

College Times

EDITION 10

SPRING 2022

BROUGHT TO YOU BY WIGAN & LEIGH COLLEGE

WE FIRST SILVER AWARD FOR MARKETING : **COLLEGE PARTNERS WITH WIGAN COUNCIL TO EXPAND ADULT LEARNING**

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MAYOR OF MANCHESTER INSPIRES FUTURE PUBLIC SERVANTS

Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, took time out of

his busy schedule when he visited the College to speak to future public

sector professionals. He shared the route of his rise to prominence as

the first elected mayor of Greater Manchester with Public Services students.



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PUPPIES FIRST PAMPER



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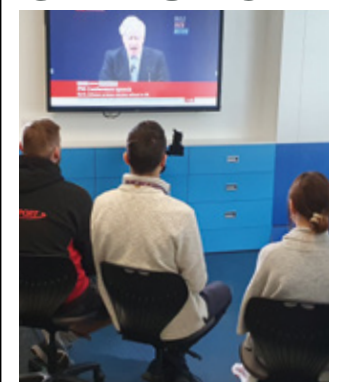
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Manchester United midfielder and alumni Ella Toone

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ANDY BURNHAM SAYS STUDENTS MUST BELIEVE IN THEMSELVES

Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, took time out of his busy schedule when he visited the College to speak to future public sector professionals.

He shared the route of his rise to prominence as the first elected mayor of Greater Manchester with Public Services students.

The former MP for Leigh was born in Liverpool and brought up in Culcheth.

As a Cambridge undergraduate, Mr Burnham described how he felt 'imposter syndrome' when he began to mix with those with the privilege of a public school education, mainly from the south of the country.

This early experience shaped his interest in politics and the notion of challenging the north/south divide.

"Coming from an area like Leigh, being around people from other areas who almost frowned upon my northern roots was difficult," he said. ***"I have experienced it throughout my life. Westminster and civil service is also very London biased."***

Mr Burnham talked about his defence of the North during the height of the pandemic.

"Northern communities didn't get the same level of pay as those in the south, with many on zero hour contracts, without the benefit of sick pay and reduced furlough. It was a lot harder for people to stay protected at home and that is why the death rate was so much worse in the North."

When asked about his current challenges, cheaper transport for the people of Greater Manchester, policing and the housing crisis featured high on his agenda.

Advice for those looking for careers in public serving roles was clear:

"I didn't believe at your age that I could have achieved what I have. You can often achieve more than you think if you keep a sense of belief and focus. Having a northern accent in Parliament can make you feel like you don't fit in, but you must believe what you're doing is right and you will get there."

And for those who aspire specifically to a political career:

"This country is not working properly at the moment. I blame my generation of politicians for too much game playing. We can see the consequences of that and your generation will have to fix it, and I



Mayor of Greater Manchester Andy Burham

believe you will.

"You have a different take on the world. See climate change differently. I honestly believe your

generation will come in and change it. Do get involved. Act on it. It needs changing from a generational point of view."

PASSION FOR PROSTHETICS



Makeup artist Neil Gorton with Mrs Doubtfire AKA Alexis Stone

Students with shapeshifter skills were in for a treat when they visited the Prosthetics Event – the annual educational event for media makeup artists.

Level 3 Media Makeup students were wowed by the stunning transformations carried out by industry greats such as Nick Dudman, Bill Corso and Jake Garner, whose careers include work on Harry Potter, Star Wars,



Batman and many more blockbuster movies.

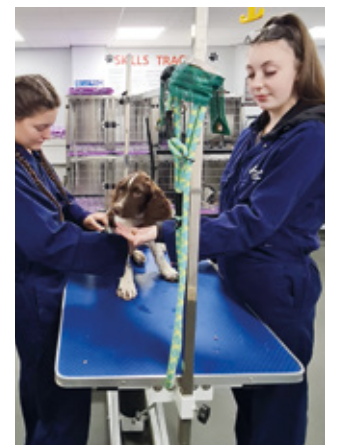
Students rounded off the day witnessing Neill Gorton transforming makeup and drag artist Alexis Stone into Mrs Doubtfire.

PUPPIES FIRST PAMPER

Springer Spaniel puppies Chester, Phoebe and Rey visited Animal Management students for their first grooming session along with their mum Luna.

Students and staff spent time settling the puppies into the grooming room before the pampering began.

A great learning experience for students and the puppies, who were coaxed along with lots of treats.



Luna and her puppies Chester, Phoebe and Rey visiting the Animal Management department

FE FIRST SILVER AWARD FOR MARKETING



Left to right: Daniel McCann, Monica Molloy, Kathryn O'Neill, Roisin Rowley-Smith & Sara Bracher

Congratulations were in order for the College's marketing team who scooped the Silver Award for Digital and Social Media Impact at the College Marketing Network's annual awards event.

"We were delighted to be recognised for our campaign to reach potential students through our creative approach to using social media,"

said Kathryn.

"The team worked exceptionally hard to make sure that the campaign was relevant to those

who could benefit from studying at the University Centre, using real student voices through videos and posts on how their studies have helped boost careers."

Judges feedback included:

- Some really strong work in here in terms of research, planning and creative.
- Really robust and thorough, it was

very clear you did a lot of foundational research.

- Solid implementation and beautiful creative.
- Was easily one of the more advanced entries on the evaluation of what worked well and what didn't. It's clear you really learnt a lot from every part of this campaign. An excellent approach and a great entry.

The College was one of only two from the north of England to win an award at the 2021 event to celebrate the best in college marketing.

