

College Times

EDITION 9

AUTUMN 2021

BROUGHT TO YOU BY WIGAN & LEIGH COLLEGE

**SPORTS TEAM
OF THE YEAR**

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**STUDENT SATISFACTION
SURVEY RESULTS
TOP NATIONAL AVERAGE**

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EMPLOYER STATUS**

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CHANNEL 4 NEWS ANCHOR'S ROUTE TO SUCCESS

Students turned the tables on high profile broadcasters and

presenters when Krishnan-Guru Murthy, Evan Davies and

British foreign affairs correspondent John Simpson took questions

after sharing an insight into their careers. See page 3 for the full story.



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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Alumni Chris Hall of ITN Sport
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SPEAKER OF HOUSE OF COMMONS JOINS STUDENT CONFERENCE



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CENTRE FOR ADVANCED TECHNICAL STUDIES OPENS ITS DOORS



SEE PAGE 3

For more information and enquiries contact
01942 761111
wigan-leigh.ac.uk



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Wigan & Leigh
College



PARSONS WALK CENTRE - 4.30PM - 7.30PM

- SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS
- CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN CONSTRUCTION & ENGINEERING
- CENTRE FOR ADVANCED TECHNICAL STUDIES
- Monday 8 November 2021
- Monday 31 January 2022 • Monday 25 April 2022

LEIGH COLLEGE - 4.30PM - 7.30PM

- Monday 15 November 2021 • Monday 7 February 2022

**OPEN
EVENTS**



01942 761 111
wigan-leigh.ac.uk

**CREATING
OUTSTANDING
FUTURES**

STUDENTS TURN THE TABLES ON HIGH PROFILE BROADCASTERS & PRESENTERS

Channel 4 News broadcaster Krishnan Guru-Murthy, BBC Radio 4 and Dragon's Den presenter Evan Davis and British foreign affairs correspondent John Simpson took questions from A Level students when they each shared an insight into their careers.



News broadcasters Krishnan Guru-Murthy, Evan Davis and John Simpson

Students found out more about how they started out as broadcasters and gained an insight into the challenges and rewards of news reporting in the UK and abroad.

Krishnan Guru-Murthy started his broadcast career on work experience with the BBC. By the age of 18 he was presenting the current affairs programme Open to Question, the week before his A Level

results were released. He decided to switch degree study from Medicine to Policy, Philosophy and Economics at Oxford. Working part-time throughout his university career he presented

Newsround in his third undergraduate year. Krishnan admitted to being "lippy and confident" which he says helped him to get his break so young.

Psychology lecturer Jonny Evans set up

the online sessions.

He said:

"Our students get a lot out of online sessions with people who are at the top of their game in the worlds of politics and the media. Connecting with

such high profile figures means they have the opportunity to put some really challenging questions to those who are not normally on the receiving end."

SPORTS TEAM OF THE YEAR



College sports team tutors

Selected from thousands of nominations, the Sports teaching team at Leigh College scooped a Pearson National Teaching Silver Award.

They were awarded Further Education Team of the Year for their outstanding commitment to changing the lives of young people.

College Principal, Anna Dawe, said:

"Individually they are outstanding teachers but it is their team work strength that has delivered such an amazing college experience for our students."

The accolade means that the team will be shortlisted for one of just 15 Gold Awards later in the year - due to be broadcast on the BBC One Show.

The team provides learning programmes for a range of sporting expertise from elite level athletes, to those who participate for fun.

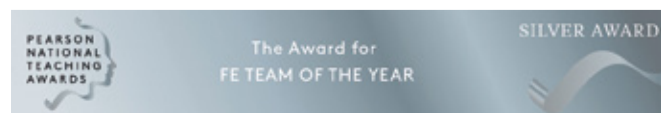
Staff have a range of sporting backgrounds from rugby league to athletics, swimming to football and students progress to universities and sports scholarships worldwide.

The department boasts a 100 per cent pass rate, with 78 per cent achieving

grades above their target. The team has also established links with external partners to support student wellbeing and disability specific sports.

Head of Department, Gareth Hayes, added:

"To achieve a silver national teaching award is fantastic recognition for the team. I am proud to be among such a special group of people. Now into the next round to achieve the Gold award!"



CENTRE FOR ADVANCED TECHNICAL STUDIES

The first cohort of students are settling in to the College's brand new Centre for Advanced Technical Studies (CATS).

Based in the historic Rushton building opposite the Parsons Walk Centre, CATS has undergone a £0.8million transformation. The College won a successful bid in 2020 to add to its estate, extending technical education in Wigan Borough's key priority areas.

A base for the Centre of Excellence in Health and Social Care,

facilities include a clinical ward, manual handling suite, specialist science laboratories and a health and social care careers hub. Those on specialist courses such as the T Level in Health, aimed at future adult and mental health nurses, as well as healthcare professionals will access the new facilities. The Centre forms a collaboration

with Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (WWL), Edge Hill University, Wigan Council and the College.

CATS is also home to the College's latest Digital Academy, as well as a base for T Levels and higher education courses in engineering.



COLLEGE HIGH IN BEST COMPANIES



The College achieved position eight in the national Education & Training Top 25 - part of the Sunday Times Best Companies to work for listing in 2021.

It holds position 38 in the North West Regional Top 100 and 52 in the Top 100 of the UK's Best Large Companies to Work For - sharing a place with Toyota, Camelot, Beaverbrooks and Everton Football Club.

College Principal, Anna Dawe, said:

"This is brilliant recognition from Best Companies for our amazing College community. I feel proud to be part of such a strong, supportive and positive team."

Organisations are ranked following a staff survey to find out more about how people feel about their place of work.



Cabin Crew students learned more about managing in-flight emergencies as part of their practical assessments.

EMERGENCY TRAINING FOR CABIN CREW

PASS RATES CONTINUE TO RISE

Students and staff celebrated an outstanding 100 per cent pass rate in A Levels this year with 51 per cent achieving the coveted A*-A grade.

This combined with a 99 per cent pass rate in vocational courses (BTECs) meant students secured the very best places at university, or the most competitive apprenticeship vacancies.

