise Fall took up the role as principal and chief executive of the college on August 1.

Louise, who was formerly deputy principal at the college, has taken over from Mal Cowgill who stood down at the end of July after six years at the helm.

Speaking of her appointment, Louise said "I am absolutely delighted to have been appointed principal of the college. I am committed to ensuring the college continues to serve the needs of local people and local employers and that we continue to develop courses and apprenticeships to meet local demand.

"There are exciting times ahead with the opening of our new £8.1 million Advanced Technology and Automotive Centre in September and the new campus in the City Learning Quarter due to open in September 2025 and I am looking forward to leading the college and its dedicated staff, students and



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apprentices through the next stage of its development.”

Louise will be supported in the role by Peter Merry, the college’s former deputy chief executive, who has been promoted to the post of deputy principal and chief executive.

Read more **here**.

CAMPUS TRANSFORMATION

Work on the new Advanced Technology and Automotive Centre at the Wellington Road campus is now complete and a significant milestone has been reached in the construction of the new City Learning Quarter campus.

Read on to find out more...

CONSTRUCTION COMPLETED ON NEW £8.1M ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AND AUTOMOTIVE CENTRE

The college’s new Advanced Technology and Automotive Centre (ATAC) was officially handed over by contractor Speller Metcalfe at the end of July, following an 11-month build.



The £8.1 million centre has been purpose-built for automotive and engineering studies and will be kitted out with industry-standard equipment for electric, hybrid and traditional vehicles, as well as fabrication, manufacturing, welding, CAD and robotics.

The centre will welcome students from September with all automotive and engineering courses - currently delivered at the Paget Road campus relocated to the new site.

The handover of the centre marks the completion of phase one of City of Wolverhampton Council’s City Learning Quarter masterplan which will transform learning opportunities for thousands of students and apprentices and address skills shortages across the region.

Read more **here**.

See a timeline of the progress of the construction of the centre **here**.

STEEL FRAMEWORK COMPLETED FOR NEW CITY LEARNING QUARTER CAMPUS

The steel framework of the college’s new £61 million city centre campus has been completed with the state-of-the-art facility on course to open for the start of the 2025/26 academic year.

The new campus - situated around the Old Hall Street and St George’s Parade area and utilising the college’s Metro One campus - will be the jewel in the crown of City of Wolverhampton Council’s City Learning Quarter masterplan.



The state-of-the-art facility will transform the learning environment for students and apprentices, provide modern teaching facilities for staff, and its excellent links to bus, rail, metro and cycle routes



will make it accessible to thousands of people from across the region.
Read more [here](#).

Follow the progress of the construction of the new campus [here](#).



REGIONAL AWARD FOR COLLEGE’S RAIL TRAINING ACADEMY

There was cause for celebration in June when the college’s rail training partner scooped a regional award in recognition of its work to equip local people with the skills needed to work in the industry.

National Infrastructure Solutions (NIS) - which provides rail training at the college’s Transport, Rail and Infrastructure Academy - was named winner of the Engaging Adults in Learning category at the West Midlands Combined Authority’s Adult Learning Awards, at the International Convention Centre, in Birmingham, on Thursday 27 June.

Through the partnership with NIS - leading training provider in the rail and civil engineering sectors - TRIA provides free practical hands-on training for people who want to gain the skills and knowledge required to work on the construction and maintenance of train lines and tram routes across the region.



Read more [here](#).

COLLEGE HOSTS BIG LUNCH ‘THANK YOU’ PARTY

Sandwiches and cakes were on the menu when the college hosted a special lunch party for the many organisations that provide support to staff, students and apprentices throughout the year.

Guest of honour Professor Martin Levermore MBE, deputy lieutenant of the West Midlands, joined around 50 guests for the lunch at the college’s Wellington Road campus, which was organised as part of the Eden Project’s Big Lunch initiative, in June.

The lunch follows the success of a Coronation Big Lunch last May, held in honour of the coronation of King Charles III, which was attended by Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh.



Read more [here](#).

APPRENTICESHIP AWARDS 2024

Apprentices working for local and national companies had the chance to celebrate their successes with their employers, tutors and assessors at the college’s Apprenticeship Awards 2024.

The event saw over 150 guests gather at the Molineux Stadium to enjoy a three-course dinner before the announcement of Apprentice of the Year Awards in 10 industry



categories.

The evening concluded with the announcement of the winner of the Overall Apprentice of the Year 2024 - selected from the 10 category winners - with Rhiannon Watts-Robinson, who was a business administration apprentice at St Edmund's Catholic Academy, beating off tough competition to scoop the accolade.



Read more **here**.

STUDENT CELEBRATIONS

Students from all curriculum areas got the chance to celebrate at the end of the college year at a series of celebration events held in June.

