

College Times

EDITION 12

SPRING 2023

BROUGHT TO YOU BY WIGAN & LEIGH COLLEGE

INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY FOR GREATER MANCHESTER SEE PAGE 11

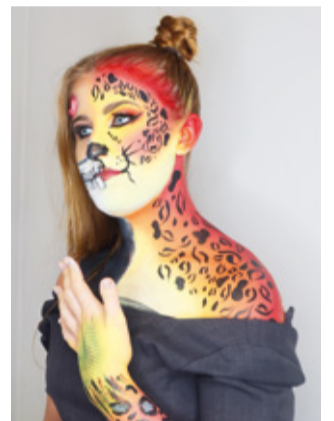
COLLEGE CELEBRATES OFSTED RESULT

The College welcomed Ofsted inspectors to learning centres across Wigan and Leigh in December, for the first time in more than six years.

While maintaining its Good Ofsted status, it was awarded the highest rating possible for meeting local skills needs - a new element of the Ofsted inspection.

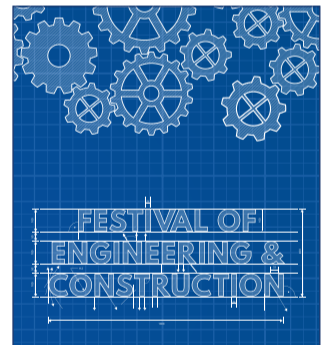
In a report highlighting that students 'benefit from a high quality education and an ambitious curriculum', all areas were rated Good, including education for young people, adults, apprenticeships and courses for high needs learners. (see page 3)

REALLY WILD BODY ART



SEE PAGE 3

FESTIVAL OF ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION



SEE PAGE 5

BUDDING SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHER GETS IN ON THE ACTION



SEE PAGE 10



SEE PAGE 3 FOR MORE

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Wigan & Leigh
College



CREATING OUTSTANDING FUTURES



PARSONS WALK CENTRE (WN1 1RR)

INCLUDING:

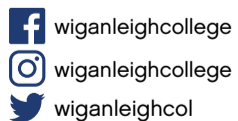
- CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN CONSTRUCTION & ENGINEERING
- CENTRE FOR ADVANCED TECHNICAL STUDIES

Monday 24 April 2023

4.30pm - 7.30pm



OPEN EVENING



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COLLEGE CELEBRATES OFSTED RESULT

With a Good rating in all areas, Ofsted inspectors recognised:

'Leaders work closely with key stakeholders to map a curriculum offer that meets local and regional needs and supports learners and apprentices to progress to their next steps.'

On partnerships, the College: *'...works very effectively with the local authority and other stakeholders.'* Their comments on employer links: *'...collaborate(s) highly effectively with employers to develop tailored training and education programmes'*

and that *'They use the expertise of employers to inform each curriculum.'* Principal, Anna Dawe, said: *"We are delighted to receive such a positive report that recognises our culture of care and support for our students and the high standards they achieve."*

"To be acknowledged for the contribution we make to meeting local skills needs is especially important - this would not be possible without strong partnerships and collaborative work with stakeholders and employers." *"It is through that collective work that our students are achieving such good results and securing progression to further study or employment."*



College Principal,
Anna Dawe

WORLDSKILLS SQUAD SELECTION

T level Health student and WorldSkills UK squad member Millie Gallagher



T Level Health student, Millie Gallagher, has been selected for the official WorldSkills UK squad, with the opportunity to take part in an 18-month training programme.

This stands her in good stead for competing globally at WorldSkills in Lyon, 2024.

The former Lathom High School pupil will compete in the Health and Social Care category.

REALLY WILD BODY ART



Media makeup student Jessica Worthington puts the finishing touches to class-mate, Jody Hough's, body art transformation.

Level 3 Media Makeup student, Jessica Worthington put her creative skills into play with an animal print body art transformation for model and fellow student, Jody Hough.



Media makeup student Jody Hough

The pair welcomed visitors to the school leaver open evening to present the very best of their subject area.

Both students progressed from the Level 2 Beauty course to Media Makeup.

ARTS ALUMNI SETS STUDENT CHALLENGE



L-R Etinosa Godswill Aihie Daniel, Emily Calland and Aliya Billington

Former fashion student, Emily Calland, returned to College to set art and design students a challenge, on behalf of community arts organisation, Wigan STEAM.

Engagement Officer, Emily shared her experience of working as a freelancer with students, before outlining a brief for them to design promotional materials for her arts workshops with 7-11-year-olds. The project will count towards student work-related learning sessions.