The team picked up the FE First Silver Award in the Digital

and Social Media Impact category – cited as one of the most popular awards with lots of colleges competing.

The College marketing team worked with Jam creative agency on the campaign, Start

your Next Chapter, to recruit more students to professional and technical higher education courses at the College's University Centre.

Kathryn O'Neill is Head of Marketing at the College:

BLOOMING GREAT EXPERIENCE FOR PHOTOGRAPHY STUDENTS



Super snappers Leah Farrimond and Phoebe Burns

Work experience took on a floral theme for students Leah Farrimond and Phoebe Burns, when they became event photographers for the Wigan in Bloom awards.

The Level 3 Photography students set up the shoot, capturing award winners in a selfie board, as well as individual shots of those picking up their awards.

"We were a bit nervous to start with as it was our first work experience. We decided to be really organised and brought lots of equipment to make

sure we had back-ups if there were any issues on the day," said Leah.

"It was a confidence booster as we got to meet lots of people and we got some good feedback."

Wigan Council's Paul Gallagher, who organised the event, said:

"Leah and Phoebe were brilliant. It was good to see them suggest ideas, problem solve on the hoof, be assertive and gain confidence during the day.

"They were very professional, friendly and engaging in their approach and worked well with the wider awards team. They are a credit to the College, their tutors and themselves."

CATERING FOR A DAY AT THE RACES

A 16-strong group of student chefs were thrown in at the deep end at one of Haydock racecourse's biggest events of the year, catering for 15,000 - 18,000 spectators.

Supported by College tutors, students carried out their work experience creating a range of platters, carvery cuisine, afternoon teas and a three-course lunch.

Catering student and former Albany Academy pupil, David Eubank, said:

"I really enjoyed working on such a large scale event. The fast paced environment helped to improve my multitasking skills."

Former student and current Sous Chef, Alex Roby, contacted the College to invite our current crop of culinary learners to work on what is traditionally one of their busiest days of the year.

Alex, who completed the Level 3 Professional Cookery course at the College, impressed bosses at the race venue with his work experience as a student a few years ago, and



Tutor, Emma Taylor

secured a job as a result.

The learners, who were paid for their

services, helped prepare vegetable soup with red wine vinegar dressing and



Haydock racecourse

crème fraiche for starter, a main course of parsnip puree, potato cake, chicken breast with buttered greens and a garnish of baby leek and shallots, followed by a treacle tart with vanilla mascarpone, meringue and berries.

Lecturer, Tara Johnson, added:

"This was a fantastic opportunity for students and staff to get involved in a high profile event."

"Our students did the College proud - the staff at the racecourse were impressed with how professional they were."

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

College Times caught up with alumni Ella Toone to find out about her football career that is helping pave the way for more and more girls and women to enter and excel in the sport.

Ella studied Level 3 Sport Science at Leigh College at the same time as playing for the Manchester United women's team. As her football training sessions were based at Leigh Sports Village, the College was an obvious choice for her to fit in studies, matches and training in one location.

"I've always been interested in sport and I know that a career in football could be really short," said Ella, "so I wanted to study a subject that will help me with my future career, as a back-up option."

The 22-year-old's love of football started as

a small child growing up in a sporty family in Tyldesley. She always wanted to play for Manchester United and from kicking a ball about with her two brothers and playing in boys teams, she went on to pass a trial for Manchester United Academy at the tender age of seven. Encouraged by mum, a former gymnast, and dad, a footballer and water polo player, she managed to fit in training and matches with school and college work.

"I used to revise for my GCSEs in the car on the way to training. And at College I remember running from a match at Leigh Sports Village straight to a class."

Following her time at the Manchester United Academy, Ella progressed to a place

on the Blackburn women's team and then to Manchester City.

"Manchester United were quite late in forming a women's team. But as soon as they did I wanted to be in. They have big ambitions for women's football that match mine."

In her fourth season at the club, Ella has signed a contract until 2025. The attacking midfielder is also racking up the goals. By December 2021 she had scored four that season and nine in the previous one. And she scored on her first starting debut for England for the Lionesses.

Ella is pleased to see women's football surging in popularity during her short career and has high hopes for the future.

"The profile of women's football has grown massively with more TV coverage and social

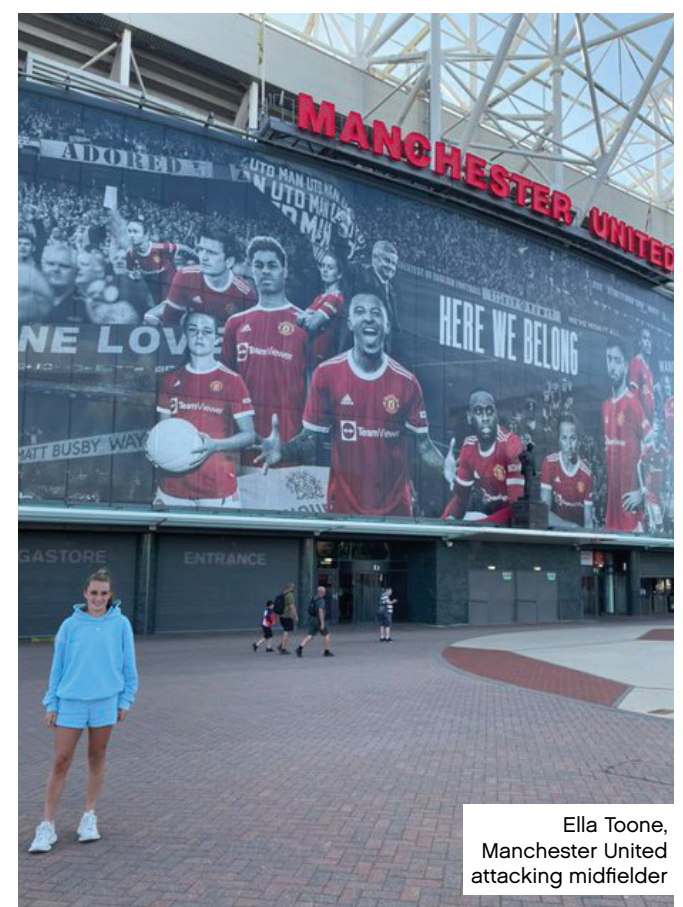
media activity than ever. It's great to see, as women have fought hard to get the same respect and professionalism as men. We are not there yet in terms of pay, but I am very optimistic for the future."