A Level results performed strongly against national averages (England)

with 6 per cent more achieving the highest grades possible and 95.7 per cent securing A*-C compared with 88 per cent nationally.

Traditional methods of deciding grades through exams were once again replaced by assessments because of COVID 19. Unlike last year,

students were able to attend College in person to collect their results and celebrate their achievements with friends and tutors.

BTEC Level 3 Health & Social Care student Bethany Neafcy achieved the highest grade of Distinction Star, Distinction Star, Distinction Star.

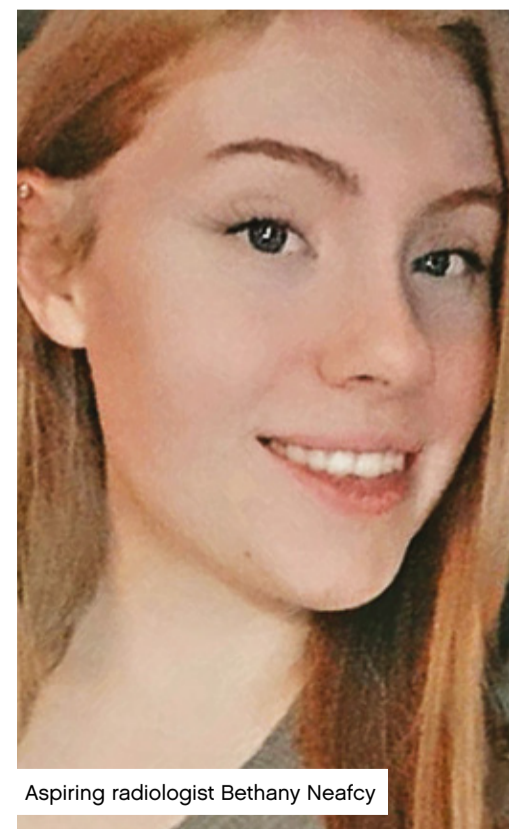
The former Standish Community High School pupil is planning a career as a radiographer and has accepted a place at University of Liverpool to study Therapeutic Radiography and Oncology.

Bethany said: ***"I worked very hard and our tutors were amazing. I couldn't be happier with my results - I'm over the moon!"***

Principal, Anna Dawe, added: ***"The class of 2021 have studied their A Levels and BTECs in the most difficult and testing***

of circumstances. They have been without doubt exceptional, showing great resilience, working hard and remaining focused on their career aspirations and next steps.

"With their outstanding grades they can now progress to their chosen university or apprenticeship. We are immensely proud of them and their teachers."



Aspiring radiologist Bethany Neafcy

Where are they now?



ITV Sports reporter Chris Hall looks back on his time as a student at Leigh College from 1994-96 where he studied A Levels English Literature, Communication Studies and Spanish.

Born and raised in Wigan, Chris remembers witnessing the famous bull run while staying with a Spanish family in Pamplona on a College exchange trip.

“I remember that was a wonderful life experience, which I wouldn't have had if not for the College.”

When it came to his Spanish speaking skills Chris took the bull by the horns and chose to only speak in Spanish with his host family. He is still in touch with them to this day and said that that experience really improved his Spanish speaking skills.

After graduating from the University of Central Lancashire with a degree in journalism, Chris worked as a regional reporter on newspapers in Crewe, Warrington and Bradford, followed by a stint working as press officer at Wigan Athletic.

“I wanted to get back into news and reporting, so I worked for the Bolton News for a while before I landed a role with Granada.”

Chris demonstrated an early interest in sports journalism.

“As a little kid in primary school I used to write sports magazines and articles, or sometimes



I would make radio shows. It's something I always used to play at. It's good to remind myself how lucky I am to be doing this as a career.”

As a sports reporter Chris has travelled the world, from Europe to cover Champions League and Europa League finals, to the USA reporting on boxing with big names including Amir Khan and Ricky Hatton.

Winning specialist correspondent of the year at the Royal

Television Society Northwest awards in 2019 is one of his proudest moments, alongside meeting Sylvester Stallone, who was special guest at an Everton game thanks to Robert Earl, club owner and founder of Planet Hollywood.

“I was told I only had two minutes with Sly. I managed to squeeze out an extra minute and persuade him to try out a few scouse phrases which sounded funny in his accent. He was amazing.”

Chris is keen to encourage students who are interested in a career in television news to work hard and be flexible.

“Get in and get the experience and be prepared to work for free - this will help you to get noticed.” He added: “It's good to have a specialism but keep your options open to start with. Take the job even if it's not where you want to be straight away and work your way up.”

NEW LOOK PARSONS WALK

New outdoor spaces, refurbished cafeteria, learning resources centre, floristry studios, media makeup salon and childcare & education facilities were the latest estate upgrades ready for students starting the new academic year at the Parsons Walk Centre.

Childcare and Early Years learners are in brand new classrooms with messy play area and work related role play zones, as well as a themed outdoor play space. While floristry students are working with new industry standard chillers and equipment.