Alumni, Emily progressed from Level 3 Fashion at the College, to study illustration at Leeds University.

Art and Design Course Leader, Rachael Silverwood, said: **"It's great to welcome Emily back to College and to find more about her university and career progression. Setting the creative task for the students really helps them to get an idea of how to tackle a live brief."**

Emily is set to return to College to announce the winning design for her leaflets and posters to promote Wigan STEAM.

ON-SITE TOUR FOR T LEVEL STUDENTS



Civil engineering students with Wates Group's Matt Gore

T Level Civil Engineering students took a trip to see construction, development and property services company, Wates Group's, latest project.

The group visited St John Fisher Catholic High School, before the start of its demolition this year.

Former HNC Construction and the Built Environment student, Matt Gore -

now a Senior Project Engineer for Wates Group - led the site tour. The group witnessed earth moving operations and pile mat construction on the school site, originally built in 1955.

At the end of the tour, students took part in interviews for a work placement - an essential requirement of the T Level programme - on this major local project.

LIGHT NIGHT



Photography students Gerry Paddock, Megan Causey, Annabel Speakman and Scarlett Peet

Photography students caught glowing art installations and community performances on camera, celebrating the borough, its historic

network of canals and the beauty of nature. Light Night - Wigan's light trail of artworks and performances - took place along the

canal way, leading up to Wigan Pier and inside the iconic Trencherfield Mill's engine hall.



The College launched its first Festival of Engineering and Construction, showcasing training facilities and employer links at the Pagefield Centre.

Around 150 young people and their parents toured the £1.5 million Centre of Excellence in Engineering and Construction, while employers and tutors were on-hand to deliver masterclasses and discuss career opportunities, including apprenticeships.



Visitors get an insider view of the Centre of Excellence in Engineering and Construction



Student plasterers demonstrate skills



Head of Construction, Neil Campbell, said:

“It was a great turnout and I hope the first annual event for us here at the Centre of Excellence.

Everyone enjoyed the visit to our fantastic facilities. Our employer partners were able to demonstrate modern construction methods to ensure our students have the skills needed for a successful career. Big thanks to the construction team, students and employers”



A warm welcome from employer Neutronic



Head of Engineering Chris Gandy congratulates Welding competition winner Lydia Froggart-Bardsley

Alongside a focus on women in engineering, with successful alumni and women in industry sharing their career

journeys, students took part in skills competitions with a panel of industry experts.

T LEVEL NURSING STUDENTS' ON-THE-JOB EXPERIENCE

First year T Level Nursing students were excited about starting their block placements with Wigan Council and Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

The College's strong partnerships with both employers mean that students have the best chance of career success, carrying out mandatory placements with the health and social care providers locally.



T Level Nursing students - class of 2022

WRITING IS ON THE WALL FOR WIGAN POET



Wigan poet, Louise Fazackerley with student Aimee Cook

Wigan poet, Louise Fazackerley, delivered a workshop for A Level English students, as part of the King Street Sonnet Cycle Poetry project.

Born and bred in Wigan, Louise's work is rooted in: **...“word-witchery and the working class, exploring the synergy between poetry and movement in a way that makes the ugly beautiful and the mundane fantastical.”**

She is winner of BBC Radio 3 New Voices, European Slam Finalist and she's toured with renowned punk poet John Cooper Clark.

Her workshop focussed on writing

poetry inspired by true stories of King Street's past and imagined future worlds. The work will result in a live-streamed performance on King St. and the installation of huge

poetry artwork on the street itself.

Louise is working with hundreds of young people to explore the past, present, and future of the historic King Street.

BONDING THROUGH OUTDOOR ART



Jess Shovelton, Ashleigh Highlands and Morgan Sixsmith

A trip to Yorkshire Sculpture Park in the winter sunshine was a welcome break away from the classroom for A Level students.



Jaime Milburn, Ashley Highlands and Eva Mannion

While art students learned more about focus points and their significance, the whole group enjoyed the opportunity to bond, outside the classroom. Student, Jamika, said:

“The park was filled with amazing sculptures and the views were fantastic. We spent our time walking around the park, reading about various sculptures and their backgrounds.”

The leading international centre for modern and contemporary sculpture welcomes thousands of visitors a year. Located in the 500 acre, 18th Century Bretton Hall estate in West Yorkshire, it hosts an impressive array of outdoor art.



ICELANDIC WINTER WONDERLAND

From whales to wild horses, waterfalls to geothermic baths, A Level students enjoyed a four-night exploration of Iceland.

