



DEFINING FUTURES

CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 9 /// MARCH 2023

Welcome to the latest Defining Futures newsletter which covers activities from the start of the spring term in January 2023 until the February half-term break.

What's in this issue?

There's the chance to tune into a BBC podcast that we took part in with Dragon's Den investor Deborah Meaden, find out about our new Careers and Skills Hub to help local people access training and job opportunities, and get the lowdown on new digital bootcamps designed to improve skill levels across the city.

There's an overview of the wide range of enrichment activities that students have been involved in to enhance their learning, case studies of current and former students and apprentices, and the chance to follow an A-level student through her year of studying at the college.

Read on to find out more and enjoy the issue!

COLLEGE IN THE NEWS

COLLEGE STAFF TAKE TO THE AIRWAYS ON DEBORAH MEADEN PODCAST

Our Electric Vehicle and Green Technologies Centre was in the spotlight when a member of the training team, and an automotive employer who has used the college to upskill his staff, took part in a Radio 5 Live podcast with Dragon's Den investor Deborah Meaden.

Andy Moore from Duplex Business Services, which provides electric vehicle training on behalf of the college, and Badar Zaman, owner of The Mechanic automotive centre in Birmingham, took part in an episode of the Big Green Money Show which was broadcast on Friday, 17 February.

Read more and listen to the podcast [here](#)



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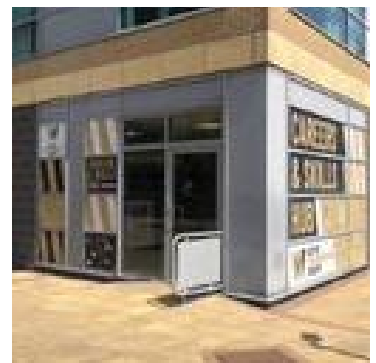
COLLEGE LAUNCHES NEW HUB TO GET PEOPLE INTO WORK

A new centre to help people find out about jobs and training has opened at the Wellington Road campus.

The Careers and Skills Hub provides people who are not in education, employment or training with free advice on opportunities available in the local area and help to overcome the challenges that prevent them from getting into work.

The hub - which has been developed as part of a city-wide effort to get people into work - offers one-to-one support with career planning, financial planning and health and wellbeing, as well as sessions on producing a CV, searching and applying for jobs, and interview techniques.

Find out more **here**



DIGITAL SKILLS BOOTCAMPS PRAISED BY STUDENTS

New social media courses launched by the college have been praised by the first cohort of students.

The two-week digital skills bootcamps are designed to improve people's digital skills to enhance their employability credentials and are free for anyone currently looking for work, or available at a reduced cost for those already in employment and looking to enhance their skillset.

The courses - Level 3 digital social media assistant, Level 4 social media manager and Level 4 social media content creator - are running throughout March and April and are delivered at the Paget Road and Wellington Road campuses.

Get more details on the courses and find out what students have to say about them **here**



COLLEGE AND MCAULIFFE GROUP OFFER NEW APPRENTICESHIP

Young people who want to work in the construction industry are benefitting from a new apprenticeship thanks to a partnership between the college and Bilston-based environmental contractor McAuliffe Group.

The 15-month Level 2 construction plant operative apprenticeship combines studying at college with learning on-the-job, enabling apprentices to develop the necessary skills and knowledge required to work in the sector and gain practical experience on live construction sites across the region.

The training scheme covers operating and maintaining a range of plant equipment - such as excavators, ride-on rollers and forward-tipping dumpers - and how site plans and work programmes are developed, as well as health, safety, welfare and environmental requirements on site.

Read more **here**



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COLLEGE LEADS THE WAY IN SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Readers of the Express and Star got the lowdown on the college's proposed new city centre campus when a feature on the site appeared in the newspaper's special regeneration supplement.

The article highlighted the state-of-the-art industry-standard facilities that will be on offer at the new campus, as well as details of the significant economic and environmental benefits it will also provide.

Read the article [here](#)



COLLEGE TUTOR IN HEROIC CANAL RESCUE

A tutor from our Electric Vehicle and Green Technologies Centre spoke to the Express and Star newspaper about the night he saved a man from an icy canal.

Paul Mangan was cycling along the canal towpath in December when he spotted the man submerged in the water and after rescuing him and waiting with him until an ambulance arrived, now wants to find out how he is.

Read more [here](#)

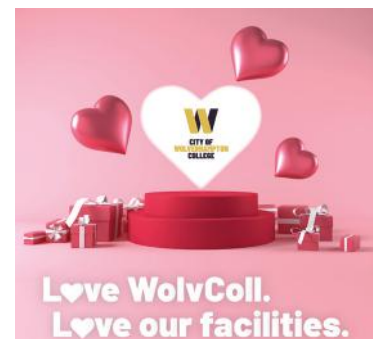


In other news...

Love was in the air when employers from across the region joined us for our Love WolvColl, Love our Facilities event at the Wellington Road campus on Valentine's Day!

Guests were welcomed by Mal Cowgill, principal and chief executive of the college, and were given an update on future plans for development of the site by deputy chief executive Peter Merry.

The visitors were then taken on a tour of the new training facilities - including the recently-extended construction centre, Careers and Skills Hub, and New Era hair salon - before tucking into Valentine's-themed treats produced by our bakery students.



A total of 338 potential students joined us at our open day on Saturday 14 January to find out about part-time courses starting during the month and full-time courses starting in September.

Visitors were able to chat to tutors about the best qualifications for their chosen career, take part in activities relating to the subject they are interested in studying and talk to current students about college life.

The next open event takes place on Wednesday, 26 April, 4pm-7pm and places can be booked [here](#).



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A new reflective space has been opened in the Study Hub at the Paget Road campus.

