

College Times

EDITION 8

SPRING 2021

BROUGHT TO YOU BY WIGAN & LEIGH COLLEGE

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK : **VIRTUAL GRADUATION** : **FUNDING FOR FUTURE HEALTH WORKERS**

SEE PAGE 5

SEE PAGE 8

SEE PAGE 3

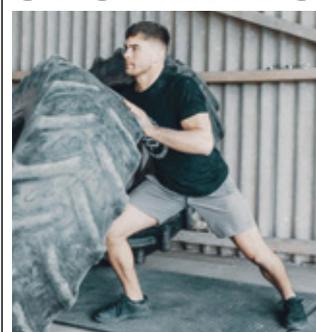
POLITICS, MENTAL HEALTH AND THE COVID CRISIS

CAREERS IN ANIMAL MANAGEMENT



SEE PAGE 13

FARMER STRONG INSPIRES SPORTS STUDENTS



SEE PAGE 15

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF COVID



SEE PAGE 14



SEE PAGE 6

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FUNDING FOR FUTURE HEALTH WORKERS

The College has secured funding from the Department for Education to deliver a project that will focus on training the health workforce of tomorrow.

The £0.8million project will refurbish space for the latest state-of-the-art clinical training facilities in the College's new Centre for Advanced Technical Studies, based at the historic Rushton building in Wigan town centre. Facilities will be used to deliver the new Health T level course set to launch this September.

It is one of the first projects to be launched as part of a collaboration between Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (WWL), Edge Hill University, Wigan

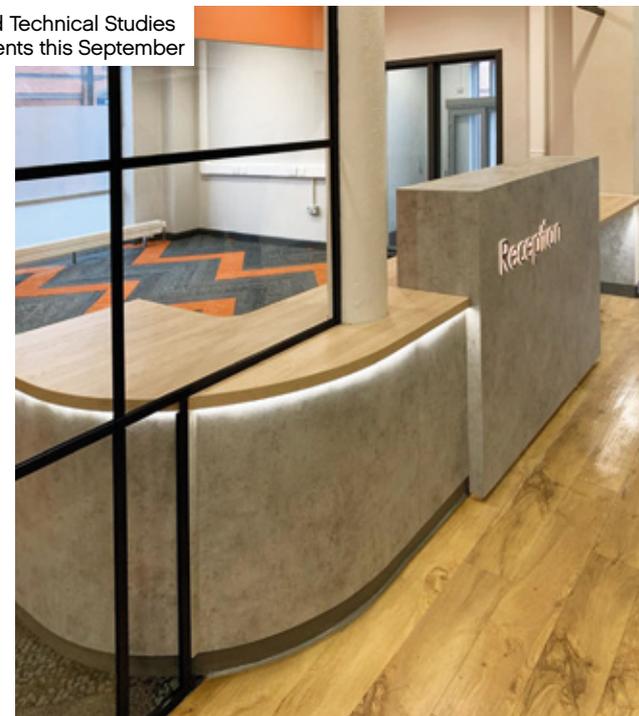
Council and the College.

The investment will fund a clinical ward, manual handling suite, specialist science laboratories and a health and social care careers hub. Facilities are for those on specialist pathways in occupational areas such as adult nursing, mental health nursing and healthcare professionals.

College Principal, Anna Dawe, said: **"This really does present new opportunities for our community. The T level has allowed us to be creative with the content**



Centre for Advanced Technical Studies set to open for students this September



and delivery of the course, so that it responds directly to the skills needs in Wigan and across Greater Manchester. The inclusion of the careers hub also establishes long term skills planning for health that will benefit the borough."

The new facilities will also be used by WWL for staff development and training, while the careers hub will welcome primary and secondary school pupils to learn more about their options and long-term career goals in the health and care sector.

HOME STUDIOS KEEP BUDDING PHOTOGRAPHERS' SKILLS ON TRACK

First year Level 3 photography students have been learning how to construct studios at home, making sure their lockdown learning continues at a pace.

The home studios have meant that students can get on with their advertising photography project with some great results.

Course Leader, Norman Lomax, said:

"Even though these students have only been with us for a term, it's great to see them display this level of creativity, resilience, independence and problem solving - attributes which a successful professional photographer needs."



Students' advertising imagery



College Times caught up with alumni James Winterbottom now Director of Digital Services and Integration at Wigan Council to find out more about his time at the College and how it shaped his career.

Now a 40-year-old father of three, James studied A Levels at the Parsons Walk centre from 1996-1998. Born and bred in Leigh, the former Lowton Church of England High School pupil admits to being a sports and music mad teen. He has fond memories of not only his studies, but the social side to his A Level years.

“There was a really good music scene in Wigan in the 90s, just like there is today and we were lucky enough to see the Verve at Haigh Hall when I was a student,”

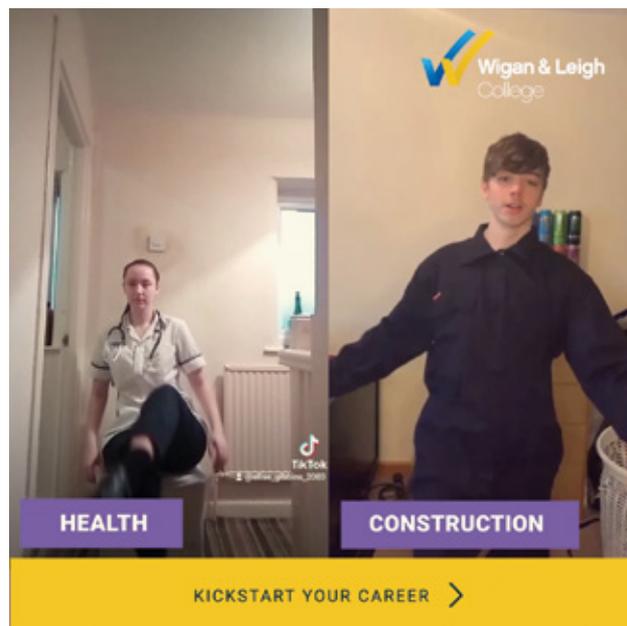
said James.