Her advice for girls keen on a career in football.

"Get involved. Enjoy it. Be confident, work hard and dream big."



Ella Toone's early football career



Ella Toone, Manchester United attacking midfielder

A Level Life features are brought to you this time by Katie Winrow, who is studying English Combined, History and Sociology A Levels at the College. Katie aspires to work in journalism or publishing.

A Level student Katie Winrow



ALL TOGETHER NOW FOR FILM DIRECTOR'S WORKSHOP

Media and film students learned more about the world of movie directing in a workshop with Carl Hunter, award winning director and former bassist for the 90s band The Farm.

A Level student Madison Grimshaw was surprised to hear some exclusive behind the scenes detail. She said: **"Carl said there was originally a different ending which would have made a massive difference to the final cut. It was interesting to hear how much scripts can change in the middle of production."**

The workshop followed a busy few months for media students, who have been perfecting their editing skills in their latest project, producing a murder mystery trailer for their coursework.

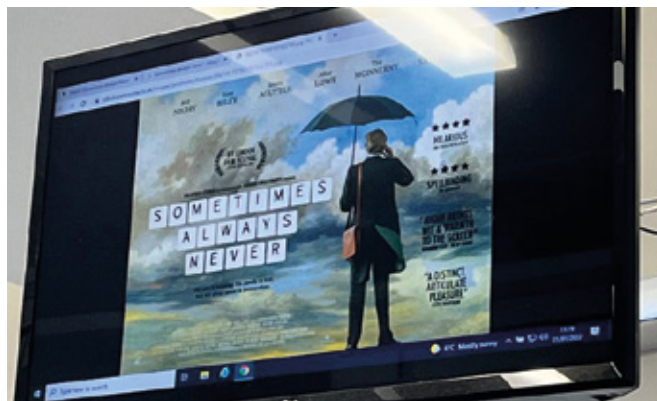
Director Carl Hunter



Sometimes Always Never, Hunter's latest feature, was launched at the BFI London Film Festival in 2018. Students saw a screening of the film, starring Bill Nighy and critically acclaimed by the New Yorker and Washington Post.

Afterwards, they developed their critical skills, quizzing the director on every aspect of production. No topics were off-

limit, with discussions on budgets, casting choices and camera angles on the agenda.



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN A LEVEL STUDENT

By Katie Winrow

At about 10am, the bus rolls in, just in front of the Parsons Walk campus. Most College courses have 9am starts, but not every day is scheduled the same. Today is Monday and my first lesson is at 10.30am.

After heading into College, I stop by the canteen for an early morning snack. They serve all types of breakfast food until around 11am, so getting in early gives you a chance to eat before lesson.

My first class is English Language and Literature. It's A Level mock exam week, so we spend the lesson recapping the play

we're studying and language terms we will use for tomorrow's exam. The class is small, meaning everyone gets a chance to ask Emily, our tutor, those last-minute questions.

English finishes at 12, so I head out with friends to Wigan to grab lunch. We all stop by different places - the town has so much choice in terms of food. We take everything back to College and eat over some group revision.

At 1pm today I have a Sociology mock exam, which is what I revised for over lunch. The exam is on education, theory, and

methods. This is all about how education is researched and its importance in society.

The exam ends at 3pm, which marks the start of my final lesson of the day, History. We have a lecture covering the importance of the railways in the industrial revolution. It isn't all notetaking though, as we work on short quizzes for our classmates.

My College day is over at 4:30pm, when I leave for the bus station. After that, it's a bit more revision and then time to relax, ready for a new day.



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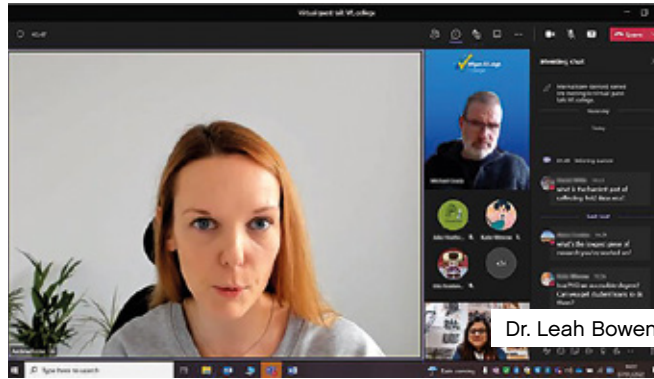
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INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS SHARE SECRETS OF SUCCESS

Industry leaders from medical research, film production and the automotive industry shared their routes to success with A Level students.