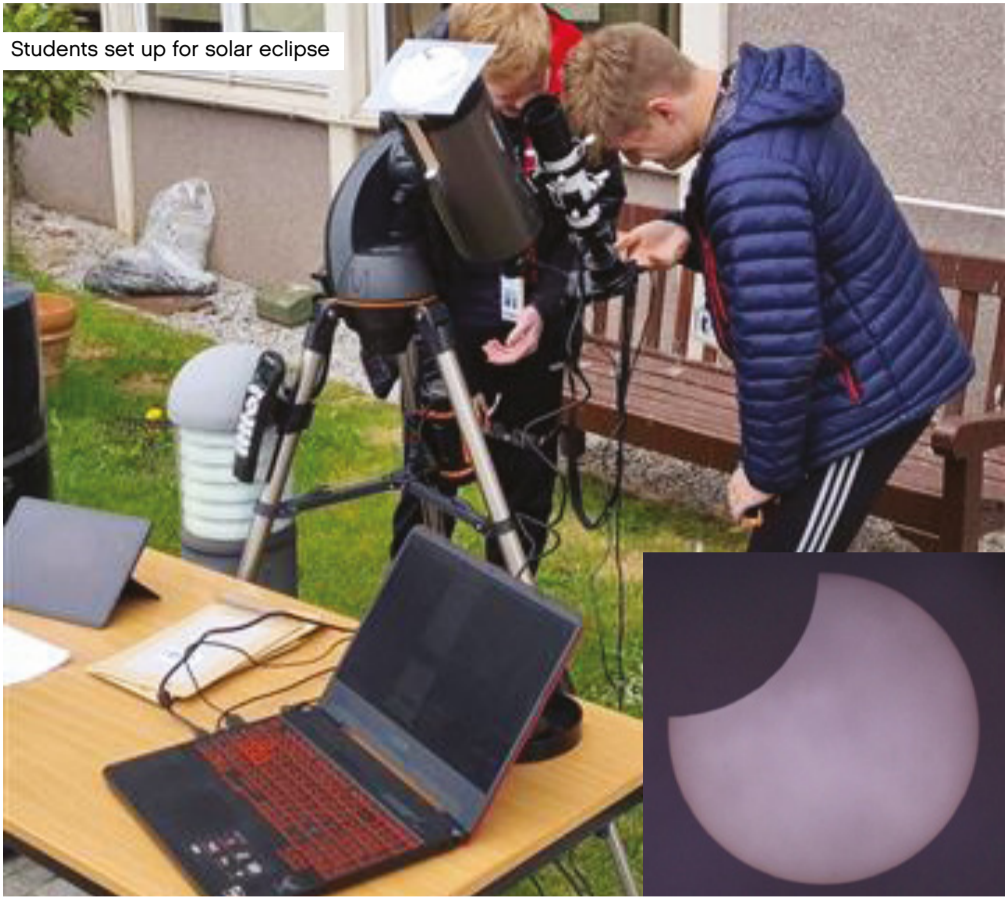
Every student has access to the new

Learning Resources Centre with a contemporary spacious environment for a multi-functional way to study. Additions include a fast access PC zone, increased laptop and PC capacity, reading and wellbeing area, and larger flexible working spaces for group, project and individual study.



LOOK UP TO THE SKY

Students set up for solar eclipse



Physics students supported teacher, Antonio Coulton and lecturer Robert

Kavanagh in setting up an observation station to photograph the partial solar eclipse of

June 2021. Despite a cloudy day the photo was published in The Sky at Night magazine.

LORD BLUNKETT SHARES SUCCESS STORY

Students met Lord David Blunkett as part of a series of high profile guest speakers.



Lord David Blunkett

The former Home and Education Secretary spoke about his journey from a council estate in Sheffield, to a rise in politics with the labour party and becoming a Lord.

Blind since birth, Lord Blunkett shared a snapshot of a day in the life of an MP and the challenges he has overcome with his disability and the impact on his political career.

A Level student, Melissa Coutts, said: "It was such a privilege to meet Lord David Blunkett to find out more about his role and his perspective of the current government."

EDINBURGH SUMMER SCHOOL



A Level student Casey-Jo Twist

Aspiring social worker Casey-Jo Twist was accepted for the

exclusive University of Edinburgh's Sutton Trust Summer school.

A Level student Eleanor Bennett



WORLD LITERACY AMBASSADOR

English and Sociology A Level student and former Southlands High School pupil Eleanor Bennett has

become a World Literacy Ambassador, volunteering to discuss issues globally for the World Literacy Foundation.

I am...

**A FAMILY WOMAN
A GO-GETTER
A QUANTITY SURVEYOR**

Everyone has a next chapter. Start yours.



Est.1857 | Wigan & Leigh College





Sailing on Scotsman's Flash

SHIP AHOY!

Students got to grips with sailing on Scotsman's Flash with the outdoor adventure team at Wigan Council - a welcome activity after months of lockdown.



FUTURE MEDIC MARIA SET TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Alumni, Maria Babu is on track to achieve her dream of becoming a doctor.

The former A Level student took two gap years before starting Medicine at UCLan. She managed to juggle working at the College interviewing applicants, with a role as Chair for the Asian Women's Forum in Chorley, supporting those experiencing domestic violence.

As if that wasn't enough, Maria also gained her interpreter qualifications in Urdu and Punjabi.

"As I come from Pakistan originally, I know that it is an area where some people do not have access to the most basic healthcare. I like the idea of returning to these communities to offer medical support."



Alumni and former College employee, Maria Babu is set for a career as a medic

She added: *"Studying A Levels at the College meant I could access some fantastic*

opportunities. I would not be studying Medicine were it not for the A Level teaching staff."

CLASS OF 2021



REBECCA DUFFY
ASPIRING PSYCHIATRIC OR MENTAL HEALTH NURSE/ THERAPIST
Former School: Ladybridge High School
Results:
 A Biology
 A Sociology
 A* Psychology
University:
 BSc (Hons) Cognitive Neuroscience and Psychology
 - University of Manchester



LOTTIE HAMPSON
ASPIRING ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONAL
Former School: Golborne High School
Results:
 A Sociology
 A Fine Art
 A* Psychology
University:
 BSc (Hons) Sociology
 - University of Manchester

