

collegematters

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Graduates Celebrate

In November, just a week after HRH the Earl of Wessex officially opened the University Centre, our annual Graduation Ceremony took place at Burton's Town Hall, celebrating the achievements of higher education students. East Staffordshire's Mayor Councillor Cedric Insley and Mayoress Fay Insley hosted the event, the awards were presented by Keith Norris whilst guest of honour, Steve Yianni Director of JCB Engineering Operations, addressed the students.

In total, 254 students successfully passed a range of undergraduate and postgraduate courses including Honours Degrees, Foundation Degrees, Higher National Diplomas, Higher National Certificates and teacher training qualifications. Subjects covered range from Construction, 3D Design, Textiles, Software Engineering and Applied Information Technology to Business, Management, Dance, Performance, Civil Engineering, Polymer Technology and Manufacturing.



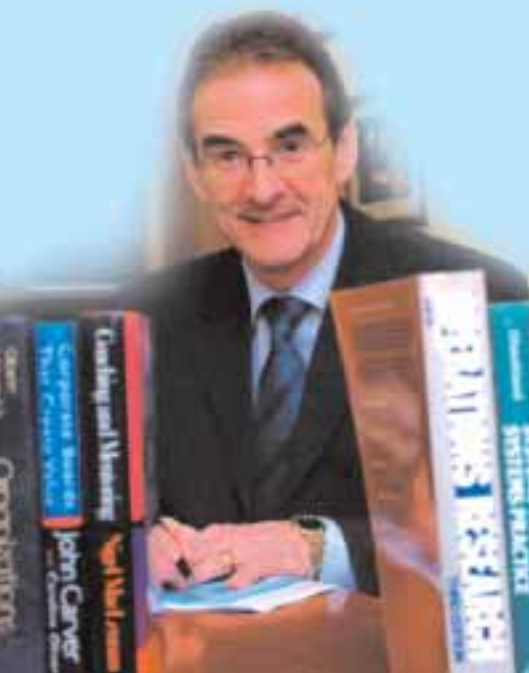
message from the principal

Taking Stock and Moving Forward

These last few weeks have been very exciting and challenging for everyone across the College. We opened the University Centre on 6 November followed by the Graduation Ceremony on 13 November and we have just finished Inspection. It is not surprising, therefore, that I find myself reflecting on past achievements and focusing on moving forward.

Opening of the University Centre

The opening of the University Centre by HRH The Earl of Wessex was a great success and a tribute to everyone in the College and our many partners in the community and business. The attendance of business leaders and in particular Sir Anthony Bamford, Chairman of JCB, signified the importance of the Centre and the need to ensure students have the opportunity to develop the high level skills that will be needed to build a successful career and to support the development of the local economy.



The University Centre is radically different from traditional universities; we are not seeking to compete with existing universities. We want to use the University Centre to break down the traditional social barriers to undertaking HE and to support the economic development of East Staffordshire and South Derbyshire. In particular we want to:

- Provide progression routes for the College's FE students and pupils from local schools.
- Raise the aspiration levels across disadvantaged and under represented groups.
- Make sure all our students have the high level skills they will need for the future.

Consequently, the courses we offer are being designed and, in some cases, delivered in partnership with local companies. The Centre also offers development opportunities for members of staff who wish to extend their experience by working with HE students. I would stress, however, that teaching at this level cannot be seen as elitist. It is just as important to ensure quality teaching at all levels of further education.

Our aim is to ensure students can join the College at a level that is appropriate to their level of ability and progress to the highest level. This is only possible through the efforts of every member of staff at the College.



There is a lot I could say about the opening and in particular, the involvement of staff and students. We are, however, in the process of producing a commemorative booklet which will be made available to members of staff. I am pleased, however, to report that His Royal Highness and other guests were very impressed by the rousing welcome that staff and students gave on his arrival, the quality of the facilities and more important the staff and students he met. The catering students and staff provided a superb lunch for the Prince and 64 distinguished guests at Pirelli Stadium. One of the area's most respected experts in providing quality food stated 'that he could not believe how anyone, let alone students, could have prepared such a high quality lunch for so many people'.