For some it was their first experience of travelling abroad, and for others, of being away from home.

Battling the elements along ice paths to view waterfalls, geysers, geothermic baths and other natural wonders, added up to a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

A Level course leader, Jonny Evans, said:

“The trip was amazing. I think everyone got such a lot out of it. It was a huge learning curve, finding out more about other cultures and different lifestyles, in terms of respecting the environment, alongside the experience of independent living.”



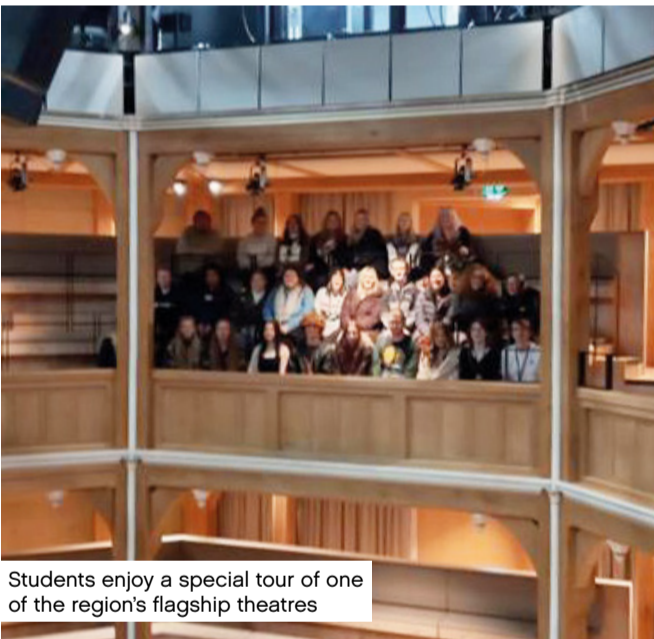
Azaria Abrams and Georgia Glascott



Lawson Clarke and Bronte Everton

TOUR OF SHAKESPEARE NORTH PLAYHOUSE

A tour of the new Shakespeare North Playhouse in Prescott came courtesy of former College lecturer Emily Parr, who now works at the theatre.



Students enjoy a special tour of one of the region's flagship theatres

Opened to the public in July 2022, the stunning new venue, home to the only 17th century-style timber theatre outside London, was inspired by Prescott's historic connections to William Shakespeare.

The trip was a treat for the senses - not only did students

get to smell the English oak used to construct it, they also heard more about the range of career opportunities in the creative industries and saw for themselves the 470-seater theatre, modelled on the cockpit-in-court design, popular during the Elizabethan era.

Students enjoyed staying in a cabin in the wilderness with hot tubs, perfect for viewing the northern lights. They also managed to fit in the time to feed wild Icelandic horses.

As well as the sights of the capital, Reykjavik, they went on a whale watching boat trip, sighting humpback and minke whales, followed by a relaxing soak in the famous blue lagoon.

MOCK TRIAL FOR FUTURE LEGAL EAGLES

Those interested in a legal career visited the Moot Courts at Manchester Metropolitan University, to take part in a mock trial based on a local case.

Students acted out the parts of defendants, prosecutors and the jury.

The activity proved a great way to find out more about different aspects of the law.

The A Level Law and Criminology pathway

prepares students for progression towards a variety of legal careers.

The latest addition is Extended Choices, with the chance to take up a BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Criminology, alongside two A level subjects.



Ashley Highlands, Emilie Hoyland, and Kyla Harlow



Sofia Dinallo and Jamika Buxton

TRAVEL, TOURISM & HOSPITALITY CONFERENCE

Alison J Magee-Barker shares her route to success



Level 3 learners found out more about higher education at the Travel, Tourism and Hospitality conference.

Guest speaker, Alison J Magee-Barker from AJ Lakes, shared her career journey from level 3 BTEC at the College, to general manager at the age of just 21. Now managing director of AJ Lakes, hospitality consultancy, they support business growth within the sector.

Higher Education Outreach Officer at the College, Jen Connor, said:

“Events like these are a great way for level 3 students to find out more about what it’s like to study at the University Centre. Meeting higher education students, studying the subjects they are already taking, provides a valuable insight into how they too can progress.”

Finally, Jen offered a focus on student finance, while Careers Coach, Chris Hammond, offered tips on writing personal statements.

DOCTORATE FOR FORMER ‘RETURN TO LEARN’ COACHING STUDENT

Former Sports Coaching degree student, Dr Joe Pryle, has completed a six-year PhD study on the cultural exploration of cricket in California.