But it wasn't only the music scene that inspired him. Studying Psychology, Geography and English Literature developed his interest in politics, social sciences and current affairs - the essence of working as a public servant.

“I guess like most students I chose the subjects I really enjoyed. I hadn't studied psychology at school but I used to love Cracker on TV - the drama starring Robbie Coltrane as a criminal psychologist - so I opted for Psychology A Level and loved it so much I went on to study it at university.”

T-LEVELS LAUNCH ON TIKTOK

The College launched its latest advertising campaign on TikTok with the help of students who created videos as part of the #CollegetoCareers competition.



Students were asked to submit their own version of the #allthewayup TikTok challenge, but reversed.

They created videos which saw them swap their regular outfits for their chosen career uniform to reflect the subjects they are studying at College.

Five of the best videos were edited for use in the College's social media marketing campaign to promote new T Level courses in Health, Digital, Construction and Teacher Education starting in September. The best ones earned the students a £25 Amazon voucher for their efforts.

Kathryn O'Neill is Head of Marketing and Admissions at the College. She said:

“We wanted to reach young people through the social media platforms they use the most. Getting current students involved in creating the videos made sure that we attracted attention with relevant content, which speaks directly to school leavers about the courses we are offering.”

The College is the first in the further education sector to advertise on TikTok - the social media platform popular with generation Z digital natives.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



Alumni James Winterbottom
Director of Digital Services
at Wigan Council

James studied the BSc Psychology degree at Liverpool University and after a short time travelling landed a role as a Graduate at Wigan Council in 2002.

Having worked in a

variety of roles in policy and management in Wigan and in children's services at Knowsley Council from 2008-2010, James returned to Wigan, where he took up the post of Assistant Director for Policy and

Transformation, before becoming Director of Children's Services in 2015.

“As someone educated in this borough, it was very special to work as a Director of Children's Services alongside education leaders who achieve great things. It's incredible to see at first-hand how passionate and dedicated local politicians and public servants are in making our borough the best place in which to grow up, live and work.”

In early 2020 just before the pandemic hit, his brand new role as Director of Digital Services became a baptism of fire.

“Being in a new role, building relationships with a new team and

planning to meet the huge expectations for digital in the borough was already a great challenge, but then the world got turned upside down. Everyone went digital practically overnight, with staff working from home and all of our residents and businesses needing to engage with public services digitally. As a team we had to make sure that all the critical services we offer, including the emergency response to the pandemic could continue to be delivered successfully.”

James admits that the biggest challenges at work can often end up becoming some of the most rewarding parts of your career.

“I am most proud of the moments when my teams have done something extraordinary or amazing,”

James continued.

“Having the ability to be able to change people's lives for the better has been an enormous privilege. Just some of the projects I am most proud of include an Autism Friends movement in the Borough to make sure that people have a better awareness of autism and the changes they can

make to ensure everyone can enjoy all the amazing things we offer. And the Daily Mile programme, which has resulted in 14,000 children running, walking or skipping a mile each day.”

James' advice to current students is to be kind to themselves and to have a go.

“We all have our doubts and worries but be kind to yourself. Keep talking to teaching staff, your families, friends and those who care about you. Follow your passions and interests. You may have doubts about whether you can achieve at university, college or in work but just have a go and do your best.”

College calls for businesses to help shape future workforce

The College is calling on businesses to help shape the next generation of computer scientists and entrepreneurs.

With the introduction of the Digital Skills Academy placing it at the forefront of digital skills education, the College is reaching out to businesses across the North West to offer placement opportunities and

guest talks for students.

With the launch of the new T Level qualification in computer science this year, Head of Business and Computing, Nick Long, is keen to outline the benefits for businesses in providing placements for students, who spend 20 per cent of their time studying the new technical



qualification with an employer.

"We would like to hear from businesses

interested in tapping in to a talent pool of Generation Z youngsters, who were raised on the internet and social media," said Nick.

"Your support is invaluable to their progress. In return you will help to shape courses inputting the skills required for industry, provide mentoring opportunities for

existing staff and develop young people as future employees making savings on recruiting new talent."

If you are interested in speaking to Nick about how you can partner with the College email: n.long@wigan-leigh.ac.uk

NATIONAL Apprenticeship Week

This year's national celebration of apprenticeships went digital when students attended online sessions connecting with employers

such as Rolls Royce, Accenture, Sky, Dyson and AstraZeneca. Apprenticeships and Skills Minister, Gillian Keegan, said:

"It has been fantastic to see how employers of all sizes have gone above and beyond to ensure apprentices can continue their studies during this unprecedented time. The week is also an opportunity to shine a light on how apprentices of all ages and backgrounds are helping to transform businesses across the country."