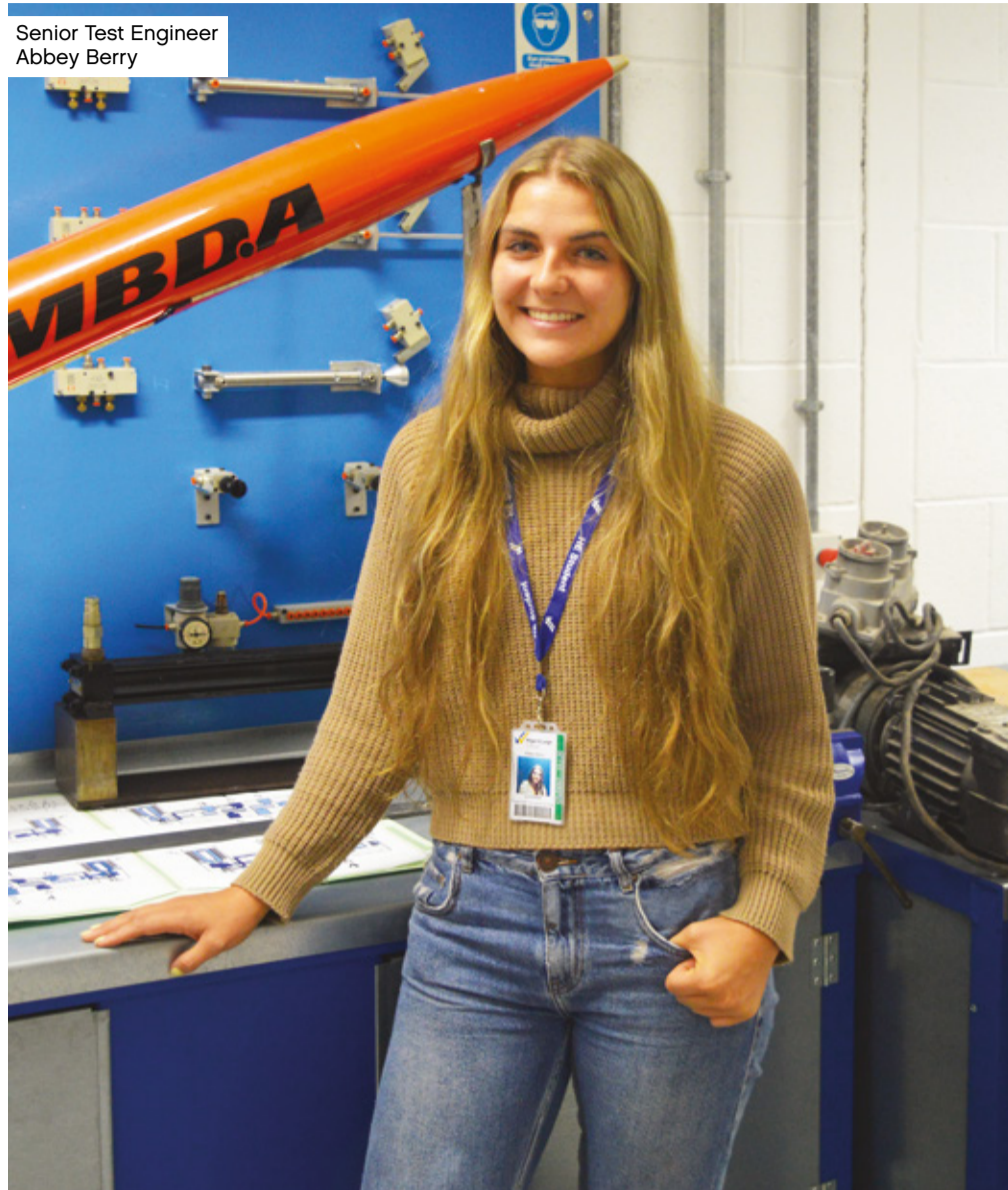


JACK DAWSON
Former School: Fred Longworth High School
Exam results:
 A Chemistry
 A* Maths
 A Physics
University:
 BEng (Hons) Electrical & Electronic Engineering
 - University of Manchester



AMELIA BLACKBURN
ASPIRING GAMES DEVELOPER
Former School: Lowton Church of England High School
Results:
 A Computing
 A Maths
 A* Psychology
University:
 BSc (Hons) Games Development Techniques
 - University of Plymouth

FIRST CLASS RESULTS FOR 2021 GRADUATES



Senior Test Engineer
Abbey Berry

Students celebrated top marks after completing engineering degrees at the University Centre.

Sixty-eight per cent of those studying the BEng (Hons) Electrical & Electronic Engineering achieved a first class honours degree, while 60 per cent from the BEng (Hons) Mechanical & Manufacturing degree also achieved the highest grade.

Overall, 88 per cent of those who completed the Electrical & Electronic or Mechanical & Manufacturing Top-up degree achieved a first or upper second class (2:1) result.

Abbey Berry completed a Degree Apprenticeship with MBDA, achieving a first class BEng (Hons) Electrical & Electronic Engineering degree

and is looking forward to an exciting career.

The Senior Test Engineer said:

“I’m ecstatic to have achieved a first class honours degree. The course has applied well to my work life and I have enjoyed it from start to finish.

“I want to continue my journey to chartered status and I’m interested in following up with a PhD.”

Ursula Hoyles, Head of Higher Education

Engineering at the University Centre, added: “Our students’ hard work has paid off. There are lots of opportunities ahead for them and we are very proud of their achievements.

“We are particularly proud that so many students achieved the highest grades. This is due not only to expert teaching, but also each student’s resilience in completing their final year throughout challenging times.”

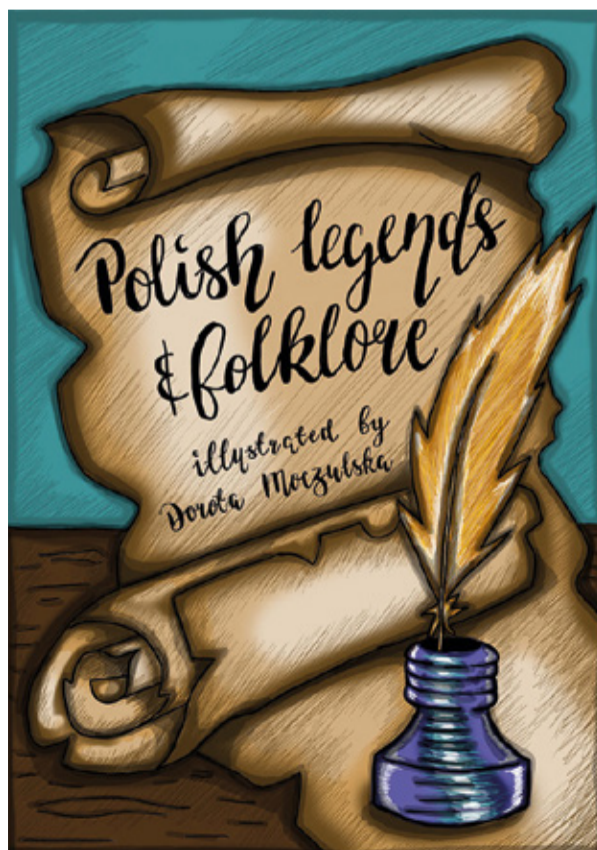
Both courses are accredited as partial CEng (Chartered Engineer) by the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET).