Graduation Ceremony

The Graduation Ceremony was once again a great success. The Town Hall was packed to capacity with graduates and their families. It was also significant in that it marked the coming of age of the College's Foundation Degrees with the first cohort of graduates.

message from the principal

Inspection

I am writing this on the Wednesday morning of Inspection Week. It is too early, therefore, to report results. We should all be very proud, however, as it is already very clear to the inspectors that everyone at the College is committed to what we are doing and to all our learners. Although we still have some challenges, particularly with adult retention, ***we have come a long way and now have the platform for achieving excellence within the next two years.***

Moving Forward

In many ways the opening of the University Centre represents the last piece of the jigsaw that we started to put together ten years ago. In the early years we concentrated on developing a range of FE courses to ensure people of all abilities could access an appropriate course and progress within the College. The initial phase included the development of the LRC, dedicated Sixth Form Centre, Student Support Services and Dining Facilities. The second and more substantial phase was to affect the move off the annex at Rolleston. The facilities were out of date, not capable of supporting high quality education and inaccessible for disabled students. The site was sold in 2001 and the new Creative Studies Centre built on the Town Centre Campus. A new Sports Hall was also built at Shobnall Fields. The final phase included the construction of the Automotive and Engineering Skills Academy, which opened in July 2007.

More importantly, we have seen a sustained growth in student numbers, ***with staff successfully developing new skills and facing the challenges of change in a very positive way.*** This was exemplified in the response to the restructuring process and the enthusiasm and determination shown by everyone since its implementation in July 2006. Students are happy to be at the College and achieve significant results.

I am sure you will not be surprised that, together with Governors, we have started the

process of producing the next set of development plans aimed at maximising the benefit of the work we have already done, developing new provision, and achieving excellence.

The partnership we have developed with local schools and the introduction of 14–19 vocational diplomas will be an important area of development. The College has already submitted and received approval for two diplomas in Engineering and Information Technology, both of which will start in September 2008. A further three have been submitted to the gateway; Social Health and Development; Creative and Media and Business, all of which will start in September 2009. The overall plan is to offer 14 lines of study by 2010.

The number of full-time and in particular part-time students undertaking HE courses will continue to increase rapidly over the next five years. The number of College students progressing from FE to HE programmes in the University Centre has increased by 29% this year. Students from Burton on Trent have trebled and those from South Derbyshire doubled. The creation of an 'education quarter' running from the current College buildings to St Peters Bridge has been proposed in the Town Centre Action Plan. This will give the College the opportunity to further expand and for the provision of a range of services required by our students. The College's original building will be remodelled and brought up to the same standards as the new facility. Emphasis will also be placed on developing modern state of the art workshops. In addition, we are exploring the feasibility of developing a 14–19 Skills Academy in Swadlincote and Burton.

The focus achieved through the new organisation structure will enable staff at all levels to build on the progress already made in improving student performance and achieve excellence within the next two years. The College will be a major force in: ensuring that individuals are able to fulfil their aspirations; breaking the cycle of social deprivation and driving the economic development of the area.

We can all look forward to the future with confidence that the College will continue

to develop. It will be a place where staff are proud to work; students will want to learn and develop their careers, and employers will have confidence in forming training partnerships to increase the skills level of their workforce.

Governors



We are pleased to welcome Frank McArdle to the Board to Governors. Frank is the Chief Executive of South Derbyshire District Council. On joining the Governing Body Frank said "I see Burton College as a vital component

in the provision of not just educational services but in making a consideration contribution to the economic growth of East Staffordshire and South Derbyshire." Frank will be a great asset both in terms of his personal skills and his role in reinforcing the College's position as the major provider of education and training in South Derbyshire.

College Christmas Party, Friday 21 December 2007

This year's Christmas party will have the added dimension of celebrating the success of the inspection process. I would therefore like to ensure that everyone attends. Due to the date of the party being very close to Christmas we have had to change the venue to Bretby Conference Centre. The email survey on the preferred form of entertainment resulted in a majority of two to one in favour of a disco rather than a live singer/duo. We will therefore be providing a disco with the expectation that you will let your hair down a little!!