"Our apprentices are truly invaluable to us and bring many benefits to the business on a daily basis. It is important that CAL International invests in the engineers of the future - Wigan & Leigh College's degree apprenticeship course is fantastic."
Cliff Kirby, CEO, CAL International



"The College assessors support me a lot and always check to see how I am getting on. What I learn in College helps me at work, such as electrical systems - helpful for when I need to use that on the job."
CLINTON BITHELL
 Level 3 Light Vehicle Maintenance Apprentice
 Employed by Motortech



"I wanted to learn but get paid at the same time which made sense to me and it's good to develop my skills for the future. I want to develop a career in accounting and I've now progressed to Level 4 AAT."
SARAH HUYTON
 Level 4 AAT Apprentice
 Employed by Hallows and Hesketh

MAKEUP THEMES FROM DISNEY TO DRAG

Level 1 Hair & Beauty students have been

creating Disney and drag makeup looks as

part of their lockdown learning. While Level

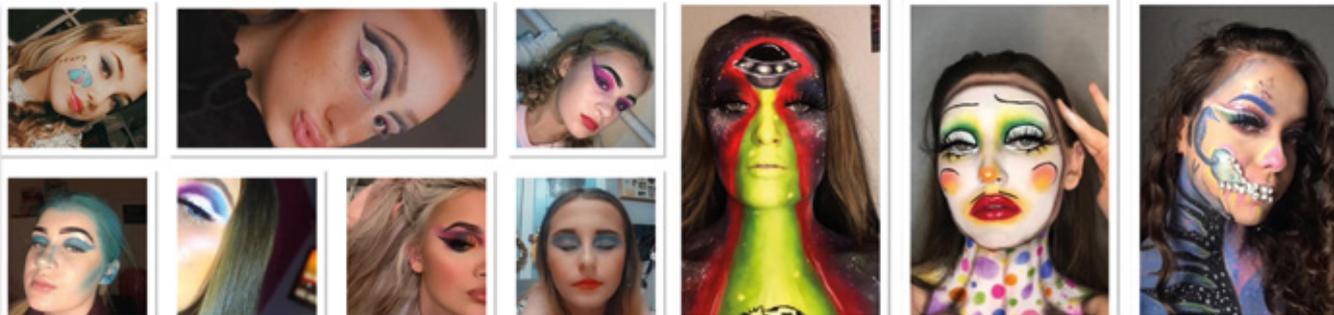
2 Media Makeup students have

captured that wow factor with their body

art creations.



Students' body art creations



Disney and drag makeup designs

ALISTAIR CAMPBELL ON POLITICS, MENTAL HEALTH AND THE COVID CRISIS

Prominent British journalist, broadcaster, political aide and author of two books on mental health, Alistair Campbell joined A Level students in a live video chat.

The former Director of Communications and Strategy for Prime Minister Tony Blair spent almost two hours with students taking questions on a range of topics. Now a mental health campaigner, Mr Campbell was impressed with students and the questions they put to him.

“Our students did us proud asking questions that led to Mr Campbell covering lots of issues, including how he and Tony Blair may have managed the COVID crisis differently.” He also shared the experience of his own mental health issues, his work with mental health charities and the change needed in terms of funding for services.

Former Shevington High School pupil, Abigail Lythgoe, who studies the A Level - Health Professional Pathway said:

“Alistair opened up the world of politics and mental health for me. I now feel more enthusiastic about politics and how it affects my own life, especially important as I am getting closer to being able to vote.”

Mr Campbell’s session formed part of the Professional Development Day to explore industry and wider cultural capital and wellbeing.

“It was a real pleasure to meet Wigan & Leigh A Level students,” he said.

“They were not only interested in politics and political issues, but well-informed and concerned about a lot that is happening in the world right now.”

Mr Campbell covered topics from current UK politics and Donald Trump’s time in office, to the state of the media and Labour’s handling of the Iraq war.

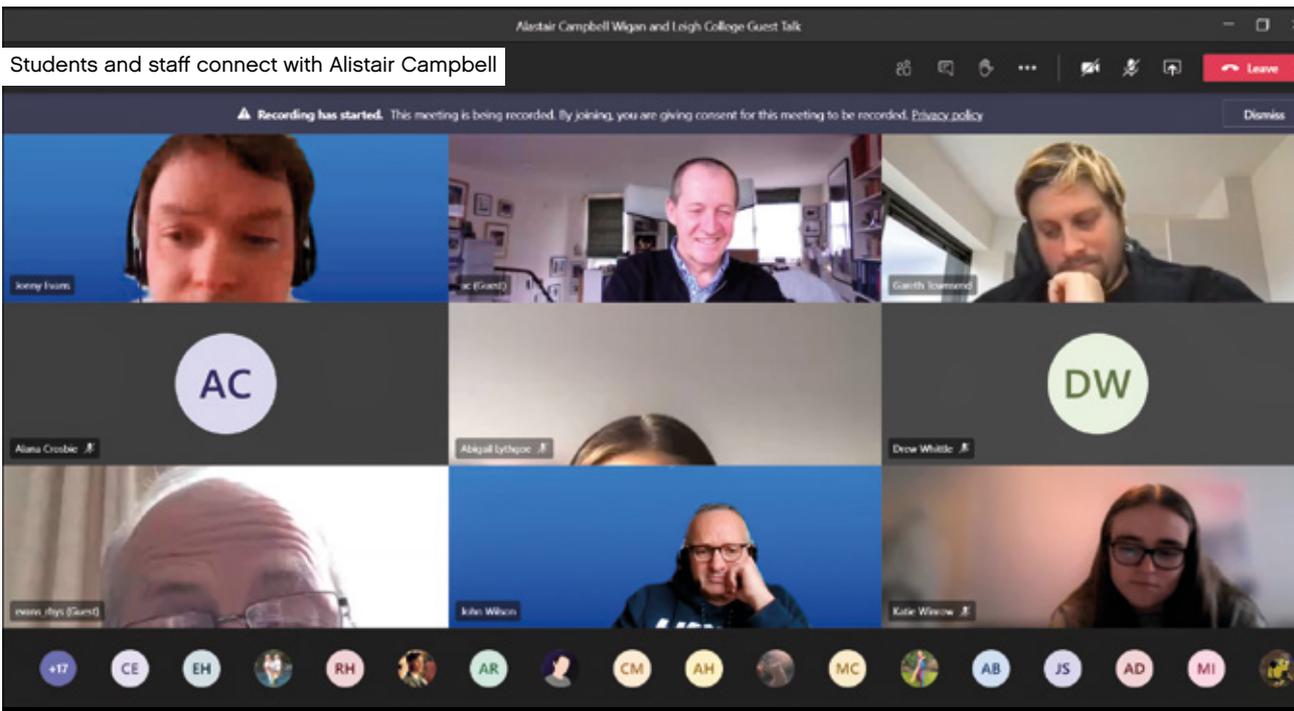
Psychology Lecturer, Jonny Evans, added:

FOCUS ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Young Persons’ Violence Advisor, Damien Munroe, delivered a workshop on the issue of domestic violence within families.

AS sociology students learned

about Operation Encompass, an initiative that directly connects the police with schools to provide support for children living in families where domestic abuse is an issue.



How mental health affects the physical body

David Osborn, Professor of Psychiatric Epidemiology at University College London delivered a session for students on his work in crisis centres and the connections between physical and mental health.

Professor Osborn said: “It was great to take such varied and thought provoking

questions from the group - including some issues I haven’t had to think about for a while.”

Student Alex Lynch added: “It was fascinating to learn about how Dr Osborn, who is originally from the North West, became a professor in London and his research into how mental health affects the physical body.”



Professor David Osborn from University College London



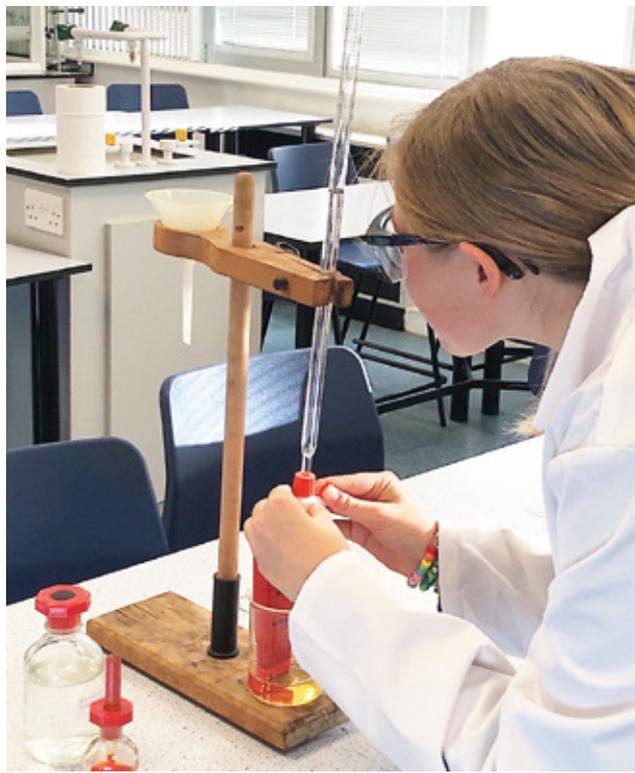
Damien Munroe from the Integrated Safeguarding and Public Protection project at Wigan Council



Budding scientists at Leigh College

A Level Chemistry students carried out a titration experiment in state-of-the-art laboratories based at Leigh College. The

laboratory method of quantitative chemical analysis provides the perfect preparation for university standard experiments.



DIGITAL CROWN COURT



Specialist criminal lawyer John Hera

AS students took part in a Digital Crown Court interactive session from the University of Salford and Greater Manchester Higher.

Led by criminal lawyer John Hera, students were given real life criminal cases to

prepare in advance, some posing as defence and others as prosecution.

John said: ***“Students performed really well. They even came up with ideas that some professionals may have missed.”***

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS CELEBRATE

Students studying the Professional Honours Programme may apply for a scholarship on their chosen pathway. The process includes a written application and an interview to be selected for the £2,000 award.



APPLIED MEDICAL student Anna Bonehill was this year’s scholarship winner in her subject area.

The former Albany Academy pupil hopes for a career in forensic psychology as she is interested in how and why people commit crimes.

“I plan to use the money to buy a laptop and put the rest away into savings to help pay for university.”



HEALTH PROFESSIONAL student Abigail Lythgoe wants to become a radiographer. The former Shevington High School pupil enjoyed the scholarship application process.

“I felt pretty confident in my application and my interview went well. I was very excited to find out I had got it. I asked questions in the interview so maybe that helped. I may use the money for text books, going to uni and possibly a laptop.”

EXTENDED CHOICES SHEDS LIGHT ON THE PERFECT SHOT

A Level Extended Choices students learned more about how lighting can create the perfect shot, as part of their Digital Film and Video Production course.

Extended Choices provides a combination of A Levels and technical subjects to allow students to mix and match their subjects to follow their chosen career route.



Madison Grimshaw, Ellie Mather and Leah Reid learn more about camera lighting

This year's graduation looked very different to the traditional annual gathering at Wigan Parish Church in Wigan town centre.

