

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COLLEGE GROUP NEWSLETTER

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Student Spotlight

We're thrilled to share that David Stephens, our February apprentice of the term, has successfully progressed to the national heats of the Skill Electric 2026 competition.

Skill Electric is the UK's premier skills competition for electrical apprentices and learners, showcasing the very best emerging talent from across the industry. Finalists have the opportunity to demonstrate their skills on a national stage, with exceptional competitors going on to represent the UK at EuroSkills and WorldSkills events worldwide. The competition is delivered by the charity NET, in partnership with WorldSkills UK.

A fantastic achievement! We will be proudly supporting David at the event!



Major Incident Simulation 2026

Our students from Wycombe and Aylesbury Campus have recently taken part in an exciting and immersive Major Incident Simulation at Buckinghamshire Railway Centre.

Learners gained invaluable hands-on experience by working through a realistic emergency scenario alongside ambulance, fire and police professionals. Public Services students led the response and coordinated teams, while Healthcare students triaged and treated casualties played by fellow students. Special Effects Make-Up students enhanced the realism of the exercise by creating convincing injuries and trauma effects, helping to replicate real-life emergency conditions. Forensic Science students then investigated the scene, collecting and logging evidence using professional methods.

The event allowed students to apply their learning in a real-world setting, develop teamwork and communication skills, and build confidence. It was an engaging and inspiring experience that highlighted our students' enthusiasm and dedication to their future professions.

Key Dates

* **College Closed**
Monday 25th May -
Friday 29th May

* **Bank Holiday**
Monday 25th May

* **Term Starts**
Monday 1st June

* **GCSE Maths**
Wednesday 3rd June

* **GCSE English**
Friday 5th June

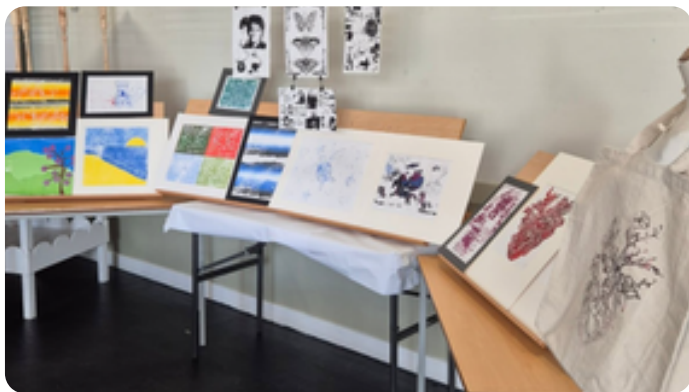
* **Functional Skills Maths**
Week of 15th June

* **Functional Skills English**
Week of 18th June

This Term in Pictures



Health and Social Care students took part in a powerful disability initiative with Stoke Mandeville Spinal Research, completing the Wheels at Work challenge to deepen their understand of disability while raising vital funds.



Art students set up a pop-up exhibition to showcase their print and 3D work, giving them a valuable taste of exhibiting ahead of their final projects.



Music, Event Management and Media students played a leading role in the Volunteering Celebration at Aylesbury campus, creating a lively atmosphere, managing exceptional delivery, and capturing highlights of the event.



Uniformed Public Services and Sport students tested their skills at Topgolf, as part of a competitive sport unit developing technique, accuracy and competition.



Final GCSE Revision Sessions

The last round of revision sessions before the June exams will take place on the following dates:

- Amersham: 28–29 May, 10am–2pm
- Wycombe: 26–28 May, 10am–2pm
- Aylesbury: 28 May, 10am–2:30pm (focus on English Language Paper 2)

Please make the most of these opportunities and the tutors available during each session for help and exam guidance.

Alumni Success



We are proud to celebrate our alumnus, Tony Stewart. Tony studied Level 3 Creative Media production at our Amersham Campus before progressing to UCFB, where he works as a Recruitment Officer alongside his studies. He has also gained experience across a range of media projects at university and has a passion for football media. We wish him the very best in his career progression!

We asked Tony what advice he would give to current students:

"Make the most of every opportunity available to you, both inside and outside the classroom. Get involved in projects, ask questions, and don't be afraid to put yourself forward."

Did you study here too? We'd love to hear your story! Scan the QR code and share it with us.



University Highlight

Upcoming Open Event
Saturday 13th June 2026



SEND Spotlight



When unforeseen circumstances forced the college canteen to close for the day, the Pathway to Employment group stepped in to ensure students were still supported. The Harmony Café team quickly organised a shopping trip, gathered additional ingredients, and prepared a range of hot meals including pizza, chips, jacket potatoes with various fillings, and other options. Their swift action provided essential meals for students who rely on the canteen and might not have been able to afford alternatives or travel into town, demonstrating great teamwork and community spirit!

Apprentice of the Term



Well done to Anisa Grazette who is currently completing her Level 3 Dental Nurse Apprenticeship! Anisa has been nominated by her Dental Trainer, Kelly Shepard, as an exceptional apprentice who has demonstrated remarkable growth, resilience, and dedication throughout her journey. She began her apprenticeship with a clear ambition and, despite challenges with confidence, has continually persevered, developing into a skilled, compassionate, and professional dental nurse.

Anisa consistently produces work of a high standard and is deeply committed to patient care, always ensuring comfort and support. Her growing passion for oral health education highlights her drive to progress further. As she approaches her End-Point Assessment, Anisa is more than ready for the next step, and her future in the dental profession looks bright.