Dr. Leah Bowen shed light on her role as a medical research assistant, with tips on how to master medical school interviews. The University of Bristol based doctor also revealed how her experience of researching COVID-19 and developing vaccines impacted on

the development of the pandemic. Meanwhile, story producer of BBC Three's Nail Bar Boys, Saoirse Crean, lifted the lid on how she got into film production. The producer and documentary filmmaker recalled some behind the scenes stories from



Dr. Leah Bowen

television shows, such as the long running Channel 4 series, Brookside, as well as insider tips on how to enter the business. Living and working abroad was one of the themes for former Renault Managing Director and President

of Ford France, Paul Flanagan. The automotive industry expert also provided a valuable insight into the pros and cons of working for large companies.



Saoirse Crean



Paul Flanagan

REVISION SKILLS AND MINDSET WORKSHOP

Memory techniques and the importance of positive thinking were on the agenda when Martin Travers of Made Training visited the College.

The former actor, life coach and lecturer inspired students with memory techniques to help them with revision, as well as advice on accepting change.

Martin encouraged students to think about the parts of their lives they have control over, compared with aspects they have less influence on. They were also invited to consider the importance of accepting change, reflecting on the massive changes they have already experienced alongside those yet to come.

Students also practiced techniques to memorise lists of information, by linking ideas together.

Sociology student Elizabeth Harrison said. **"I was amazed that by using the memory techniques just twice, I managed to**

remember so much. This technique will be really good for preparing for mock exams."



Martin Travers of Made Training

CAPITAL TOUR

Students took a trip to London for two days of sightseeing, culture and learning. Their first stop was a tour of the Houses of Parliament's public gallery, where they watched the Commons in full session. They completed the tour with a workshop on the importance of democracy and the right to vote.

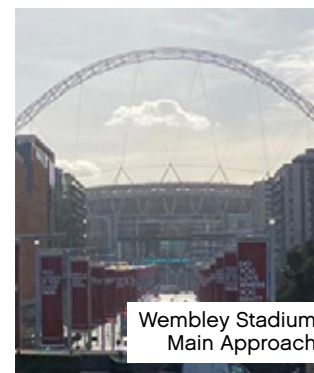
That evening the West End hit Mama Mia went down a storm with students singing along to the best of Abba's hits.

The British Museum and the Natural History Museum were on the second day schedule, with real blue whale and dinosaur skeletons scoring a big hit with Biology students.

Finally, a statue tour and shopping spree in the West End rounded off an action-packed trip.



Museum tour break for A Level students



Wembley Stadium Main Approach



Taking in the capital's sights



Aspiring web developer Chris Allen

SINGLE DAD'S RETURN TO LEARN

HND Computing student Chris Allen has his sights set on a career as a self-employed web or app developer.

The 39-year-old single parent has a special reason for seeking a self-employed or home working role, to fit work around looking after his teenage sons who both have the rare condition myofibrillar myopathy.

Chris took up GCSE Maths and English two years ago, which rekindled his interest in learning. He followed with the Access to Higher Education Diploma Computing

course on a part-time basis during the pandemic, achieving Distinctions all round.

"I'd been out of education for a long time and I needed to learn new skills to get a decent job,"

said Chris

Dividing his time between looking after his children and

freelance work, Chris has decided he wants to continue after HND to the one-year Top-up degree programme in Computing.

"Coming to College is a big motivation for me and I also enjoy the social side of the course. The HND works out perfectly in terms of work life balance. The programming unit is very useful because it relates to the areas I want to work in."

STOP THE BLOCK

Creative students followed a real marketing brief from United Utilities to come up with a concept for their employee communications campaign Stop the Block.

Graphics students studying the BA (Hons) Creative Practitioner presented their design ideas after reviewing a project brief to raise awareness of what not to flush down the toilet and what not to pour down the sink.

Winning student, Tamara Thomson impressed the

committee with her simple yet effective Out Of Order design.

The 21-year-old, who progressed from the Level 3 Graphic Design course at the College, was surprised to hear she had won.

"I was quite shocked. I didn't expect it," she said. ***"My idea was simple and to the***

point and that was what they were after. It's great to come up with a concept that will be put to use."

she said.

Tamara has developed a relationship with United Utilities, which will benefit her in terms of work opportunities.

"It's prepared me for future presentations, as this was my first big pitch in front of a real company. I found the experience fun and received some good feedback, so I think I handled it pretty well."

Marketing Campaigns Manager for United Utilities, Catherine Booth, added:

"We were very impressed with the quality, creativity and thought that went into each of the students' proposals."

Tamara with her design concepts to help Stop the Block



KNIFE ANGEL



Students at Blackburn cathedral with Knife Angel sculpture

Public Services students combined learning about the issue of knife crime with a trip to a national monument in Lancashire.

The Knife Angel, also known as the National Monument Against Violence & Aggression, is a contemporary sculpture made out of 100,000 knives created by artist Alfie Bradley and the British Ironworks Centre.

Completed in 2018, the structure is 8.2m tall. To create it, 200 knife banks were set up by the Ironworks

and amnesties for people to anonymously donate their knives. Knives seized by police were also included, with many arriving in evidence tubes. Approximately 30 per cent of the knives used in the angel arrived with bodily fluids on their surface.

The sculpture was created to highlight knife crime in the

United Kingdom and raise awareness of the harmful effect violent behaviour can have on communities.

As part of a national tour, the Knife Angel was based outside Blackburn Cathedral throughout November 2021, where students also attended a workshop on the subject of knife crime.