Staff development activities will cease at 12.00noon. The party will start at 1.00pm with a glass of wine and buffet. For those who require transport, a coach will leave College at 12.30 and return at 5.30pm. I look forward to meeting you all and having a good time at the party.

students in the limelight



1 Over 150 local people, who do not have English as their first language, have successfully passed nationally recognised exams and, as a result, greatly improved their English skills to help them communicate in their work and community lives. The 158 learners have achieved Skills For Life City and Guilds qualifications in Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening. The latest achievers, brings the total to over 400 who have achieved qualifications over the past year.

Pictured are some of the successful learners with Curriculum Leader Alison Hodgson (centre left) and Curriculum Area Leader for Skills For Life Melanie Kemp (centre right).

2 A representative from Great British Finance has visited National Certificate in Business students. Shamila Akram, an Independent Mortgage Adviser for the Swadlincote based independent financial advisers, spoke to the students about how to manage their money effectively.

Pictured clockwise from front left are Cheran Stevens, Harsharan Singh, Philip Downes, Hannah-Marie Wintrip, Kayleigh Hines and Shamila Akram.

3 Two students have had the opportunity to provide the conference sound at the press launch for BBC's Strictly Come Dancing. Jay Ahern, a student on the BTEC Music Technology course and Rob Day, who is following the HND in Music Technology course, provided the sound for the event which comprised 14 microphones and four wireless microphones used by the presenters and celebrities and audio feeds which were provided to BBC television cameras, radio and recorders held by

members of the press. Held at The Wardolf Hilton, the press conference was hosted by Tess Daly and attended by the celebrities taking part in the series including John Barnes, Kelly Brook, Gaby and Kenny Logan together with journalists from the country's national newspapers. Following the conference, the audio recording was transmitted out on BBC radio and television stations.

Jay (left) with Rob.

4 Four professionals from Queensland, Australia have visited learners as part of a Group Study Exchange Programme, organised by Rotary International. Police Officers Sharee Lewis and David Batt together with Horticulturist Peter Hockings and Tanya O'Shea, who works in a community organisation assisting the disadvantaged, unemployed and disabled, spent the morning with a class of ESOL learners, as part of a visit to the area designed to help them experience their own business and professional work in a different culture.

Back row left to right: Rotarian Co-ordinator Peter Halliday, David Batt, Peter Hockings, Team Leader Rotarian Judith Henderson, Tanya O'Shea, Sharee Lewis and College Facilitator Zahida Sher.

Front row left to right: Amin Ayub, Kamaran Gharib, Dikhwaz Mustafa and Shno Mirkhan.

5 A College apprentice has been judged to be amongst the top five carpentry apprentices in the country by representing the East Midlands in the National Finals of the annual Skillbuild competition. Sponsored by CITB-Construction Skills and Jewson, the competition is designed

to promote excellence amongst young craftspeople in the UK. Following his category win in the East Midlands Finals, which were held in June at North Nottinghamshire College, Ben Eagles, who completed his NVQ Level 3 in Carpentry and Joinery at the College in the Summer and works as a carpenter for Linford Group, took part in the Site Carpentry competition.

6 First year beauty therapy students have attended a workshop to learn more about the professional Nature's Way skincare range of products. Katrina Bradin from Bellitas, a manufacturer and leading supplier to the professional beauty industry, visited the College to demonstrate a range of skincare products, teaching the students how to use the range effectively.

Pictured are Monisha Janagal (left) and Lucy Tomlinson with Trainer Katrina Bradin.

7 Public Services students have spent the day at Carsington Water taking part in a canoeing activity and course, as part of the Adventurous Training unit of their qualification.

8 An Environmental Health Officer (EHO) from East Staffordshire Borough Council has visited Hospitality and Catering students. EHO Samantha Olive spoke to the BTEC Level 3 National Certificate in Hospitality students about the importance of food safety in a hospitality environment, looking at food safety and hygiene inspections.

Pictured clockwise from centre are Alex Harris, EHO Samantha Olive, Ashley Parker and Lecturer Pam Hitchens.

students in the limelight



9 A trained midwife and reflexologist has visited Holistic Therapy students to raise awareness of how the use of complementary therapies can help women to give birth. Denise Austin, who works for the NHS at Samuel Johnson Community Hospital in Lichfield, spoke to the students about the use of reflexology during the birth process to help calm, relax, restore and maintain the body's natural equilibrium. Due to this, it can be effective in helping to manage pain and stress.