Following student feedback, the events were changed from the formal presentation ceremonies of previous years to informal get-togethers with food, soft drinks, candy floss, pop corn, inflatable basketball, soft axe throwing, VR games, a photo booth and, in some cases, impromptu karaoke!

The events were also attended by teaching and support staff with awards presented to students who had gone above and beyond in their studies throughout the year.



STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Teaching teams from both campuses took part in a two-day CPD programme which featured guest speakers from across the region, engaging workshops led by college staff, hands-on activities and lively discussions - all designed to share knowledge and insights about new innovations to make teaching more effective and learning more exciting.

Staff from the English department visited Birmingham Metropolitan College to network and exchange ideas with their fellow subject teaching team.

They also benefited from a visit from members of the English department at Herefordshire, Ludlow, and North Shropshire College and a representative from the Pearson awarding body who all shared best practices for the GCSE 2.0 English qualification.



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Members from the A Levels and construction departments visited RAF Cosford for a team building day where they discussed key priorities for the next academic year and had the chance to take part in AI and slight simulator experiences.



The learning technologies team welcomed representatives from Tribal Group and Century Tech to the Wellington Road campus with the partnership aiming to create better digital experiences for staff, students and apprentices.



And, at the end of the term, staff participated in a wellbeing day and took part in a range of fun activities including Mission Possible, boogie bingo, VR games and an end-of-year quiz, as well as attending the annual staff celebration which featured awards in a number of categories and a special appearance by former Wolves striker Steve Bull.



PROMOTING CAREERS

In collaborating with Sunbelt Rentals UK & Ireland, the college hosted the Greener Solutions, Innovation & Technology Day giving students the opportunity to find out about potential career opportunities and explore eco-friendly technology and latest innovations in the field.



To promote the range of job roles in the construction and engineering sectors, McLaughlin & Harvey - contractors for the new City Learning Quarter campus - hosted a careers fair which brought together companies from across the region and gave students the opportunity to find out about potential future employment opportunities.



Representatives from Lonestar Fasteners attended the college's open day in June to talk to prospective students about apprenticeships with the company, career opportunities in the manufacturing industry and the skills they would learn on an engineering course.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Students on full-time courses took part in the annual 2024 on-programme survey with some very pleasing results.



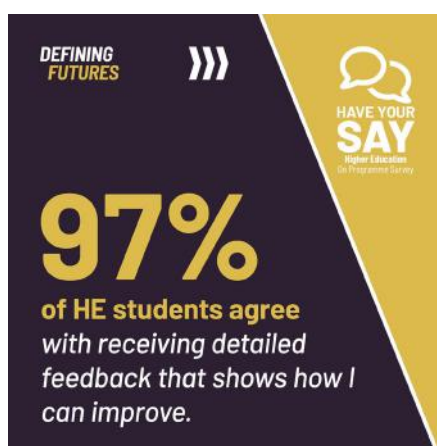
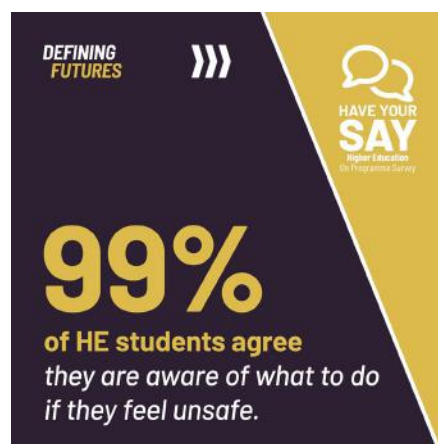
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And a similar set of results were received by students studying for higher education qualifications.



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Staff and students proudly represented the college at Wolverhampton Pride.

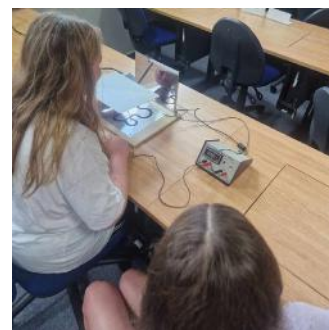


Students at the Wellington Road campus will benefit from a brighter entrance and more privacy in some ground floor classrooms with the installation of new window wraps at the main entrance, as well as new signage in the drive-in and reception areas.

CURRICULUM ROUND-UP

A LEVELS

A Level psychology students got a taste of what life is like at the University of Wolverhampton when they attended a Discovery Day for prospective undergraduates where they attended talks, toured the laboratories and got hands-on with some equipment.



AUTOMOTIVE

Two students working towards automotive qualifications represented the college in the Technician's Trophy event hosted by South and City College Birmingham.

Olivia Mackay and Jaime Passmore took part in a number of challenges - including a pitstop wheel change, brake pad removal, racing simulator and car logo quiz - designed to test speed, skills and knowledge and achieved third place in the overall competition.