Dr Pryle returned to the University Centre to present the keynote speech at the 2022 Research Symposium.

Reflecting on his educational journey, as a mature student at the University Centre on the BA (Hons) in Sports Coaching, through to PGCE teaching qualification, Dr Pryle shared how he went on to achieve a Masters

in Coaching. His PhD ethnographic study, on a cultural exploration of cricket in California, has generated international significance.

Now a Student Coach in the School of Sport and Health Sciences at UCLan, Dr Pryle found the requirements of his PhD study challenging, but wants to use his student experience to help others.

“I am aiming to collaborate with a renowned author to create a book documenting cricket in Los Angeles,” added the Blackrod cricket captain.

“I also want to continue to use my experience as a student and researcher to help others in my job as a coach.”



Dr Joe Pryle at the University Centre Research Symposium

EUROPEAN POLICE CAREER CALLING



Aspiring police officer Veronika Valachova

her to progress from levels 1, 2, and 3 to higher education in the subject she loves.

“I would like to use my English skills working in the border police service,” said Veronika.

“I have really enjoyed learning about aspects of the law and different types of crime. Guest speakers from Greater Manchester Police have been really good. We have learned about how to apply for roles and the different routes available to us after the course.”

Veronika hopes to join her family, who live close to Prague, and start her police career following graduation.

Second year Public Services HND student, Veronika Valachova, is set to apply to join the police service in her native country of Czech Republic.

The 22-year-old is hoping that five years of studying Public Services, starting at Level 1, will pay off, when she applies for a role in the Czech police after she completes the course.

Veronika came to the UK eight years ago, starting her College career with an English for Speakers of other Languages course (ESOL). Her interest in law and her ambition to join the police led

COMPUTING GRADUATE'S CAREER ON THE UP



Research Software Engineer Dylan Bennett

Graduate Dylan Bennett is settling in to his first role as a Research Software Engineer at the Hartree Centre, part of the government's Science Technology Facilities Council, based at Daresbury, Warrington.

The 23-year-old from Hindley progressed from BTEC Level 3 in Computing at the College, through to HNC/HND, achieving a First for the BSc (Hons) Top-up degree last year.

"It was great to progress from one level to another, working with the same IT tutor team," said Dylan.

"We were able to develop lasting relationships and they were there to support us right from the start until graduation."

Dylan's studies proved to be the perfect preparation for his current role of taking research and turning it into products relevant to industry.

"The degree dissertation was ideal in terms of preparing me for this job. Scoping a project, through to designing and developing the product is exactly what I do now – as well as writing reports on the process."

Despite missing out on trips abroad during the Covid years, Dylan has fond memories of the trip to Bletchley Park, with the HND group.

"I really enjoyed that trip – finding out more about encryption during World War 2 and learning about the first computers was fascinating," he added.

GRADUATION

Graduates celebrated their achievements at the annual Higher Education Graduation ceremony at All Saints' Parish Church.

The class of 2022, who achieved diploma and degree level qualifications, celebrated with staff, friends and family.

Graduands collected their caps and gowns at the College, before the traditional procession up Market Street, led by Liverpool Scottish Regimental Association Pipes and Drums, alongside staff and governors.

Proud family members and friends eagerly awaited their arrival in a packed-out church.

Councillor, David Molyneux, MBE, provided the key-note speech for the morning ceremony, while Lisa Nandy, Labour MP for Wigan, delivered the afternoon speech:

"Today is about you, who have put in incredible work and sacrifices to be here today," she said. **"You are going out to help build the future."**

College Principal, Anna Dawe, added:

"Our graduates' hard work has been worthwhile. There are many opportunities ahead for them and we are very proud of their achievements."

"I'd like to congratulate every single graduate and wish them a successful future."



Jade Cartwright and Principal Anna Dawe

Jade Cartwright completed the Level 5 CIPD to progress her career in the NHS. The former paralegal officer joined the NHS after her four-year-old son was born. Since then her career has progressed, with promotion to HR Project Lead at Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust.

"I was able to apply for higher level roles, as this qualification opened doors to more opportunities," she said. **"The flexibility of the course was important for me in terms of accessibility. I now demonstrate management skills more confidently and apply what I have learned on the course in my job role."**



Simone Wilson and Governor Ann Harrison

Simone Wilson graduated with Level 6 Nuclear Scientist/Engineer Integrated Degree Apprenticeship with BEng (Hons) in Electrical & Electronic Engineering. She now works full-time at Sellafield Ltd, as a design engineer.