Polish Legends & Folklore

Graphic design graduate Dorota Moczulska designed and illustrated a book of Polish legends for her final major project.

With a background in fine art Dorota improved her digital graphic design skills and she translated the folk tales into

English. She achieved a 2:1 BA Hons Creative Practitioner (Graphic Design) degree.



Dorota Moczulska's final project book of Polish Legends

Boogie Nights inspires fashion collection

Future fashion designer Olivia Noonan based her end of year project on 70's style, music

and culture, inspired by her parents' heyday decade. Olivia graduated with a first

class BA Hons Creative Practitioner (Fashion).



Olivia Noonan's designs based on 70's style



BOOGIE NIGHTS CLOTHING

EMPLOYER PRAISE FOR NATIONAL STUDENT SURVEY RESULTS

Partner employers working with the University Centre are delighted with the results of the recent National Student Survey (NSS) with overall satisfaction rates at 82.61 per cent.

This is in stark contrast to falling student satisfaction rates in higher education nationally, where the average has fallen to 75 per cent of students satisfied with the quality of their course. Sellafield Ltd sends higher and degree apprentices to the University Centre to complete engineering degrees and HNCs. This year 13 Sellafield degree apprentices achieved a First Class result.

John Patterson is Head of the Engineering Design Degree Apprentice Scheme at Sellafield.

He said:

“I am delighted to see the extraordinary academic results achieved by our Design Apprentices – they have met and exceeded expectations across the board.

“They have done so while facing demanding and difficult challenges over the past 16 months for which there was no precedent. The way in which our apprentices have performed leaves us in no doubt that the Sellafield mission is in good hands and

that they will continue to thrive throughout their careers.”

The University Centre invested in IT and software resources to support students during the pandemic, with some returning earlier for courses that have a practical focus. Results are above the national benchmark in every category of the NSS: teaching, learning opportunities, assessment and feedback, academic support, organisation and management, learning resources, learning community and student voice.

- 82.61 per cent of students confirmed overall satisfaction with the quality of their course
- 93 per cent stated that staff are good at explaining details
- 89 per cent agreed that the course has provided them with opportunities to bring information and ideas together from different topics
- 68 per cent of those on the BEng (Hons) Electrical & Electronic course achieved a first class honours degree.

College Vice Principal, Claire Foreman added:



College Vice Principal
Claire Foreman

“These achievements are not only down to the incredible commitment of our lecturing staff, but also a result of our collaborative relationships with our employer networks and our local communities.”

The University Centre welcomes adult learners each year who return to education to upskill and retrain to change or boost their careers.

Alumni have kickstarted the next stage of their professional life, with their chosen courses offering skills and qualifications across a wide range of industries.

With personal and professional commitments that many younger students don't have, courses are flexible enough to support adults who want to study locally and part-time.

Find more about those who started their next chapter at the University Centre throughout College Times.

STARTING THEIR NEXT CHAPTER

At 44, Kathleen decided to upskill and is well on her way to a new career as a Mental Health Worker.

I am...

A CALMING PRESENCE
A COMPASSIONATE PERSON
A FUTURE MENTAL HEALTH WORKER

Everyone has a next chapter.
Start yours.



University
Centre
Wigan & Leigh College



University of
Central Lancashire
UCLan



Women set to change the face of engineering



WOMEN IN ENGINEERING

Students helped to fly the flag for female role models celebrating International Women in Engineering day.

The College's specialist group was formed to support those taking engineering disciplines, in what has always been a male dominated area. Female role models from industry

are invited to speak to them in person or virtually. Women from Amey, the leading infrastructure services and engineering company, visited the group to talk about career opportunities

and their experience of working in industry. If you work for a business that would like to get involved contact **Rachel Gandy** on r.gandy@wigan-leigh.ac.uk

MOLECULAR GASTRONOMY TRAINING



The chemistry behind cooking



Top chef and food scientist Rupert Rowley of MSK Ingredients carried out a live demonstration for students on molecular gastronomy and modernist cuisine.

The development chef has worked with the best from Raymond Blanc and John Burton-Race to Gordon Ramsay. Students learned how

to transform liquids using starch agents to alter structure and viscosity and turn soya sauce into a powder, which allows chefs to completely change the way the ingredient is

used in a dish. MSK Ingredients is the national supplier to the hotel and restaurant trade which also offers training in specialist techniques

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION



First year Level 3 Creative Digital Media students shot their first short film at Parsons Walk Centre.

Behind the scenes preparation forms an integral part of the production process as tutor Norman Lomax explains:

“Shooting is just one stage of the production process. Before this, students worked in teams to develop their own script and storyboard. They learn how to

manage resources and budgets, carrying out risk assessments, a location recce and scheduling.”

Students follow industry working practices from idea initialisation, pitching, pre-production and production through to post production using industry standard software.

I am...
**A TREND SETTER, AN INNOVATOR,
A FUTURE CEO**

Everyone has a next chapter. Start yours.

Enquire about Computing courses at Wigan and Leigh College University Centre.



Speaker of the House of Commons attends Student Conference

The Student Council welcomed Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP to the annual Student Conference.

The Speaker of the House of Commons since 2019 and Member of Parliament for Chorley was keynote speaker at the annual student conference.

Born and bred in Chorley in a political household - his father Doug Hoyle was MP for Warrington in the 1980s - he joined a youth club as a youngster where he became chair of the committee.

"On the youth club

committee it was always the same people making decisions," he said. **"I was a bit younger, maybe a bit mouthy and I wanted to make a difference."**

From these early days Sir Hoyle went on to join Lancashire Youth Council.