To mark the end of their course, automotive students tucked into an end-of-year lunch provided by Autotech Academy which followed a morning of fun activities and awards hosted by the company.



COMPUTING AND DIGITAL

Former IT student Rohit Sharma made a return visit to the Paget Road campus to talk to students about his time at college, where his qualification has taken him and the range of career opportunities available in the sector, before hosting an engaging and informative Q&A session.



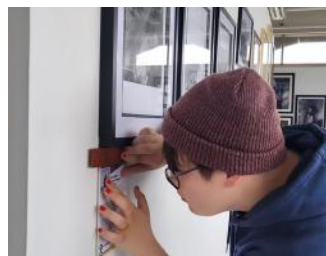
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CREATIVE ARTS AND DIGITAL MEDIA

Photography students proudly displayed their work in a end-of-year showcase at the University of Wolverhampton's George Wallis Building which was open to the public in June.



Performing Arts students marked the end of their year and demonstrated their skills in acting, singing and dancing with six dazzling performances of Little Shop of Horrors at the Paget Road campus.



Music Technology students took a trip to the Download Festival at Donnington Park. They had a tour of backstage and front of house technical areas to find out how live events operate, before watching one of the bands from back stage and getting the same view of the large crowds as the performers did.



Tutor Jason Fillingham recorded a video promoting the UAL Level 2 and Level 3 diplomas in music production and performance, talking about what the qualifications cover, enrichment opportunities during the year and careers they can lead to.



ENGINEERING

At the end of the academic year, engineering students joined students studying for automotive qualifications for a trek up the Llanberis Path to the top of Mount Snowdon. They were led by engineering tutor Michael Gandy and accompanied by teaching and support staff from both subject areas.



FUTURES FOUNDATION LEARNING

Students from the Futures Foundation Learning programme got a taste of the great outdoors when they cleaned up areas to support wildlife at Wildside Activity Centre.



They also worked with the Crafty Gardener company to plant seeds and do some gardening at sites at Glyn Bank, in Lloyd Street and the allotments in Boundary Way.



A group of students attended the Midland Metro Alliance Awards at the Molineux Stadium where they were recognised for the design of a tram stop and received awards for visual impact, energy efficiency and safety in design.



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After a busy term, students celebrated the completion of their courses at an end-of-year festival held on the field at the Wellington Road campus. The event featured food, dancing, sports and a visit from Sonic the Hedgehog.



MATHS

Students who completed their GCSE maths course received awards for their attendance, and positive learning attitudes.



STUDENT AND APPRENTICE STORIES

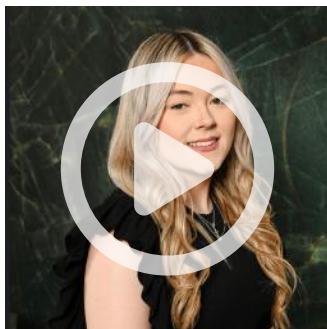
CURRENT STUDENTS AND APPRENTICES



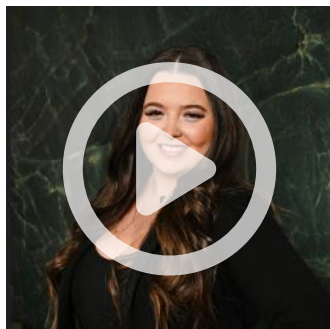
Maisie Harris -
Hairdressing apprentice
Services T Level



Olivia MacKay -
Automotive Light Vehicle
Service and Repair Level
1 Diploma



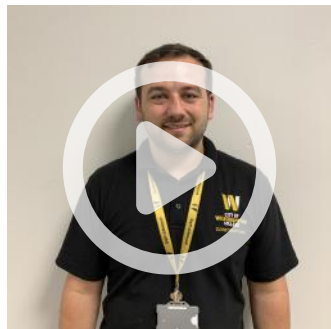
Megan Perry -
Hairdressing apprentice



Courtney Thompson -
Hairdressing apprentice

FORMER STUDENTS

Find out what former students have been doing since completing their qualifications with us by clicking on their images below.



Nicholas Broom -
Site Carpentry Level 3
Diploma



Callum Haley -
NIS Gateway to
Construction



Katrina Laksa -
Social Media Content
Creator Level 4 Award



Ethan Secker -
Uniformed Public
Services Level 3
Extended Diploma



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FORMER APPRENTICES



Jawad Amjad -
Rail Engineering
apprentice



Mahfuz Haque -
Rail Engineering
apprentice



Mohammed Pathan -
Rail Engineering
apprentice



Remarni Powell Mason -
Rail Engineering
apprentice



Kenrique Williams -
Rail Engineering
apprentice



Lisa Poxon -
Lean Manufacturing
Operative Level 2
apprentice



Romily Trice -
Improvement Technician
Level 3 apprentice

Read more student stories [here](#).



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