The area is designed to provide a moment of calm and tranquillity for anyone who needs a time out, break or a chance to relax!

We will be working with the Saltley Trust to develop the space further and introduce a similar space at the Wellington Road campus in the near future.



Students had fun taking part in this year's British Inspiration Trust (BRIT) Challenge which encourages groups to work together to cover a distance connected to 2023.

Students from both campuses got involved by pedalling it out on exercise bikes, health and social care students took part in a basketball challenge and did a 23-minute walk after every tutorial, and IT students played football for more than two hours and racked up 2023 steps on a treadmill!



CURRICULUM ROUND-UP

A Levels

Students studying for A levels heard about life in politics during a visit to the Paget Road campus by The Right Honourable Lord Hunt of Kings Heath OBE PC.

Lord Hunt talked about the role of the House of Lords, how the chamber works, select committees and the House of Lords reform, before taking part in a question and answer session.



Automotive

Automotive students are currently rebuilding a FN2 Honda Civic with the end goal of taking it to a race track - and they were able to find out about the use of silicone hoses in auto racing when representatives from SamcoSport and Pro Alloys Racing paid a visit to the workshop. The team even donated a set of silicone hoses for the students to use in their project.

And students also heard from the team at Greenhous Commercials about their new pre-delivery inspection (PDI) unit and career opportunities in PDI for those interested in working in heavy vehicle maintenance.



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Bakery

Bakery students have been hard at work creating delicious handmade treats including specialist chocolate confectionery, artisan breads, and a range of Valentine's-themed delights!



Business

Students studying for business qualifications found out what it takes to run your own business and be a successful entrepreneur from representatives from Firkin Freight Ltd, and also got tips on CV writing and personal branding from visitors from construction company, Wilmott Dixon.

They also had the opportunity to visit the IGNITE Hub in Wolverhampton to learn about how it helps local small business owners and SMEs with workspaces, support, and resources.



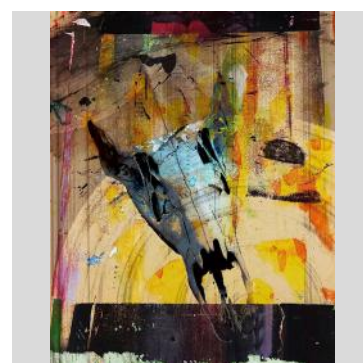
Construction

Painting and decorating students got the lowdown on the latest paint products when representatives from Valspar paid a visit to the Wellington Road campus to share their industry expertise and knowledge, whilst brickwork students have produced some fantastic work including solid walling and a Serpentine wall.



Creative Arts

Creative media students benefitted from a masterclass in podcasting from Vibrant Sounds Media, whilst art and design students have been exploring digital textures using Photoshop and produced some great results!



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Employability

A cohort of students interested working in the NHS completed a Step into Work programme which covers the skills needed to work in the sector.

The scheme included a placement with the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust to give them experience in the workplace and, of the 14 participants who completed course, one has gained a permanent part-time role as a receptionist at West Park Hospital, whilst 12 were recommended for its temporary staffing bank which enables them to book shifts and work across different departments requiring administrative support.



Hairdressing

A former hairdressing student, who is now a multi-award-winning stylist, shared her journey to success, insights into working in the industry and her tips for success with current students during a visit to the New Era hair salon.



Health & Social Care

Students studying for health and social care qualifications visited The University of Wolverhampton to take part in a range of workshops including public health, mental health and clinical skills.

They also benefitted from a visit from a registered nurse and midwife who carried out practical sessions on taking blood samples and using cannulas.



Hospitality and catering

Cookery students got a taste of how army chefs produce meals for soldiers when they took part in a ration pack challenge.

They were provided with ration packs which the army use to feed their soldiers when training or on operations and were required to plan a menu and produce a meal under the watchful eye of the army chefs who gave feedback on the quality of dishes and where improvement could be made.



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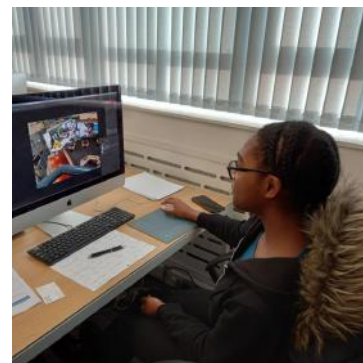


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Prince's Trust

Charelle, a participant in a Prince's Trust Team programme, got the opportunity to gain work experience as a graphic designer during a placement at DIS Group in Wolverhampton.

The programme has also helped her to grow in confidence, make new friends and give something back to her community by participating in a fundraising project.



Sport

Students studying from our Football Academy, as well as those studying for generic sports qualifications, visited the Wolverhampton Wanderers training ground and took part in a referee workshop delivered by the Premier League and players from Wolves U18s.



Travel & Tourism

Former travel and tourism student Patricia, who now works for a Middle Eastern airline, spoke to current students about her experience of college, her job in the industry and her tips for success.



STUDENT JOURNEY

Last year we followed A-level student Paulina Patzova throughout her course, interviewing her each term to get the lowdown on how her studies were going.

Take a look at what she had to say!



Term 1



Term 2



Term 3



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STUDENT STORIES

This term we've heard from a maths student about the support she has received during her course, caught up with a former Access to HE student who is now studying at The University of Wolverhampton, had feedback from an electrical apprentice about the skills he is learning on his programme, and interviewed an automotive centre owner who has enrolled himself and his staff on electric vehicle courses to ensure they are qualified to meet the needs of their customers.

Click on their pictures below to read what they have to say.



Sona Singh
Maths



John Toye
Former Access to HE student



Alfie Webb
Electrical apprentice



Badar Zaman
Owner of the Mechanic Ltd

To read about other students' experience of studying at the college take a look at our Student Stories page [here](#)



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