GRADUATES CELEBRATE FACE-TO-FACE

The University Centre graduation ceremony made a welcome return to All Saints Parish Church in Wigan in 2021, following the online replacement event the previous year, due to the Covid pandemic.



Two ceremonies were held to accommodate 144 graduates and their families, keen to celebrate their achievements in person.

Graduands processed through the town from the Parsons Walk Centre in their caps and gowns to the sounds of a Scottish pipe band, while families and friends waited for them at the church.

Principal, Anna Dawe, said:

“The support graduates receive from family and friends throughout their studies is invaluable, so it’s great to see everyone getting together again after such a challenging time of separation.”

“Graduation marks the end of an educational journey for some, but for many it is the start of further studies. This may be part-time or a master’s degree or doctorate at university. I wish all our graduates the best of luck in whatever route they choose to follow.”

Alexandra Austin graduated with the HNC in Construction and the Built Environment.

The 26-year-old from Wigan swapped careers from events management to construction, working on projects such as HS2.



Pre-construction manager and graduate Alexandra Austin

Working her way up from customer advisor at Balfour Beatty, she became pre-construction officer, surveying, then took up the HNC on a part-time evening basis while continuing to work. Two years later she was head hunted by contractor, SNM Pipelines for the role of pre-construction manager.

“The course has helped me to progress,” she said. ***“My current company wanted someone with the relevant knowledge and experience. The course helped me with the HS2 project, as I needed a lot of civil and construction based knowledge.”***

“I was able to cope with the work and study balance and having an evening class option meant I could continue working full-time.”

Graduate Daniel Baron has a seven-year history with the College having progressed from achieving a triple distinction at Level 3, to the BEng (Hons)

Electrical & Electronic Engineering degree.

Daniel recently secured a new position at electronic ballasts manufacturers, Power Gems as a Test Engineer.

“The work is quite complex but it is also very interesting and I enjoy it,” said Daniel.

His lecturer, Tamoor Shafique, supported him in applying for the position.

“It’s great that tutors at the College continue to support us after completing the course,” added Daniel. ***“I would recommend studying at the University Centre to anyone who wants a career in engineering. There is also the added benefit of smaller class sizes, especially at degree level. This gives students more of a one-to-one learning experience.”***



Daniel Baron graduates with a BEng (Hons) Electrical & Electronic Engineering

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GOOD FOR ME GOOD FOR FE

The Good for ME Good for FE campaign aims to generate £1m of social value through a sustainable programme of community action, including volunteering, fundraising and charitable partnerships.



College Principal Anna Dawe

More than 100 colleges have joined the campaign, which builds on the success of FE Foodbank Friday, when during the pandemic, colleges nationwide raised over £47,000 and collected more than 20,000 items for local foodbanks.

As part of the initiative, the College is supporting colleagues in taking up voluntary and fundraising activities. This means that the campaign is not only helping those in the community, but is also proving beneficial to staff. Research suggests

there is a strong link between volunteering and improved mental health, currently a priority for colleges following a challenging few years.

Health & Social Care Lecturer, Tim Ablett



Health & Social Care Lecturer, Tim Ablett

used his skills in the fight against the Covid pandemic, volunteering to administer vaccines with St John Ambulance at a pharmacy in Sefton. While College staff worked with construction company, Greenmount Projects raising more than £3,000 for the Wigan & Leigh Hospice charity, running the Wigan 10K. And the College is continuing to collect food items in support of families in need for charities including The Brick, Dogs Trust and Derian House. College Principal Anna Dawe said: "Working in partnership with colleges around the country means

that we can have a really positive impact on both our own communities and those further afield.

"Colleges play a vital role as anchor institutions, which goes way beyond education. Generating social value is key to helping our communities prosper, particularly as economies begin to recover post-pandemic."

"We also know that helping others supports mental health and wellbeing – so this is certainly something we are keen to encourage through Good for Me Good for FE."

YOUNG ARTISTS DRAW INSPIRATION FROM ENDANGERED SPECIES

Art and Design students reached the final of the Explorers Against Extinction Sketch for Survival exhibition.

The global art initiative in aid of conservation, also included the opportunity for entrants to have their work displayed at the Gallery@Oxo in Southbank, London.

Former BTEC Level 3 Art & Design student, Rachel Yates was one of the talented few selected for the exhibition.

Rachel wanted to draw attention to the African wild dog, as one of the world's most endangered mammals.

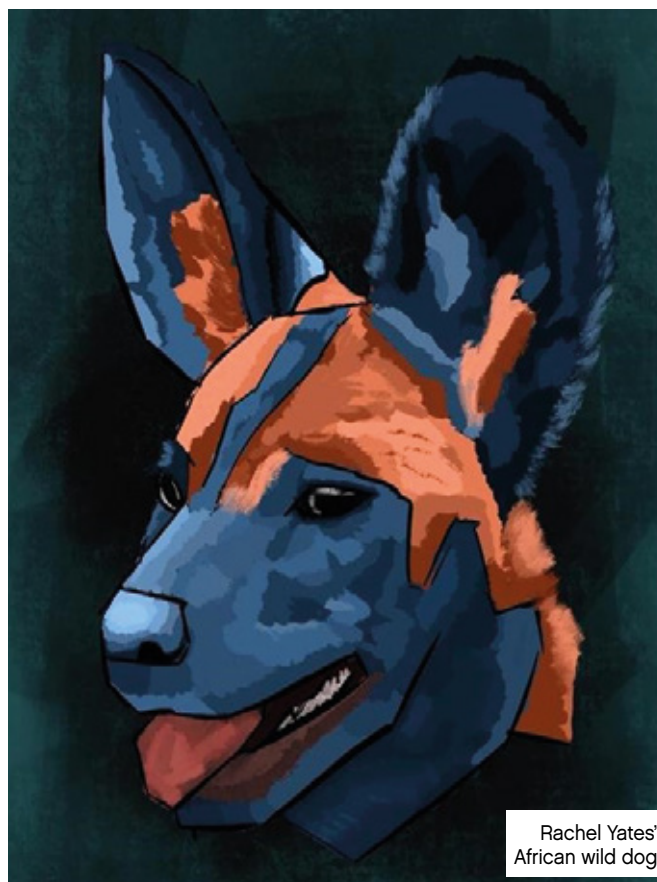
"When I found out I was one of the finalists I was over the moon," said Rachel