Due to Covid restrictions the online event took the form of virtual congratulations from staff with a roll call of those who achieved their degrees, HNDs, HNCs and teacher education qualifications.

Principal, Anna Dawe said: **"For several years I have had the privilege to**

celebrate with our graduates, their families and friends and acknowledge their outstanding achievements."

"However, for the class of 2020 achievement has taken on a whole new meaning."

"The onset of the pandemic meant you had to overcome immense personal and professional



uncertainty and face challenges during your studies the likes of which were

unprecedented. But you have done it."

"You have not allowed those challenges and

barriers stop your academic journey, your educational aspirations and

your future career goals. Yours is an achievement like no other."

DEGREE APPRENTICESHIPS

As more and more young people opt for higher or degree apprenticeships as a way of gaining qualifications without the burden of student debt, we caught up with a few of our successful engineering apprentices to find out about their life, work and study.

Twenty-two-year-old **ALEX RAWLINSON** is in the second year of the BEng Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering (Top up) degree.

Alex is a degree apprentice working at Sellafield Ltd based at Risley near Warrington. He studied the HNC and HND at the University Centre as part of the apprenticeship after he left Carmel College.

The qualified mechanical designer works four days a week attending the University Centre one day a week.

After completing he hopes to become a mechanical engineer and is planning to earn a masters and progress to chartered engineer status.

"I have always been interested in engineering. Maths and science were always my strongest subjects,"

said Alex.

"I chose the degree apprenticeship because I want a salary alongside gaining lots more work experience. And I will achieve a degree without the student debt, as the company pays course fees."

Alex is also a Stem Ambassador for Sellafield visiting schools to promote science and technology subjects.

"Lots of modules on the course directly relate to what we

do in work each day such as CAD design. We are learning about design and manufacture and

how it can be more cost effective too, which is of huge benefit to employers."



Degree apprentice Alex Rawlinson

NICK EDEN is also studying the BEng Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering (Top-up) degree.

The twenty-five-year-old works at MGF Excavation Safety

Solutions, in Ashton as a CAD Designer degree apprentice.

Nick progressed from Level 2 Mechanical Engineering to Level 3 at the College before working through the HNC and HND.

"I chose to do the course here because it had everything I needed. I never thought when I was doing my Level 2 that I would be finishing my BEng degree,"

said Nick.

Nick is also a member of the Institution of Engineering Technology (IET) which provides accreditation for the University Centre BEng.

"It's good to know that the course is accredited by the IET as it proves that you're working to a high level. I chose to do the degree apprenticeship because I wanted to get hands on experience alongside my studies - this approach has worked out well for me."

Nick would like to become a mechanical designer and apply for incorporated engineer status through the IET.



Degree apprentice Nick Eden

TRAIN TO TEACH: TEACH THE FUTURE

Ashley Rae Trainee Art Teacher

"It was always a dream of mine to have a full circle moment and eventually go into teaching. From my initial meeting with the Teacher Education team at Wigan & Leigh College, I immediately felt their passion for teaching and a genuine interest in my career.

Now, in my second year of part-time study the ethos of one-to-one support and contact time, is helping me develop my own teaching style."



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Scott Partington Plumbing Lecturer

"I always wanted to go into teaching because when I was on my apprenticeship my lecturer had a really positive impact on me. I also had a few apprentices when I was in the industry and it was good to see them grow. I can pass on my skills to a few so why not do that on a bigger scale. This is what motivates me.

"The support from the teacher education team has been immense."



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Tamoor Shafique HE Electrical & Electronics Engineering Lecturer

"My trainers, mentors and teachers are helping me address the challenges I have faced over the years in my teaching experience."

Tamoor was inspired by Malcom X's famous quote:

"Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today."



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Centre**

Wigan & Leigh College

Stewart Boyle Plumbing Lecturer

"I wanted to pass on my knowledge from 10 years in industry. I always enjoyed helping the apprentices I worked with. As I am fresh out of the industry I can apply current up-to-date knowledge which will benefit my learners."

"The Teacher Education team were brilliant and I had a great mentor who supported me throughout."



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NURSING ALUMNI STUDY ROUTE

The first cohort of Pre-Degree Nursing students completed their College courses in 2018, gaining the highest Triple Distinction Star grades, with the majority going on to continue their nursing studies at university.

As the course is set to develop into the College's new Health T Level qualification, College Times caught up with some of them to find out how they are progressing their careers.

Molly Evans, a former Lathom High School pupil, made it to the national finals of UK World Skills during her time at the College. She is studying Adult Nursing at the University of Liverpool now and believes the College course was a great start for her.

"The course was amazing. I learned so much about nursing and health and social care while getting hands on experience in hospitals.



Molly Evans, former student and trainee nurse at the University of Liverpool

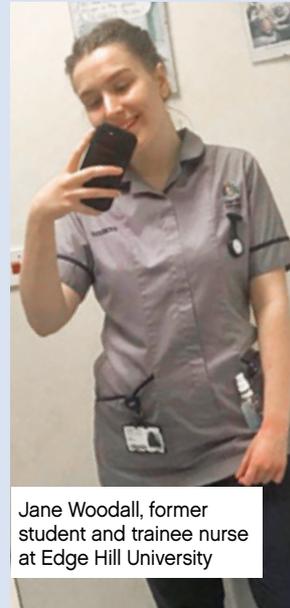
The experience prepared me for university and what to expect on placement."