Pictured left to right are Trisha Craig, Tora Smith, Midwife Denise Austin and Alison Tipper.

10 Local people who attend the College's Never Too Late To Learn programme, a series of day schools specifically designed with the mature student in mind, have enjoyed a guided visit to Derby City Council's Mayoral suite, Derby Cathedral and Bridge Chapel.

11 Students have taken part in a sporting challenge as part of Enterprise Week 2007. Organised by Sports and Travel and Tourism students, the "Burton College Olympics" event, which was held at Shobnall Leisure Complex, involved students from across the campus competing against each other in a variety of sports including football, athletics, basketball, netball and hockey. Organised annually by Enterprise Insight, Enterprise Week, which ran from 12-18 November, is a national celebration of enterprise aimed at kick-starting a more enterprising culture amongst young people in the country.

The winning team of 1st year HND Sports Performance & Coaching students.

12 Public Services students have enjoyed a visit to one of the country's main naval dockyards at Portsmouth. During their two day trip, which was designed to give the group a taste of life in the Royal Navy, they visited Lord Nelson's flagship at the Battle of Trafalgar, HMS Victory. In addition they spent time at HMS Excellent, a shore based training establishment, undertook the Navy's swimming test at Physical Education Centre HMS Temeraire and enjoyed a tour of the Type 23 Frigate HMS Westminster. The students also got the chance to visit HMS Nelson, which houses the Royal Navy's highly acclaimed activity centre, where they participated in a range of activities including a Sea King helicopter flight simulator, a naval gunning exercise and Royal Marine climbing wall.

13 Students from the Entry to Employment (e2e) course have taken part in a residential programme at Rosliston Forestry Centre, designed to develop independent living skills. The group took part in a variety of activities over three days including orienteering, laser clay pigeon shooting, shelter building, laser combat, climbing and archery. In addition they received a demonstration on how to handle birds of prey which was organised to build confidence. All of the activities were planned to develop those abilities, which are essential to fostering excellent life skills such as team building, problem solving, decision-making and communication.

14 Holistic Therapy students have been learning the complementary therapies of Thermal Auricular Therapy and Metamorphic Technique. During a training day, the students were shown

how to use Hopi and essential oil ear candles as part of an Indian relaxation ceremony designed to help calm the mind and soothe the head and ears. Evolved from Reflexology, the practice of Metamorphic Technique involves a light touch along the spinal reflex points on feet, hands and head, inducing a state of deep calm and stillness to ultimately help people to become focused and fulfill their own potential.

Pictured, left to right are Alison Page, Trisha Craig and Lecturer Elisabeth Pearson with model Clare Williams.

15 On the second day of term, Foundation Skills students took a trip out to the National Forest Maize Maze at Conkers for a "Getting To Know You" exercise. Split into three teams, the students competed to see who could find ten Harry Potter themed clues first. After a few hours in the maze, the students then enjoyed the other activities on offer including giant jenga and go-karting.

16 Local children aged between 7 and 15, have attended a presentation morning with their parents and friends to celebrate their achievements in successfully passing national computing qualifications. The children, who had all completed a term's study at the College's Computers for Kids Class, received certificates covering a range of computing activities, presented by Keith Norris. In addition, a questionnaire quiz on general knowledge was held, with the three winners receiving a book token.

recognising achievements



85 students have celebrated their achievements at an Awards Evening held at the Uttoxeter IT Learning Centre. Amongst those celebrating was Ian Bradley, who was awarded a portable DVD player in recognition of his outstanding achievement. Commenting on the event, Centre Manager Carol Whittaker said, "Over the past year, the Uttoxeter IT Learning Centre has consistently been the number one Tektra centre out of 38 centres nationally, for achievement and retention, due to the hard work and dedication of both our students and staff. We place a lot of focus on ensuring that local people enjoy a quality learning experience in a comfortable and friendly environment, whilst achieving nationally recognised qualifications."

Pictured, left to right, are Keith Norris, Carol Whittaker, Tektra Commercial Director Brian Foreman and Ian Bradley.