His work on a construction site during the controversial blacklisting of the 1970s sparked his interest

in politics and trade unions further still. This led to his becoming the youngest councillor ever elected in Chorley, when he was voted into office at the age of 22.

"I wanted to give younger people a voice and the role shaped my politics for the future," he said.

Despite serious health issues, the challenges of Brexit and the pandemic that followed, he is proud to

have become the first Speaker of the House of Commons from the North West.

"Within two days of being elected Speaker there was a general election. Soon after I was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes, in the middle of Brexit and then the pandemic hit."

Student reps and leaders from across the College were delighted to meet the Speaker who spent time answering questions about politicians' pay rises to minority representation in Parliament, with a lighter touch final question of - who is the most famous person in your phone and the most



Sir Lindsay Hoyle with student reps

inspirational?

From Barack Obama, Tom Hanks and Bono to the Dalai Lama, the Pope and the Queen,

Sir Hoyle admitted to having the privilege of meeting a range of people in a job he says he's very lucky to have.

FROM LEVEL 3 TO DEGREE

More and more students are securing university places following their level 3 studies, not only at A Level, but in technical subjects from sport to science, creative arts to computing or business to building construction.

LIAM ROBSON



Aspiring commercial or criminal barrister

Course: BTEC National Extended Diploma Level 3 Business

Results: Distinction* Distinction* Distinction

University: LLB (Hons) Law - Durham University

DOMINIK PALUSZKIEWICZ



Aspiring aerospace engineer

Former school: St Peter's Catholic High School

Course: BTEC National Extended Diploma Level 3 Mechanical Engineering

Results: Distinction* Distinction Distinction

University: BEng (Hons) Aerospace Engineering - University of Central Lancashire

ELYSE DUTTON



Aspiring creative events manager

Former school: Lowton CofE High School

Course: BTEC National Extended Diploma Level 3 Photography

Results: Distinction* Distinction* Distinction

University: BA (Hons) Creative Events Management - Falmouth University

MIA GREENOUGH



Aspiring quantity surveyor

Former school: Westhoughton High School

Course: BTEC National Extended Diploma Level 3 Civil Engineering

Results: Distinction* Distinction* Distinction*

University: BSc (Hons) Quantity Surveying - University of Salford - Degree apprenticeship with Bethell, civils and utilities company

LUCY SIGLEY



Aspiring environmental management specialist

Former school: Westhoughton High School

Course: BTEC National Extended Diploma Level 3 Applied Science

Results: Distinction* Distinction* Distinction

University: BSc (Hons) Environmental Management - University of Salford

KALENGA MICHEL



Aspiring aerospace engineer

Former school: Essa Academy

Course: BTEC National Extended Diploma Level 3 Mechanical Engineering

Results: Distinction* Distinction Distinction

University: BEng (Hons) Mechanical Engineering - University of Central Lancashire



a career working for British Airways Rewards Scheme to follow his dream, taking up the Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) carrying out his teaching practice at the College.

"It was always a dream of mine to go into teaching. From my initial meeting with the Teacher Education team at the College, I immediately felt their passion for teaching and a genuine interest in my career," said Ashley.

Now, in his second year of part-time study Ashley says the one-to-one support and contact time, is helping him develop his own teaching style.

CAREER IN THE ARTS LEADS TO TEACHER TRAINING

Freelance artist Ashley Rae decided to take up teacher training to follow his ambition of inspiring

others to harness their creativity.

The 32-year-old from Wigan left behind



always been a bit of a tomboy and I've been used to having skin fades for example. I think clients are comfortable with me, perhaps because I have a background in sports and fitness modelling. They're used to seeing me with all kinds of funky hairstyles, so they kind of trust me."

Ayeesha is pleased with how the course has progressed.

"During lockdown we didn't miss a class. We work on our heads from home in online group lessons, so we still kept up our practical skills," Ayeesha added.

"I have loved the course. It's a very friendly group and my tutor is great. We get to learn the whole spectrum of techniques, such as scissor work, layering and short or long hair. It's not just working with the clippers. I feel that I will leave this course with a lot of skills."

CAREER SWAP FOR BUDDING BARBER

Personal trainer, Ayeesha Coleman is adding barbering to her skills base, in a bid to one day open her own barber shop in Manchester.

base at her friends' barber shop.

"It felt like the right time to change career and try something new that I can get excited about,"

said Ayeesha.

"Barbering suits me more than women's hairdressing, as I've

The 28-year-old from Wigan is set to complete the Level 2 Barbering course this year and is hoping to develop her client

MATHS GCSE WORKS OUT FOR RHIANNA'S ROUTE TO NURSING

Young mum, Rhianna Hesketh planned to return to learning when her youngest daughter reached two-years-old.

Having decided to follow her dream of becoming a nurse, the 22-year-old signed up for Maths GCSE to prepare for the Access to Higher Education Diploma in Health and a route to university.

"Studying maths at College was very different to school. I found it easier because I am now focussed on the end goal of progressing my career,"

said Rhianna.



Despite the unprecedented lockdown in March 2020, when weekly Maths classes went online, Rhianna achieved a grade 5 and is now studying the Access to HE Diploma in Health.

She has already received university offers to take up

nursing at Edge Hill University, the University of Central Lancashire and the University of Salford.

"I'd say to anyone considering returning to education don't think too much about it - just go for it!"

added Rhianna.



"My mum's been a teaching assistant for 25 years, so it's a familiar job for me. I have two daughters aged 11 and 9-years-old and I really enjoyed home schooling during lockdown, so I looked into the course and got excited about doing something new."

"It has been a long time since I was back in a classroom but it's been really good. Even though we couldn't always get into placements due to Covid, the course was adapted to account for this."

Adam has completed the Level 3 course and is now working at a local primary school.

HOME SCHOOLING INSPIRES CAREER SWAP

Adam Brocken is studying the Level 2 Teaching Assistant course at Leigh Adult Learning Centre.

With a background in hospitality the

36-year-old has decided on a radical career change, inspired by helping his daughters home school throughout lockdown.