"The five-year experience has shaped me as an engineer. It's been priceless and it's set me up with industry experience, a degree, and a salary at the same time," said Simone.

UPSKILLING FOR KRAFT HEINZ ENGINEERS

Engineers from Kraft Heinz joined the College for bespoke training specially designed to meet the needs of their business.



The College's Sarah Boyd (far right) and Chris Yates (far left) with Kraft Heinz engineers

The Kraft Heinz multi-skill programme is for mechanical and electrical engineers, to improve efficiency and increase productivity at their Kitt Green site in Wigan.

Alison Rushton, Vice Principal at the College, said:

"This innovative programme is the result of a close working partnership between the College and Kraft Heinz and

forms part of a suite of training solutions.

"We are delighted to be supporting such an important local employer, developing their workforce skills and providing a talent pipeline of young people for their business."

The College has made significant investment to support the delivery of Kraft Heinz programmes and to meet food industry

standards.

Investment includes a dedicated training room, with electrical maintenance rigs, at the College's Centre of Excellence in Engineering at the Pagefield Centre, as well as the appointment of new staff with extensive expertise in food and drink manufacturing.

MEGAN GETS IN ON THE ACTION



Photography student, Megan Causey, with Getty Images professional photographer, Jan Kruger.

Photography student, Megan Causey, won the opportunity of a lifetime, leading to a day out with Getty Images professional photographer, Jan Kruger.

After winning a national competition, she not only work-shadowed the sports photographer, but also experienced a brand new area of photography, shooting the match between Man United Women and Liverpool FC Women at Leigh Sports Village.

The former Cansfield High School pupil, said:

"It boosted my confidence and has changed my perspective on sports and action photography – an area I really want to explore. It was so action-packed, I felt like I was a player on the pitch!"

Having reviewed her photos, Jan said:

"A lot of professional photographers with years of experience struggle with fast action and keeping horizons level. I have no doubt, with a bit more experience, Megan will find her own way of documenting sport and definitely have a future in the industry."



BACK TO COLLEGE FOR LEIGH MP

Former Leigh College student and Conservative MP for Leigh, James Grundy, took time out of his busy schedule to visit Public Services and A Level students.

The Lowton born MP is the first Conservative to win the seat of the former mining town in 140 years.

Mr Grundy said:

"Great to have visited my old College to talk about what it's like to be an MP, my previous experience in local government and other political matters."

He spent almost two hours discussing politics, his background and journey to becoming MP, taking questions from students on a wide range of issues - from the cost of living crisis, to his biggest achievements in politics.



James Grundy, MP for Leigh

COLLEGE IS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY PARTNER

The College is the lead Further Education partner for the Greater Manchester Institute of Technology (GMioT), which will specialise in construction, engineering, health and digital skills.

The new multi-million-pound technical education institute for Greater Manchester will open to students in September, after being granted a licence by the Department for Education.

Led by the University of Salford, the GMioT brings together colleges and employers in the city region.

The new Institute is set to spearhead the delivery of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM).

College Principal, Anna Dawe, said:

"This is excellent news and a huge boost to the promotion and delivery of higher level technical skills across Greater Manchester.

For our borough it will deliver training and employment opportunities for the careers of the future, as well as responding to current skills and workforce needs."

The GMioT will offer a range of courses, including new Higher Technical Qualifications, Higher National Diplomas and apprenticeships, as well as digital and technical skills boot camps, and short courses designed to fast-track learners into jobs in growth sectors



GREATER MANCHESTER
I N S T I T U T E O F
T E C H N O L O G Y

Artist's impression of the new Greater Manchester Institute of Technology to be based at the University of Salford

for Greater Manchester. The College will see investment in facilities at the Pagefield Centre, including the electrical and electronic labs, automation and robotics lab, power and renewable energy lab and the industrial

control lab. In addition, there will be specialist equipment to support the practical delivery of thermodynamics and fluids in mechanical engineering. The GMioT is for school and college leavers who might be

considering a career in STEM, as well as older learners to upskill or retrain. The partners, who have been working with the College on the proposal for the government's flagship programme for the

last two years, are: the University of Salford; Ada, the National College for Digital Skills; Bury College; Tameside College; GCHQ; Laing O'Rourke; Siemens; and Talk-Talk.

CANARIES TRIP TO TRY OUT ELITE SPORTS FACILITIES

HND Sport & Exercise Science students took a trip to Club La Santa Lanzarote, thanks to the University Centre Advantage scheme, the fund that supports higher education students with their studies.