The hard work, determination and achievements of Foundation Skills students have been honoured. The 19 students, who had all completed the Foundation Skills course, which is designed to help prepare young people for either further training or employment, attended a presentation evening with their parents. In addition, the students were the first cohort to have undertaken a new module entitled Working With Others, which specifically focused on developing the essential skills that employers are looking for.



Pictured is David Flint who has progressed on to a full time IT course with Course Leader Wendy Upton (left) and Curriculum Area Leader for Skills For Life Melanie Kemp.

In October, 75 young people achieved Foundation and Advanced Apprenticeships in a variety of disciplines including Engineering, Decorative Occupations, Wood Occupations, Hairdressing, Customer Service and Motor Vehicle. Amongst those celebrating was Andrew Redfern, who works at L H Group Services. After successfully completing his Advanced Apprenticeship in Engineering well in advance of the completion date, Andrew, who was named Apprentice of the Year by his employer, has now progressed on to studying for a Foundation Degree at the College.



Pictured left to right are Keith Norris, Andrew Redfern, Director of Employer Engagement and Marketing Howard Boswell and LH Group Services Training Manager Andy Whyatt.

college news extra

Learning to Sign

Members of staff were given the opportunity to learn some basic sign language, as part of national Learn To Sign Week. Organised by the British Deaf Association, the week is an annual event designed to encourage members of the public to join in and learn British Sign Language (BSL). A series of fun and practical taster sessions were held, during which Sangita Page, the tutor for BSL Level 1 at the College, taught staff how to finger spell, sign their name and ask basic questions such as 'How are you?'



Sangita Page (centre) with Katie Parkes and Sol Jones-Wynter.

Fund-raising fun!



The College raised £39,50 for this year's Jeans for Genes campaign. Pictured are those who helped to organise the collection: Howard Brierley with Sandra Berzinc, Jenny Marples, Emma Windess and Ruth Welsh.

Across the campus, students and staff got involved in a range of activities for this year's Children In Need appeal. At the time of going to print £3150 had been raised and money was still being counted. A selection of photos shows how much fun everyone had.



Family Learning Fun!

Winshill Village Primary School and the College's Family Learning Team have joined together to celebrate National Family Learning Week and The Big Draw campaign. Local families were invited to a special event which was organised as part of the Campaign for Learning's national drive to raise awareness of the importance and scope of family learning, strengthening communities and creating more opportunities for the family to learn together. In addition, the afternoon provided an opportunity for people to support this year's eighth Big Draw, which encourages the use of drawing to engage with the past, present and future.

Pictured are Carly Rutland and son Connor.



people news

A tribute to Jaunie Fisher by Sue Woods

Jaunie was a well respected colleague to all who knew her, but to the Sixth Form she was also a friend, someone who supported you and mentored many budding tutors. Whenever Jaunie is remembered it is with affection and a smile in her choice of footwear, her glasses being permanently perched on the top of her head and for her lovely infectious smile that seemed to brighten everyone's day. Her untimely death on Friday 23 February 2007 is a day we will remember with great sadness, a day, which has left a void in the Sixth Form that cannot be filled. In remembrance of Jaunie, a cherry tree was planted in the small garden at the back of the College and Jaunie's husband Rodney and best friend Chris Bull were asked to come and commemorate a plaque that now sits below the tree.

Left to right: Mike Benford, Josie Taberner, Ros Firman, Chris Bull and Rodney Fisher.



Visually impaired learner (registered blind) Leanne Watson is currently doing extremely well on the first year of her National Diploma in Performing Arts course. Recently she did a sponsored drive round Donnington Park on behalf of Guide Dogs for the Blind raising £96. She is very popular with her peers and they help her when they can to include her in their activities. Next term, she will be performing in two College productions.

business news



As part of a nationwide £2.5 million initiative run by business advisory firm Deloitte, we are one of the first colleges in the West Midlands to run a new course aimed at boosting the employability skills of young people. The initiative, which focuses on helping young people to develop the skills, attitudes and behaviours that they need to secure and sustain employment, was officially launched at an event attended by Janet Dean MP. The College's BTEC National Certificate in Business students are currently the first group in the College to undertake the course.

Clockwise from centre: Janet Dean MP, Sally Jones, Dildar Tamber, Shakeel Hussain, Rachel Young, Shirley Alabaster and Cheran Stevens.