COLLEGE SUPPORTS KICKSTART EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMME

The College is supporting young people into work through the government's Kickstart programme aimed at creating jobs for 16-to 24-year-olds who have been on universal credit for six months or more.

In partnership with Wigan Council and Jobcentre plus, the College is providing skills training for young people, throughout their six-month 25-hours-a-week paid employment.

Government is funding employment costs for companies across the UK in a bid to get the country back to

work. The Kickstart programme is aimed at getting young people into employment after furlough and the redundancy fallout from the pandemic.

Shannon Holt is lead College lecturer for Kickstart.

She said: "We are providing training in communication, personal and social



The first cohort of Kickstart students complete their studies

skills, as well as CV development for those who have been out of work for some time. We are supporting people working in

varied sectors from health and social care to teaching assistants, mortgage providers, printing companies and many more."

Young people attend College every two weeks throughout their Kickstart programme, with many going on to secure permanent jobs

or apprenticeships, either with their host company or with another employer.

COVER STORY

Four art and design students agreed to become models for the day to feature on the front cover of the College's school leaver prospectus 2022.

ALEX COLQUHOUN

Aspiring Tattoo Artist

Former School: Deanery High School

Course:
BTEC National Extended Diploma
Level 3 Art & Design

Results: Distinction* Distinction* Distinction*

University:
BA (Hons) Illustration
- University of the Arts London

"The course provided the opportunity to experiment and explore things I never would and that inspired me to pursue an artistic career."



CHARLOTTE BULL

Aspiring College Art Tutor

Former School: Our Lady Queen of Peace

Course:
BTEC National Extended Diploma
Level 3 Art & Design

Results: Distinction* Distinction* Distinction

University:
BA (Hons) Fine Art: Painting
- University of the Arts London

Charlotte was inspired to follow an academic career teaching art at further education level during her time at College.

ALEXANDER BENTHAM

Aspiring Interior Designer

Former School: Albany Academy

Course:
BTEC National Extended Diploma
Level 3 Art & Design

University:
BA (Hons) Interior Design
- University of Central Lancashire

Alex is interested in developing his own interior design business.



Photography by David Bracher

ELLIE ALMOND

Aspiring Interior Designer

Former School: Southlands High School

Course:
BTEC National Extended Diploma
Level 3 Art & Design

University:
BA (Hons) Interior design
- University of Salford



"At College I have ventured outside of my comfort zone especially using different media finding alternative ways to be creative."



STIRLING DICKSON

Former school: Standish Community High School

Course: Level 2/3 Plumbing - Apprenticeship

Stirling secured an apprenticeship with Wigan Council after completing the Level 2 course at College.

"I really enjoy it and I'm learning a lot about working on bathrooms, wet rooms and get to work across the borough. I enjoy the practical course especially the bathroom bays we have in the workshop and doing pipe handling, as this is a skill I need to be good at in my job."

Stirling will also be training as a gas engineer as part of his apprenticeship and hopes to go in to property development when he has qualified.



LILY GRIMAL

Former school: St Michael and All Angels High School

Course: Level 3 Painting & Decorating - Apprenticeship

Lily progressed from Level 2 and secured an apprenticeship at Julian and Son.

"It's good to see more women in construction. Sometimes women who live alone feel more comfortable when they see a woman turn up to do a job. Clients say that women are neater than men in terms of their work too."

"I really enjoy the course and I can be myself and as I enjoy the work it's never a chore. I have learned different techniques and my communication skills and confidence have improved."

LEAP OF FAITH FOR PUBLIC SERVICE STUDENTS

Level 3 Public Service students took a trip to the Anderton Centre in the beautiful Chorley countryside to try their hand at a range of land based challenges.

The leap of faith, tree

climbing and team building challenges pushed the students out of their comfort zones, improving self-confidence and long awaited release after months of lockdown restrictions.



Students take a leap of faith

BUSINESSES BENEFIT FROM T LEVEL INDUSTRY PLACEMENTS

The College is seeking support from employers to host placements for its students taking up the latest technical qualification, T Levels.

T Levels are for students aged 16 to 19 who have completed GCSEs. As they combine classroom learning with an industry placement, employer contribution is vital in helping young people develop the knowledge, attitudes and practical skills to thrive in the workplace.

The College has already introduced T Levels in digital, civil engineering/construction, health and social care, childcare and education, with additional ones in business admin and science set for 2022.

The good news is that businesses can claim a £1,000 cash boost for every T Level student they take on a high-quality industry placement.

But there is more to supporting a T Level student than this cash incentive. At the heart of each course, the 45-day industry placement provides early access to the brightest talent entering the market.

Andrew Fleetwood is Work Placement Team Leader at the College:

"Hosting a T Level student can help you with recruitment, improve innovation, and increase your organisation's productivity," said Andrew. "There are also important social benefits."

Students have a clearly defined project – something that will deliver real value for the business – and they'll be supported in delivering it



Work Placement Team Leader Andrew Fleetwood

by College tutors.

"Businesses just need to make sure they have a line manager or mentor who can support the student to meet their clearly defined learning objectives,"

Andrew added.

"This helps existing staff gain management and mentorship skills, both of which are known to increase job satisfaction"

If you are interested in developing some of the next generation of business leaders starting their careers with T Levels, contact Andrew Fleetwood, Work Placement Team Leader a.fleetwood@wigan-leigh.ac.uk or call: 01942 761530

FEMALE FOOTBALL ACADEMY



The Female Football Academy is encouraging students into the sport to support them with their progression - with activities for experienced footballers and those new to the sport.

Alongside training and coaching sessions from Wigan Athletic Community Trust, beginners are offered Soccerise, Development of Football Skills and Walking Football as part of their progression to membership of the Football Academy.

The College has launched a women's football academy to run alongside the established academies in partnership with Wigan Athletic and in rugby, Leigh Centurions.