They accessed elite facilities used by professional teams and tried out some new activities and sports to develop their knowledge and consider career options.

Activities included road biking, circuit fusion, body attack, aerial yoga, golf swing analysis, TRX, paddleboard, tennis and silent spinning.

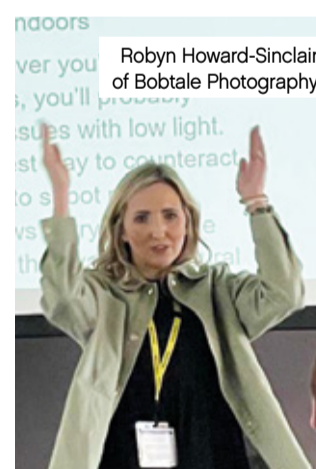


Tutor Hayley Vincent with HNC Year 1 Sports Students: Tommy Hilton; Thomas Bruton; Kian Lawrence; and Sam Pygott



Sports students ready for kayaking challenge

SHINING A LIGHT ON FLORISTRY PHOTOGRAPHY



Local business woman, Robyn Howard-Sinclair of Bobtale Photography, presented a workshop for floristry students on how to make the most of their displays on camera.



Floristry student gives it her best shot

Robyn, who has had work featured in Vogue and Tatler magazines, advised on how to use natural light and what

to do when lighting is low, as well as other tips and tricks to improve photography.

NHS DIRECTOR SET FOR TRAUMA THERAPY CAREER



Counselling student Nina Russell

Thirty-nine-year-old Nina Russell took the first steps in following her dream of becoming a counsellor, signing up for the part-time Level 3 Counselling course.

Having experienced a traumatic event three years ago, the mother of a five-year-old son embarked on her own counselling journey, and now she plans to qualify as a trauma therapist.

Currently Director of Transformation at an NHS Hospital, Nina is managing to juggle her full-time job with the evening course, which also includes remote learning at the weekend.

“The set-up of the course is excellent,” said Nina. “I was very anxious on my first day, as it had been some time since I had been in a learning environment, but I was made to feel at ease straight away. Not only by my tutor, but other members of staff, who were really kind in pointing me in the right direction, when I felt a bit lost.”

Nina has bonded with the group and is delighted with the learning facilities, with the added bonus of finding out that funding was available to pay for the course.

“I had already set up a direct debit to pay for the course – little did I know that the College was looking into funding for me. It was a lovely surprise to find out that funding was available.”

Nina is hoping to take up a degree, or Masters in counselling, following the Level 3 programme, in a bid to set up her own practice, while working for the NHS, or in the charity sector.



Plumbing student Lee Kearney

FROM PORTER TO PLUMBER AND LOTS IN BETWEEN

Lee Kearney’s varied career is set to change again. The 28-year-old is taking the full-time Level 3 Plumbing course and is hoping for a long-term career and eventually his own business.

“I have had a taste of work experience in a few different sectors now and I know that plumbing is the one for me,” said Lee.

Having had jobs spanning five years at McDonalds, a porter position at Euxton Hall private hospital, and a theatre healthcare assistant in the NHS, Lee currently works in the maintenance team at the same hospital, alongside his studies.

“When I decided to return to College I thought it’s now or never,” said the father of two. *“I am not getting any younger and working as a plumber pays well.”*

I have always liked tinkering with things and enjoy fixing stuff up.”

Lee has progressed from Level 2 in Plumbing, achieving a Distinction.

“As an adult I have a different mindset and I get on with my studies,” he added. *“Having that maturity helps. I was a bit apprehensive as an adult joining younger students in the class, but it has been fine. I even ended up coaching some of my classmates to help them out, which I enjoyed too.”*

After the course, Lee hopes to secure an apprenticeship in plumbing or gas, before starting up his own business.

BETS ON A NEW CREATIVE CAREER PAY OFF

Alumni, Elina Anuze, has come a long way since she decided to take the first steps towards a new career in design.



Alumni and graphic designer Elina Anuze

Elina is now enjoying a successful job as an in-house graphic designer for Betfred – one of the leading high street brands.

In 2012 Elina arrived in the UK from Latvia to build a new and better life for herself.

“Opportunities in Latvia were, and still are, limited. The prospects of a better life and the ability to develop a fruitful career is what drove me to move to England,” said Elina.

While learning English at the College, on the English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL) course, she had a number of jobs, but never anything on the career pathway she wanted to follow.

Elina was determined to follow her love of the arts, for which she had already achieved a bachelor degree in Latvia. Signing up for the HND graphic design course, once her

English had improved, seemed like the right fit.