Two more former students, Lauren

Gosson and Alex Colquhoun who completed the Level 3 Art and Design course at the College, also made the top 100 final, along with current second year student,

Megan Sheridan.

They all had work exhibited and on sale at the Explorers Against Extinction virtual gallery space to help support conservation projects.



Rachel Yates' African wild dog

TOMORROW'S TEACHERS AT EDGE HILL UNIVERSITY

T Level Early Years and Teaching and Education students visited Edge Hill University to take part in the Tomorrow's Teacher Programme.

The programme includes visits to the campus, bespoke sessions delivered by university academics and opportunities to meet current trainee teachers.



T Level students and Tomorrow's Teachers try a taste of university life

Art Lecturer, Lee Clarke, added:

"To have one of our students display their work in such a prestigious gallery is an incredible achievement, but to have others selected for the virtual exhibition is even better."

"We are extremely proud of their accomplishments and all for a good cause too, supporting worldwide conservation projects."

FESTIVAL OF LIGHT

The floristry room at Parsons Walk was transformed into a display of light and colour to celebrate Diwali.

Students and staff presented foundation studies lecturer, Sarbani Datta, with gifts for the Hindu festival celebrations.



Floristry celebrating Diwali



T Level Health Students

FUTURE NURSES PREPARE FOR HOSPITAL PLACEMENTS

Emma Fisher and Tula Levey from Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust led hospital inductions for T Level Health, Adult Nursing students.

Students found out more about what was expected of them prior to starting

their placements in medical and surgical wards at the hospital – a major part of the

T Level requirement to experience life at work.

ENGINEERING APPRENTICE MEGAN IS AIMING HIGH



Apprentice Megan Murphy has management overseas in mind

Level 3 Mechanical Engineering student Megan Murphy is an apprentice fitter at global technology company, Voith Group.

She enjoys the balance of College study and working in the industry.

“The benefits of an apprenticeship are that you get paid to learn and get used to the work environment too. You get out of the classroom to try out the theory you have learned.”

Megan wants to become a manager at an engineering company and has ambitions to work overseas.

BRICKWORKERS TOUR CONSTRUCTION SITE

Level 2 Brickwork students enjoyed a work related learning visit with Caddick Construction Limited.

Site supervisor, Khurram Zulfi, led a tour of the site providing an insight into the realities of working in the construction industry.



Site supervisor Khurram Zulfi provides an insider view of the construction industry

STUDENT VIEWS MAKE ITN NEWS



Students meet Romilly Weeks and the ITN crew at Leigh College

Students from Leigh College met newsreader Romilly Weeks, when the ITV news crew dropped by to find out their views on Boris Johnson’s Conservative Party Conference speech.

The Conference was held in Manchester, with the ITV media focus on Leigh, traditionally a labour stronghold, which swung to the Conservatives in the 2019 General Election. Student Mollie German was one of six who gathered to watch Boris Johnson’s speech with the news crew.

“We were questioned about our thoughts on the speech and as a young person, how we thought his policies would impact our future careers,”

said Mollie.

Thoughts on Johnson’s Build Back Better and Levelling up strategies were sought from the news team.

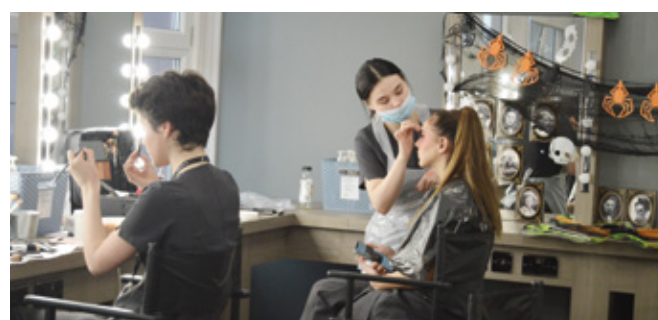
“I was a bit concerned about the reference to higher paid jobs and lower taxes as there didn’t seem to be a plan or any data on how that was going to be achieved,”

added Mollie.

However other students supported the investment in British workers and education to boost the economy following Brexit.

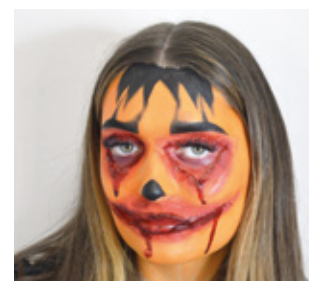
Media Makeup students put their skills in to play with transformational results, creating gruesome ghouls and slashed skin special effects for Halloween.

Their concepts formed part of each student’s work portfolio.