ALUMNI GREGG TAKES BRONZE AT TOKYO OLYMPICS



Former student Gregg Warburton took a Bronze Tokyo Paralympics medal alongside his teammates, when the men's wheelchair basketball team clinched the country's penultimate medal in

Japan, defeating Spain 68-58 in their third-place play-off,

The 24-year-old former Level 3 Sport student scooped his second senior Paralympic bronze following the team win in Rio 2016.

After being voted Most Valuable Player (MVP) at the 2018 World Championships, Gregg is recognised as one of the best wheelchair basketball players in the world.

THEATRE OF A DREAM COME TRUE FOR ELLA

Former student and Manchester United player Ella Toone was thrilled to see herself pictured larger than life outside Old Trafford alongside Marcus Rashford, Jadon Sancho, Bruno Fernandes and Harry Maguire.

The current midfielder for Man Utd studied BTEC Sport Science at the College in 2019 while continuing her professional sporting career.

Ella commented on her Twitter feed:

"...Was once just a little girl with a big dream... to play for the biggest club in the world, the club I've loved all my life. Now, I'm pictured on the theatre of dreams. It doesn't get much better..."

SPORT ALUMNI SIGNED UP FOR ENGLAND KNIGHTS

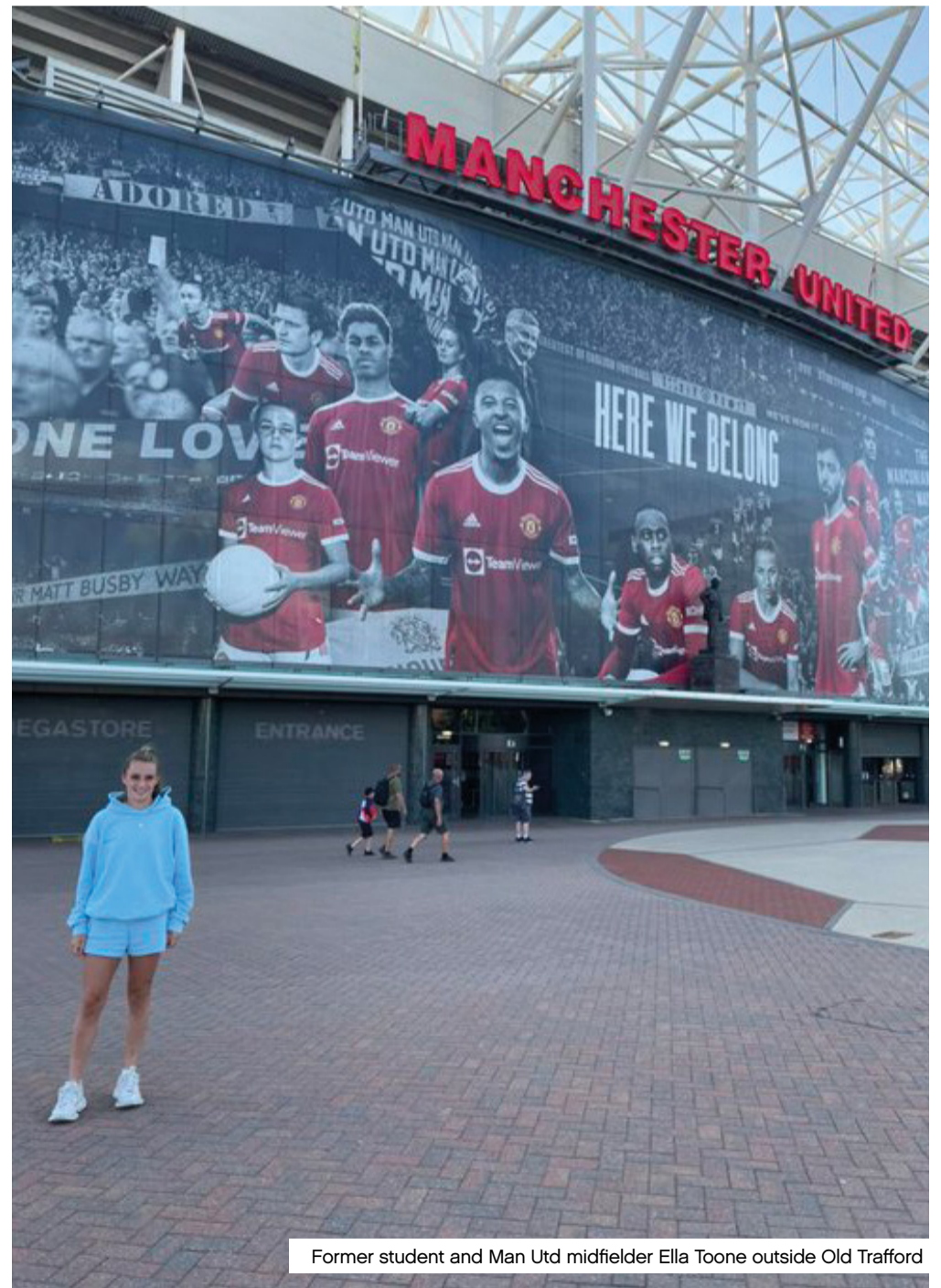


Former sports student Tom Davies

Former Sports student, Wigan Warrior and current Catalans Dragons player Tom

Davies has been selected for England Knights squad - a stepping stone to the

senior international rugby league team.



Former student and Man Utd midfielder Ella Toone outside Old Trafford

STEP UP TO THE NEXT LEVEL



T-LEVELS THE NEW CHOICE AFTER GCSEs

Choose from:

- DIGITAL PRODUCTION, DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT
- DIGITAL SUPPORT SERVICES
- DESIGN, SURVEYING & PLANNING FOR CONSTRUCTION
- EDUCATION
- EDUCATION & CHILDCARE
- ENGINEERING, MANUFACTURING, PROCESSING & CONTROL
- HEALTH
- MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION
- SCIENCE
- Two-year technical courses equivalent to 3 A Levels
- 80 per cent of time in the classroom and 20 per cent in work
- Designed with employers

Visit: wigan-leigh.ac.uk/16-18-full-time-courses/t-level
for more T Level details

FIND OUT MORE AT OUR OPEN EVENTS

Visit wigan-leigh.ac.uk