“England is amazing. I had a fantastic opportunity to start again,”

she said.

“It was a challenge being a mature student and a foreigner, but everyone at the University Centre was so helpful and really supportive.”

Elina managed to secure a role as a junior designer at Betfred, one month after graduating, and now she is in her fourth year there, having progressed to mid-weight graphic designer, focussing on digital design.

DONNA FINDS HER CALLING SUPPORTING PRISONERS

As a young mum, Donna Hill worked in factories and bars before returning to learning to take up Health and Social care at Level 2, progressing to Level 3 and going on to achieve the Foundation Degree.

"I came to the College with a friend to look after her children while she signed up for a course," said the 44-year-old mum of three.

"While I was there I picked up a prospectus and saw the Foundation Degree and thought I can do that, so I signed up and never looked back."

Donna went on to achieve the highest grade possible, Distinction, despite the personal challenge of losing a friend to suicide during her studies.

She progressed to a role as a Health Care Support Worker at Atherleigh Park Hospital, supporting adults in an acute setting, and is now working at Hindley Prison, as a trainee Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner. Her role is to provide short-term interventions for prisoners struggling with mental health issues.

"Every day is different but I love it. I have found my calling,"

said Donna

She is continuing to study part-time at Liverpool John Moores University, supported by her employer on the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) Level 6 programme.

The Foundation Degree not only helped her secure the job she loves, but also contributed to her own personal wellbeing.

"Having come through the experience of domestic violence, studying for the degree really helped me to find myself. There was work Donna and mum Donna, but studying helped me to find the real me too."



Trainee Psychological Wellbeing Practitioner, Donna Hill

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER HOPES FOR COUNSELLOR CAREER

Opeyemi Mary Dosumu moved to England from Nigeria in 2021.

As a victim of domestic abuse, the 31-year-old mother of two fled from her life in Nigeria to a place of safety.

Opeyemi achieved the BSc (Hons) in Accounting in Nigeria, but is hoping for a new career here as a counsellor.

Following the English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL) course, she has progressed to Entry Level 3 English, alongside studying Level 2 Mental Health and Wellbeing.

"I chose the course as I felt isolated at home and this gave me stress," said Opeyemi.

"I wanted to improve my English and gain more knowledge to make more impact in the community."

She currently volunteers at the Brick, Wigan foodbank and hopes to take up a counselling course at the College.

"I'm the kind of person who wants to learn more. The College has really helped me and coming here has been good for my own mental health too."

"If I am allowed to work in this country, I would like to give back. Having come through anxiety, stress and depression myself, I would like to go down a counselling route, as I feel I can listen to other people and help them to find their own way forward."



English student Opeyemi Mary Dosumu



FOOD & DRINK

SEAL OF APPROVAL FROM NATIONAL SKILLS ACADEMY FOR FOOD AND DRINK

The College is the only provider in Greater Manchester to be awarded approved provider status with the National Skills Academy for Food and Drink (NSAFD) and only the second in the North West to receive the coveted status.

The College passed a rigorous vetting procedure from industry experts at the NSAFD and national food and drink businesses. They recognised the College's high

standards and its training programmes delivering real benefits to employers in the sector.

Head of Apprenticeships, Sarah Boyd, said

"We are delighted to join the National Skills Academy. Our accreditation provides a real

opportunity to work jointly with the NASFD and our employer partners to meet the skills need of this industry."

The College's partnership with local employer Kraft Heinz has been key to its expansion in training provision for the food industries. It has also expanded training opportunities with other local employers including AB World Foods, Food Pro and Greenhalgh's.

Principal, Anna Dawe, added: *"This accreditation adds another specialism for our Centre of Excellence in Engineering. It has come about as a result of our excellent employer partnerships and provides a much needed specialist skills centre for the North West."*