"The staff were incredible. I met a group of amazing students who had the same aspirations as me and were just as passionate about

the profession. If nursing is for you then this course is great preparation," said Molly.

The College has established partnerships with Wrightington, Wigan & Leigh NHS Teaching Hospitals Foundation Trust (WWL) and Edge Hill University which delivers a reputable nurse training programme. The partnership nurtures and grows talent in the North West to develop a steady supply of newly qualified nurses for local hospitals within the region.

Alumni Jane Woodall chose to study at Edge Hill University after College and has been on a range of placements in the community



Jane Woodall, former student and trainee nurse at Edge Hill University

and in accident and emergency departments. She was even offered a job on a Medical Assessment Unit in her second year. This gave her the opportunity to help with the COVID effort for four months during the first lockdown period.

She also spent two weeks in China at one of the university's link schools to learn medicine in a different culture.

Jane is looking forward to becoming a fully qualified nurse in 2021 and believes that her experience at College gave her an advantage.

"A major factor of getting into university was that I had lots of hospital experience from my College course. This gave me a unique advantage over other applicants. College also gave me a huge amount of confidence with interviews, as they helped me to practice and prepare so that I knew what to expect," said Jane.

Deputy Chief Nurse at WWL NHS, Amanda Cheesman oversees the programme and is delighted with how the students have progressed.

She said: ***"This programme has not only fostered excellent partnerships between the Trust, the College and local universities, but has helped to create a generation of nurses that have proven to be caring and compassionate professionals and an asset to the wider Wigan borough."***

The new Health T Level starting this September offers pathways including Adult Nursing, Mental Health Nursing and Healthcare Professional.

ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIP FOR HARRY

Level 3 BTEC Mechanical Engineering student, Harry Dean-Sheppard, scooped this year's scholarship prize of £2,000.

Harry wants to progress to university or take up a degree apprenticeship and is interested in an aerospace industry career.

"I chose to come to the College as it is the best for engineering. When I visited the campus I was really impressed with the facilities. I plan on using the money for equipment, maybe a computer."



SWEET TREATS



Talented Level 3 Pastry Chef students created seasonal sweet treats practising their design and modelling techniques.



Students created walnut whips with coffee ganache and marshmallow, sable biscuits and macarons.

THE SHOW MUST GO ON

While theatres across the UK closed their doors due to lockdown, Performing Arts students had a unique opportunity to take part in a seasonal production of Cinderella, thanks to tutor Graham Tudor's Tread Productions film of the timeless classic.



Helen Noble stars as Cinderella in the Tread Productions film alongside the student ensemble

Alongside Graham, Cinderella starred actors Helen Noble from Hollyoaks and James Wolstenholme from School of Rock. Both James and Helen are regular visitors to the College delivering workshops and masterclasses.

The film was screened at Flix Drive-in cinemas nationwide during December, with one of the venues at Ashton Gate, home of Bristol City FC.

It was also streamed on Tread website and reached more than 10,000 primary school children across the UK.



Helen said: **"We love working with the students and as soon as we needed a professional ensemble, we got in touch straight away."**

our students to showcase their talents. They demonstrated professionalism and maturity throughout the project. The famous ball sequence is stunning with high level choreography and aerial drone shots too."

Artistic Director, Graham added: **"This was an incredible opportunity for**

Creative agency Welton Media Ltd worked on the production alongside Tread.

NEW EXOTIC ANIMALS SETTLE IN TO COLLEGE LIFE



The Animal Management team introduced some new additions to the exotics room at the start of term with stick insects and a Madagascar day gecko.



Covid mural depicts highs and lows of pandemic

Level 1 Painting & Decorating students created a mural based on the Covid pandemic outside their workshop room at Pagefield.

They wanted to represent the challenging times and the positive

outcomes that have inspired people throughout lockdowns and tiered restrictions.

It was also a great way to continue developing their cutting-in skills, creative and colour techniques.

Parklife fashion shoot



As we all took to the outdoors to avoid the spread of Covid, second year Level 3 Fashion students

set up a photo shoot modelling their first year creations in Mesnes park.



DISTANCE LEARNING

Lockdown life forced many of us to embrace the digital world and proved to be the best time to develop skills or interests through Distance Learning.

More than 1,600 adults signed up for Level 2 courses in health and wellbeing and management since the start of the pandemic last March.

As we all learned to adjust to the digital world for work, education or social interaction, Distance Learning became the go to tool for many adults looking to retrain for a

change of career, or find out more about supporting their own or their loved ones' health and wellbeing.

Kendra Kirby is Assistant Principal at the College.

"Distance Learning has become increasingly popular, with almost a third more people signing up for courses since the start of lockdown. We

are working with local businesses and schools, as well as the North West Ambulance Service to provide learning options for those working in health, care and management sectors."

There are 25 Distance Learning courses to choose from. New courses include: Understanding Cancer Support; Improving Personal Exercise Health and Nutrition; Mental Health First Aid; and Adverse Childhood Experiences.

Courses are free* for those who complete and take up to 12 weeks. Most people choose to work online but a paper-

based option is also available.

Kendra added:

"You can study at a time and place to suit you. Courses are recognised by employers and can form part of your professional development at work."

To sign up visit wigan-leigh.ac.uk/adult-courses/distance-learning and click apply for this course.

*eligibility criteria apply see website for further information.



Kendra Kirby,
Assistant Principal
at the College

CHALLENGING GENDER BIAS IN TEACHING

While education leaders agree it's important that children have a diverse range of role models, women still make up the vast majority of staff working in education. The gender bias of staffing in early years education means men make up less than one quarter of the number of teaching assistants nationwide, despite the view that the scarcity of male roles models may have an impact on boys' achievement rates.