We have received excellent feedback from her employer:

"Anisa is making strong progress in her clinical skills, gaining confidence and becoming more organised and efficient in surgery tasks. She maintains high infection control standards and communicates warmly with patients, showing empathy and professionalism. She is motivated, responds well to feedback, and is a valued, reliable member of the dental team."

Career Event Highlights

Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles UK



Jamie Dixon from Volkswagen Commercial Vehicles UK visited our students for an insightful careers session.

Jamie shared a detailed overview of early-career pathways within the Volkswagen Group, including apprenticeships, undergraduate and postgraduate routes, and what applicants can expect from assessment centres and interviews. Students gained a valuable understanding of the skills, behaviours, and qualities that major employers look for when recruiting new talent.

The session was extremely well received, with students describing it as motivating, informative, and confidence-boosting. Some of the feedback included:

"I'm going to apply for an apprenticeship with the VW Group."

"Now I have some more ideas about what I want to do."

"Jamie was confident and great at explaining!"

"The presentation was well explained and gave direct points to what qualifications one would need to work or have a chance at getting in the company."

We are also delighted to share that the VW Group will be supporting upcoming Mock Interviews through Workzone, giving students even more opportunities to develop their employability skills.

Games Talk - University of Staffordshire



Our gaming students took part in an engaging and informative session delivered by Staffordshire University, giving them a realistic insight into studying Game Design at university.

During the session, students:

- Gained a clear understanding of what university life at Staffordshire is like, including student support and campus culture
- Explored key principles of game design and how the degree is structured
- Learned about the different routes into the gaming industry and the skills needed for future careers
- Took part in discussions about the gaming sector, university expectations, and progression opportunities
- Discovered the cutting-edge facilities and resources available to Game Design students, including specialist game development studios and high-spec equipment.

Future Events...

Keep an eye on Student Space, where all upcoming events, workshops and talks will be posted. These sessions offer valuable opportunities to explore diverse career paths, meet employers, and speak with institutes. It's a brilliant way to learn more about your options and build confidence in planning your future.

Careers Education at College – Drop in Clinics

At Buckinghamshire College Group, we are committed to helping every student feel confident and informed about their future. One of the most valuable ways we've been supporting this is through our lunchtime careers drop-in clinics. These sessions have quickly become a key part of our careers offer, providing students with an easy and informal way to ask quick questions, explore their future options, and understand the wide range of guidance available to them.

Students have been using the drop-ins to get advice on everything from course choices and apprenticeships to CV tips and future career pathways. The relaxed setup in the canteen makes it simple for students to pop over during lunch, get the information they need, and be signposted to further support where helpful. Many students who attend also go on to book personalised careers appointments, showing the impact these sessions are having in helping them think ahead.

These clinics complement our wider programme—which includes upcoming events, Work Ability Workshops, and sessions led by external providers—ensuring students have the knowledge and confidence to make well-informed decisions about their next steps. However, the lunchtime clinics remain one of the easiest and most accessible ways for students to get started.



College Clubs



College is more than just lessons — it's a place to discover who you are, build lifelong friendships, and explore your passions.

That's where College clubs come in! Whether you're into arts, sports, culture, leadership, or simply looking to try something new, there's a club for you. These student-led groups are the heartbeat of campus life, offering:

- 🎯 Opportunities to develop new skills
- 🤝 Connections with like-minded peers
- 🌍 A chance to make a difference in your community
- 🎉 Fun events, trips, and activities throughout the year

Check out Student Space for running clubs and updated dates and times.

KEY DATES | **APPRENTICESHIPS** | **WORK EXPERIENCE** | **JOBS** | **NEWS**
PARENTS/CARERS | **RESOURCES** | **UNIVERSITY**

the
future



Bucks Skills Show 2026 - What an event it was!

Were you amongst the 6,000 people who rocked up to Stoke Mandeville Stadium and took part in the biggest careers event in Buckinghamshire? To check out the photos and videos from the two-day event, [read our round-up here](#).

Menu Masters final crowns first ever Bucks winner!

More than 450 Year 9 students battled it out by creating and presenting their incredible concepts for restaurants. Two brilliant business owners - Atul Kochhar and Karim Kassam - and their teams supported the students throughout the competition, with four teams making it to the final on April 27th. But who won first prize?

[Read on to find out!](#)



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How to prepare for an apprenticeship assessment centre

If you're applying for an apprenticeship, you might be invited to an assessment day where you'll carry out some exercises and activities designed to see how well you'd fit in with the company. If this sounds daunting, don't worry - **here are some ways you can prepare.**



Five ways AI can help you explore your career options

Not sure what you want to do when you're older? There are lots of AI tools available that help you match your strengths and interests with real-world career paths. Plus, they can help with applications and interviews.

There are also [lots of jobs in AI](#).

[Learn how AI can open doors for you.](#)

Great minds think differently!

There are lots of employability programmes, post-16 support networks, supported internships and alternative learning options for young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Discover a world of possibilities here.

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Sector spotlight: High Performance Engineering

Buckinghamshire is a world leader in high-tech engineering, with Formula 1 teams among thousands of businesses based around Silverstone alone. Colleges and universities, including the Silverstone UTC centre of excellence, offer plenty of courses too.

Learn all about a career in high performance engineering.



**Virtual work
experience
– it's the future!**

Looking for work experience but don't want to go into a physical workplace yet? Virtual work experience sounds perfect for you! There's a variety of employers and sectors offering opportunities.

Learn all about this brilliant way to gain experience.

For the attention of parents & carers

We are looking for employers who can offer meaningful and inspirational work experience to young people. It could be an activity, a site tour, a placement - anything that opens a window to the world of work. **Learn how you or your employer can get involved here.**

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