Media makeup artists create special effects transformation for Halloween

SPECIAL FX SHOCKERS



ADULT LEARNING BOOST WITH WIGAN COUNCIL



Councillor Dane Anderton, Wigan Council's Chair of Adult Learning Advisory Board

The College has joined forces with Wigan Council to deliver courses for adults at community venues, as well as at College sites, increasing the number of adults learning in the borough.

Courses range from essential skills such as maths, English and IT to those to improve job prospects or boost careers, as well as taster courses to get people back into learning.

Councillor Dane Anderton, Wigan Council's Chair of Adult Learning Advisory Board said:

"I am delighted to be working with the College to offer residents across the borough the opportunity to develop through our Adult Education provision.

"This means that as many people as possible will have access to vital skills and learning opportunities."

Many of the courses started in January, but some are being offered with start dates all year round.

College Principal, Anna Dawe, added:

"We have high ambitions for our borough and residents. Together with Wigan Council, we have designed an Adult Learning offer to support people to

grow in confidence, gain vital skills and achieve their aspirations.

"We will continue to create even more learning opportunities to help support residents in their lives and work".

FROM LABORATORY TECHNICIAN TO TEACHING ASSISTANT

After redundancy following a period of furlough during the pandemic last summer, Angela Goodwin decided to retrain for a brand new career as a teaching assistant.

Despite aspirations to teach after leaving school, 45-year-old Angela took up an apprenticeship and was side tracked from her initial teaching ambition.

The former laboratory technician worked in industry for 17 years using her science background on

flammability testing for high street children's nightware ranges.

Now she is returning to her dream career of working with children, studying the Level 4 Teaching Assistant course, working at St Joseph's High School supporting science while she completes the course.

Angela said:

"Going back to College is the best thing I have ever done. The course is delivered in manageable units and it's great to learn skills and put them into practice in the classroom."

The mum of one has progressed from Teaching Assistant levels 2 and 3, balancing her role as a mum with her studies and her job.

Angela added: *"If you are thinking about retraining just do it. It feels great to be achieving in a totally different career. I wish I'd have done it sooner – I feel like a new person."*



Teaching Assistant Angela Goodwin

RETURNING TO LEARN ALL ADDS UP FOR TRAINEE VET NURSE

Twenty-four-year-old Danielle Gardner's love of animals has led to her becoming a second chance student in a bid to pass veterinary nurse exams.



Aspiring vet nurse Danielle Gardner with furry friend

Danielle is working to achieve GCSE Maths and Foundation skills English, to qualify for a student vet nurse course and a promotion at work.

"When I was at school I wasn't very

academic. Even though I wanted to work with animals I didn't think I could get the grades," said Danielle, who left school and took up a range of jobs including hairdressing and dog grooming.

Now having secured a job at Anrich vets in Wigan as an auxiliary nurse, Danielle wants to progress to become a qualified veterinary nurse, with more responsibility and better pay.

She wants an apprenticeship as a vet nurse, working alongside her studies, but first she needs to pass maths and English.

"The Maths course is challenging but I am finding it easier than I did at school. It will be worth the effort knowing that achieving maths and English is a passport to my vet nurse qualification."

ENGINEERING A NEW NURSING AMBITION

Having graduated in civil engineering in her native country of Ethiopia, 32-year-old English and maths student Hiwot Getachew is now hoping to become a nurse.

The mum of three boys is studying Maths GCSE and English at foundation level to progress to an Access to Higher Education Diploma in Health and a place at university to take a degree in nursing.

"Now is the time for me to make a big career change," said Hiwot. ***"I have always wanted to become a nurse but I do need English and maths to progress towards university study."***



English and maths student Hiwot Getachew

Hiwot has lived in the UK for the last six years and worked as a civil engineer in Ethiopia after graduating.

EX-SOLDIER SWAPS TO CAREER IN HEALTHCARE

English and maths student Mark Woodcock has taken up learning to eventually study health and social care and follow a long-term career ambition to give something back to those with mental health issues.

The single father of one from Wigan left school without qualifications and joined the army.

After leaving the armed forces, the 41-year-old worked in security and as a joiner, until he experienced the life-changing trauma of a car accident in 2017. Following 60 hours of surgery over 10 days, Mark spent six weeks in hospital, and was unable to walk unaided for many months afterwards.

"The accident really took its toll on many aspects of my life, both physically and mentally. Now I want to be able to help others who may be suffering their own health challenges," said Mark.

Starting with foundation level maths and English, Mark plans to

progress to GCSE and then take up an Access to Higher Education Diploma in Health, followed by degree study.

"I'm really enjoying returning to study," Mark added.

"And it's great because my daughter helps me out, which in turn helps her to learn too."



Second chance student Mark Woodcock

FORMER ESOL STUDENT REALLY MEANS BUSINESS

Former ESOL student Leandra Dos Ramos Da Cruz is looking forward to a career in the business world, having progressed to degree study at Manchester Metropolitan University.

The 22-year-old, originally from Portugal, studied ESOL at the College when she moved to the UK with her family in 2016. Now her sister,

Liliana is following in her footsteps, also studying ESOL at the College after moving to the UK only a couple of months ago.



Former ESOL student Leandra Dos Ramos Da Cruz

Leandra said: ***"My English was pretty basic when I joined the ESOL class, based on what I had learned in school. The course was great. I learned such a lot about English culture, even cooking. And I met people from all over the world - from Italy to India and Pakistan."***

Leandra progressed from the ESOL class to maths and English, then to Business Levels 2 and 3 at the College.

Multilingual Leandra is hoping that her Business with French degree will lead to European work opportunities in France or in Spain.