Two of our teaching assistant students are bucking the trend, with home schooling the inspiration for one who is embarking on a life changing 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.

"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 the first 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 can't get into placements at the moment due to Covid the course has been adapted to account for this."

Adam is also expecting to continue to the Level 3 course and has already started applying for Teaching Assistant jobs.

MICHAEL GOERGEN is also studying the Level 2 Teaching Assistant course at Leigh Adult Learning Centre.

After carrying out work experience in a primary school he became interested in a career as a teaching assistant.

"I looked at government statistics

that say only 24% of teaching assistants in the country are male and decided I would really like to make a difference in what is traditionally considered a female role."

The 19-year-old volunteered at St Thomas Primary School, Leigh alongside his course.

"I find the course interesting and get along with the tutor who is very supportive and shares her experiences. What I learn here helps in my placement especially with policies and legislation."

Michael is also planning to progress to the Level 3 qualification.



Trainee teaching
assistant
Adam Brocken



Trainee teaching
assistant
Michael Goergen

PICTURE PERFECT PERFORMERS

Year 1 Photography students have been putting their portrait skills to use helping those studying Performing Arts create their professional portfolios.

Performing Arts tutor Graham Tudor has

been working on the project with future photographers as art director.

The project is capturing budding actors' pen portraits for their promotional portfolios aimed at casting directors.



Performing arts students Megan Elliot, Kal Atherton and Olivia Pilkington caught on camera by budding photographers



Education ranger Skye Nichol



Exotic animal vet nurse, Liz Cubberly

CAREERS IN ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

The Animal Management team ran a series of virtual careers talks with industry experts. Students heard from a zoo keeper, falconer, exotic animal vet nurse, conservation researcher, education ranger, dog trainer and an event detection dog handler.

They learned about the demands of the different job roles and the paths that led them to their careers, as well as advice on how to secure employment in this rewarding and competitive sector.

STUDENT LAUNCHES FAT COW BAKES BUSINESS

Level 3 Patisserie & Confectionery student Daisy Williams launched a home baking business with the plan to one day open her own shop.

The enterprising former Dean Trust Wigan pupil launched Fat Cow Bakes specialising in homemade patisserie style pies, truffles

and occasion cakes. Customers can order online and collect their confectionery treats.

Check out her delicious looking creations on Facebook - search Fat Cow Bakes and on Instagram Fatcowbake.



Daisy Williams launches new business venture Fat Cow Bakes



LOCAL BUSINESSMAN RETURNS TO COLLEGE

Local businessman Martin Edmondson of MSE Joinery Ltd and Glazing Systems hosted a digital employer engagement session.

The former student shared his route to success after completing the Level 3 Carpentry and Joinery course at the College and offered advice on CVs and job applications.

Martin has taken on five apprentices

from the College and is open to offering work experience opportunities for the best current learners. Along with tutor Gareth Hill he set the learners a work project competition with a prize up for grabs of a top of the range tool kit.



Former student turned local businessman Martin Edmondson

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF COVID CAUGHT ON CAMERA

A student photographer is raising awareness of the environmental impact of the Covid pandemic capturing stark pictures of masks that have been discarded on the streets.

RHIANN SUCH, who is studying Level 3 Photography said:

"I saw a mask on the floor, and I thought 'that's not right'. Every day from then on, I saw more and more masks littering the streets and I thought I'm going to photograph these.

"I decided to edit them so that the only colour you could see was the mask. They are not safe, and it's disgusting. People need to stop discarding them."

A new report from recycling company TradeWaste.co.uk estimates that around 20,000 tonnes of single use, non-recyclable face masks will be dumped in landfills across the UK.

This equates to 6.3bn face masks thrown in the bin in just four months, and if the rules on mask wearing continue this could top 19.2bn.

Spokesperson Charlotte Green explained:

"When you put your face mask in the bin, it will most likely end up in landfill. However,

it gets even worse if the face mask is either deliberately or accidentally dropped - they are blown around and end up in watercourses, rivers and eventually the ocean. This impact can have awful consequences if wildlife comes entangled in the fibres, or ear loops."

She added:

"If you can use a mask where there are no parts to throw away, then you are doing your bit to prevent excess plastic from going to landfill, and in the worst case being blown into local rivers and streams.

"In a year we will dump the equivalent of 5.5 Eiffel Towers in 3.5g face masks - this is the scale of the problem we are facing at the moment."



Rhiann's stark images of discarded masks highlight another environmental impact of Covid

COLLEGE GHOST TOUR

Student Ellie Mulvey takes a ghost tour around Parsons Walk



Travel & Tourism students led a ghost tour around the Parsons Walk centre recalling tales of local myths and legends which attract tourists to the area.

The tour provided

the opportunity for students to put their interpersonal, presentation and communication skills into practice.

Guided by tutor Charlotte McCartney, who as a tour guide

around Pendle Hill, famous for the historic 17th century witch hunts, was able to share her own industry experience of tour guiding and performance.



FARMER STRONG UNEARTH'S FITNESS BUSINESS MODEL

Wigan's Charlie Bowling shared the secret of his successful training business down on the farm with Sport Science students as part of National Careers Week.

The Team England wrestler used lockdown as inspiration for his new business venture, Farmer Strong, using his family farm equipment combined with his coaching skills to create an outdoor gym.

In a bid to continue his own training regime while gyms closed their doors to customers during lockdown, Charlie found stuff around the farm to train with including tractor tyres, bell wraps, ropes and even a forklift truck.