ASPIRING NURSES AND BEAUTY THERAPISTS SHARE HEALTHY SKIN SOLUTIONS

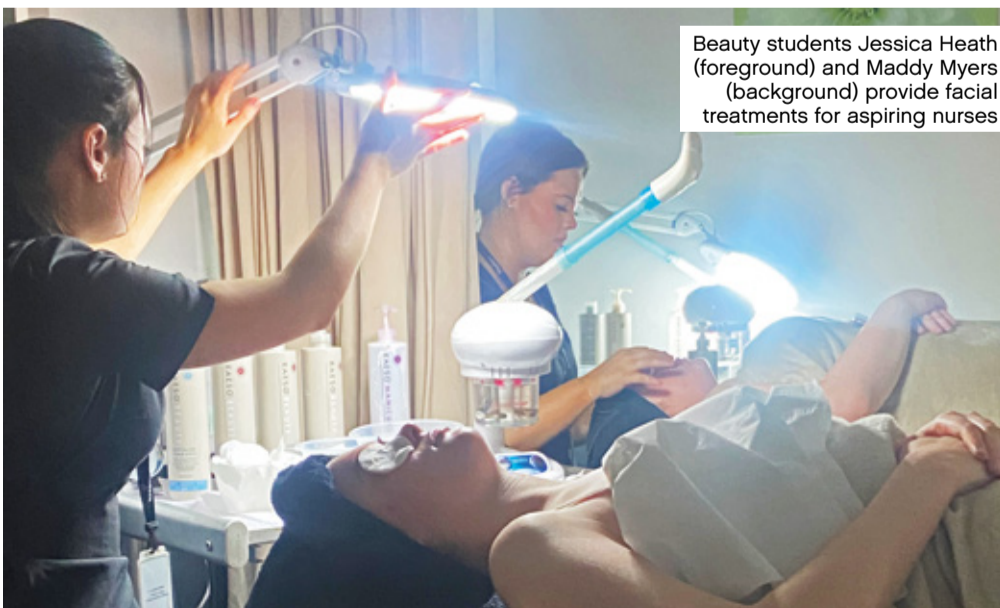
T Level Nursing students teamed up with those studying Beauty Therapy to share learning tips on the skin and its care and treatment.

Nursing students study the physiology of the skin, pressure ulcers and prevention and care and treatment of skin disorders, as part of their subject specialism.

Beauty students not only shared advice and guidance on taking care of and protecting the skin, but also carried out facials and treatments with personal consultation and skin analysis sessions for the aspiring nurses.



Beauty student Jessica Heath provides hands on skin care for aspiring nurses



Beauty students Jessica Heath (foreground) and Maddy Myers (background) provide facial treatments for aspiring nurses

PHOTOGRAPHY STUDENTS' EXHIBITION

Photography students presented their work on the theme of climate change, as part of the LOOK Photo Biennial 2022, at the new Horrocks Gallery in Leigh Spinners Mill.



Alice Balkwill and Hannah Bate

Student works included images of those growing their own allotment produce, still life photography of recycling and 3D installations upcycling

waste into clothing. The exhibition formed part of the Open Eye Hub, a space to champion local voices and

collaboration between the communities of Wigan and Leigh and the wider photography community from the UK and beyond.

NETBALL TEAM DEBUT



The College's netball team played and won their debut match, beating Bolton College 22-21 at Leigh Sports Village.

STUDENT CELEBRATES KICKBOXING SUCCESS ON THE WORLD STAGE



World champion kickboxer Aaron Kinsley, won the prestigious title after competing in a tournament in Italy.

The Level 2 Electrical Installation student and former Byrchall High School pupil is the first English Junior to win the World Association of Kickboxing Organisations (WAKO) World Championship.

The 16-year-old from Wigan, started kickboxing at the age of 12 and won his first fight eight months later.

His world championship victory, which came with under 10 fights

experience, follows his northern area, English and British titles, thanks to the help of his coach Dale Bannister and his sponsors.

"It's the best feeling in the world," said Aaron. ***"All the hard work and training twice a day paid off."***

Aaron trained for up to 15 hours a week to prepare for the World Champion Kickboxing event, often during his College lunch break, as well as dedicating two hours at night, to work with his coach.

After his success in Italy, he will be focusing on competitions in Croatia and Turkey this year.

STUDENT SELECTED FOR NATIONAL RUGBY LEAGUE TEAM

Sport Science student, Elise Gater, has been selected for England Rugby League Under 18s.

Elise has had several standout performances for the College women's team.

The former Lowton Church of England High School pupil spent half term at an England training camp in Leeds.

She is one of only 30 players from across the country to be selected for the England Rugby League gifted and talented elite pathway.



BEST FRIENDS SIGN FIRST PROFESSIONAL CONTRACT TOGETHER

Best friends and Sport Science students Saf Middleton-Patel and Jess Simpson have signed their first professional contracts with Manchester United Women for the first team squad.

"It's amazing to have your best friend next to you signing a professional contract on the same day,"

said Jess

The pair are following in the footsteps of former student, Ella Toone, who shot to prominence scoring the first goal of the final of the UEFA Women's Euro 2022 to beat Germany and win the championship.





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