FROM ACCOUNTANCY TO CRISIS INTERVENTION

Forty-year-old Kelly McClarence is swapping a career in accountancy to help make a positive difference for families who may be struggling to cope.

The Level 3 Childcare and Education student has returned to College with a view to progressing to the Foundation Degree - Children, Young People and their Services and a career working

in family intervention. She is keen to work with families with young children who may be showing signs of needing more support, to avoid crisis situations.



Childcare and Education student Kelly McClarence

Kelly said: ***"I want this course to help me launch a new career when my son is older. As the course is during school hours it works well in terms of child care. We do two days in College and two days placement. I am going to Douglas Valley Nursery and looking forward to working with pre-school children."***

The busy mother of one is herself a full-time carer for her ten-year-old son, who has autism. Around her studies, she not only volunteers for a carers' forum in Wigan, but also works in an art shop, providing art and wellbeing classes for adults and children with additional needs to improve their mental health and wellbeing.

WORLDSKILLS UK GOLD AWARD FOR APPRENTICE PLASTERER

Gold Award winner and plasterer Sam Dean



Apprentice plasterer, Sam Dean, scooped the Gold Award at the national finals of the WorldSkills UK plastering competition.

The apprentice at IB Plastering, who has now secured a full-time position with the company, impressed the judges with his technical ability.

Sam said: "It was a good experience, especially seeing all the other trades and their work. I didn't

expect to win but I guess the judges thought I was the best on the day. We had to showcase a bit of everything from running moulds, floating and skimming to beading up and using casting plaster moulds and coving."

Sam was one of just

six competitors to reach the final.

Sam's College tutor, Michael Simm, added: "We are thrilled that Sam has achieved such a prestigious award for his plastering skills. He was up against tough competition from apprentices nationwide and has clearly shown the judges his highly developed precision skills. Well done Sam."

DOWN ON THE FARM



Left to right, students Alisha Banks, Olivia Rudd and Shania O'Donnell

Foundation students enjoyed a visit to Smithills Open Farm to help develop their understanding of how to work with animals.

CREATIVE CONNOR DESIGNS JET-SKI WRAP

Student Connor Calland made a great start to his work experience placement designing and fitting a wrap to a jet-ski.

The Level 3 Graphic Design student settled in well to his work experience at ENV Graphics and Signage based in Wigan.



Connor Calland with his jet-ski wrap designed and fitted

POLICE ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

The College is the first to develop an exclusive programme for public service students interested in following a career in the police.

Delivered by policing professionals the Enrichment Programme prepares students with skills for higher level study. The programme covers search laws,

arrest procedures and conflict management, scenario training and response, and uniform standards.

Gareth Hayes is Head of Sport and Public Services. He said:

"This is an exciting new offer for our students. The programme provides an insight into police training work. Students will complete simulated scenarios to develop their communication, teamwork and leadership skills in preparation for their next steps.

"The programme will be led by specialist staff and will be supported through our network of guest speakers from Greater Manchester Police."



Public Services students Alex Cossey and Madison Melia

Only 15 places are on offer for public services students starting this September.

Students took part in feeds and got an idea of what it is like to work on a farm.

Foundation courses are for those who are not yet ready to take up study at Level 2. They may have additional learning needs, or have experienced challenges in their school education that disrupted their learning. Courses are designed to support learners

to develop a wide range of skills, such as emotional resilience, independence and self-confidence, while also filling academic gaps in learning.

Vicky Madden is Head of Foundation Learning, she said:

"The group showed such care, patience and interest in this career experience, and came away with

great employment inspiration for future jobs in the animal management industry."

To prepare for the trip they researched farming safety rules, which they put into practise handling, caring for and feeding animals including calves, alpacas, rabbits, goats, deer, horses, donkeys and reptiles.

STUDENT PROVES KING OF THE RING

Student Charlie Meadows secured a bronze medal podium spot at a prestigious wrestling tournament in Finland.

Alongside his brother Harry, the 16-year-old Sports student joined around 400 wrestlers taking part in the leading Nordic Freestyle Wrestling Tournament in Europe.

The brothers were both selected to represent Great Britain's National

Talent Squad after a successful training trial and selection camp.

At the Finnish tournament, both wrestlers defeated multiple opponents from across the continent to earn a podium finish.

SCHOLARSHIP FOR MAN UTD PLAYER

Manchester United player Saf Middleton-Patel received a £2,000 scholarship from the College.



Manchester United player and scholarship winner Saf Middleton-Patel

As a student studying in the Centre of Excellence in Sport, Saf applied for the Scholarship, awarded

each year to those who show exceptional commitment to their subject area.

ROLLER HOCKEY STAR HANNAH SET FOR US TOURNAMENT

Student Hannah Whittle has been selected to represent Team UK in a roller hockey tournament, in Michigan, USA.

The Level 2 Motor Vehicle student has been playing roller hockey since she was five-years-old and is planning for the tournament in July. She has plans to join the RAF and become an aircraft technician following her studies.



Team UK roller hockey player Hannah Whittle

The Under 21s goalkeeper was delighted with her achievement. She said:

"I will use the money to help with transport from College to football and save some for university."

"I really enjoy the course, the tutors are welcoming and I find the timetable fits around my football commitments."

Saf is also a player in the Wales Under 19s squad and is keen to go to university to qualify as a physiotherapist. Alongside this she wants to continue playing football and sign a professional contract.



Monday 25 April 2022
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4.30pm - 7.30pm

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