"I had pretty much everything I needed really to have a good training session,"
said Charlie.

After posting videos of his new adopted training locations on social media, Charlie started to generate interest from friends and supporters.

The young entrepreneur decided to make his home crafted workouts into a business and

Wrestler and fitness entrepreneur Charlie Bowling AKA Farmer Strong

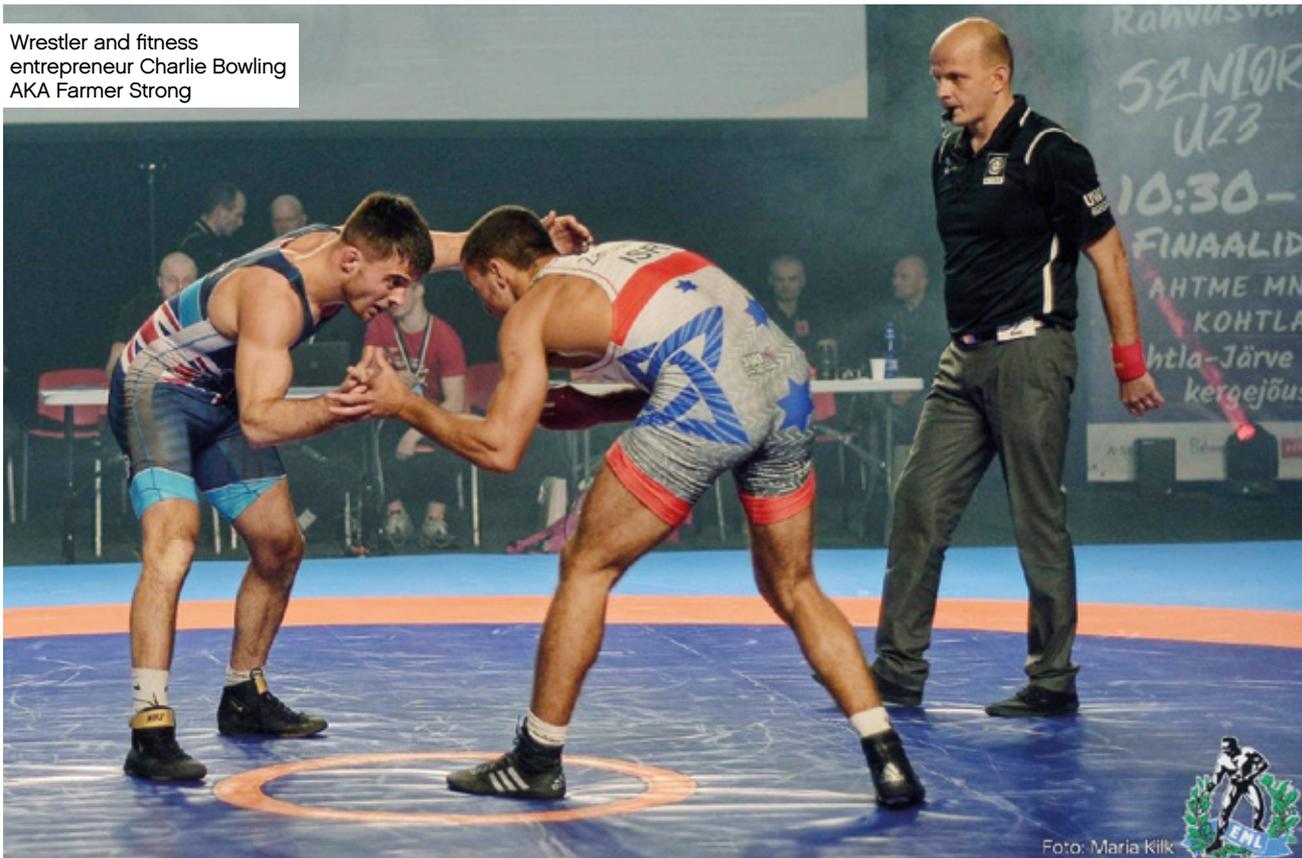


Foto: Maria Kilk

began inviting friends to train with him once lockdown restrictions started to lift.

"What was just something for

lockdown has turned into a full-time job for me."

Charlie was keen to encourage students, who study coaching

as part of their course, to make the most of opportunities which may come their way in spite of challenging times.

Farmer Strong training is keeping Charlie fit and busy while the wrestling programme takes a break due to social distancing restrictions.

UNIVERSITY OFFERS FOR SPORTING STUDENTS



Leigh
College

NIAMH MURPHY

Course: **BTEC Level 3 Sport Science**
Formerly: **Woodhey High School**
University Offers: **BSc (Hons) Sport and Exercise Science**
- **Edinburgh Napier University**
- **Lancaster University**
- **Manchester Metropolitan University**
- **Liverpool John Moores University**
- **Newcastle University**

"Ideally I'd like to be a footballer but if that doesn't work out I want to work in sport nutrition, maybe as a nutritionist at a football club or other sport team."

"I've really enjoyed College because the class size is so small it's easy to have good discussions and if you don't understand something then the teachers will go through it personally with you."



Leigh
College

SAFFIE YATES

Course: **BTEC Level 3 Sport Science**
Formerly: **Woodhey High School**
University Offers:
BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy - University of Liverpool
BSc (Hons) Sport & Exercise Sciences
- **University of Birmingham**

Saffie wants a physiotherapy career in the NHS.
"I want to be a physio as I'm interested in using movement to heal."

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