

#outstanding

A snapshot of life at Weston College, the TES FE College of the Year 2015



WESTON
COLLEGE



College of the Year!

Apprenticeships pay

The apprentice of the year – and her employer – share their story. **Page 8**

Creating brighter futures

A small selection of our many student success stories. **Page 30**

Outstanding – and beyond!

Find out why Weston College remains the only Ofsted outstanding college in the West of England. **Page 2**



A warm welcome to Weston College, a thriving organisation which should be your first choice for all your training and education needs.

Why? Because not only are we **still** the only Ofsted Outstanding college in the West of England, but because we've also won the prestigious TES FE College of the Year award for 2015, as well as the TES Overall FE Provider of the Year title.

These honours further endorse what I have believed for some time, and that is that we truly are one of the very best colleges in the country.

What makes Weston College stand out?

No matter what the national education agenda is, no matter what financial challenges we face, I believe we continue to thrive first and foremost because of our ethos of ensuring we put the learner at the heart of everything we do.

Our learners continue to earn consistently high academic achievements, year-after-year, which puts them in a very strong position to go on to Higher Education or into employment.

We continue to work very closely with a wide range of business partners, so that we can equip our learners with the specific skills that employers are looking for.

They are taught by talented teachers with many years of industry experience; we have invested in fantastic facilities and are proud of providing superb support for students, whatever their individual needs.

Should you need any further convincing, then the pages of this magazine provide a snapshot of what Weston College has to offer, plus student success stories.

If you like what you see then come and visit our outstanding College for yourself. Together we can take the first steps towards creating your brighter future.



Dr Paul Phillips,
Principal and Chief Executive OBE

Outstanding – and beyond!



We offer a wide range of courses for everyone.

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Open evenings

If you like what you've seen in this magazine, why don't you come and visit our fantastic facilities and find out first-hand what our outstanding College can offer you. Visit one of our open evenings!

Wednesday 14th October 2015, Tuesday 10th November 2015, Wednesday 13th January 2016 & Wednesday 15th June 2016.

Visit our website for more information.



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Winner

COLLEGE OF THE YEAR

College of the Year!

Hot on the heels of earning Ofsted's highest rating, outstanding, Weston College took two top titles at the prestigious TES FE Awards in 2015.



Weston won the coveted College of the Year Award, and was also named Overall FE Provider of the Year.

Principal and Chief Executive Dr Paul Phillips OBE said: *"It is fantastic for the work that has been carried out at Weston College to be recognised on a national level."*

"It was very pleasing that the judges recognised our aim of providing Further Education for as many members of the community as possible."

"This marks a fantastic achievement in moving from a college in poor financial health, providing poor quality education in 2001, to one rated outstanding by Ofsted; in fact, we remain the only outstanding college in the West of England."

The judges praised Weston College's focus on staff development and the way it has cultivated strong relationships with employers and external partners.

Dr Phillips said: *"Our policy of putting the needs of students first in everything we do means we meet the educational needs of everyone in the community."*

Ian Munro, Regional Director of the Association of Colleges SW, said: *"It is a tremendous accolade for Weston College to win a TES award, but to win two in one year is a fantastic achievement and recognises the absolute commitment of all the staff towards its students and their success."*



We mean business

Popular TV and radio presenter Nicki Chapman was guest speaker at the annual Weston College Business Awards.

She praised the College for its outstanding work with employers and learners, and said: *"Taking calculated risks has paid off, to make this one of the most outstanding colleges in the UK."*

The glittering gala event, at Cadbury House, was attended by well over 300 guests.

The awards attracted more than 160 nominations, a massive 200% increase on the previous year.

Interested in a course? *Want to find out more?*

GKN choose Weston

GKN Aerospace chose Weston College as its partner for a prestigious flagship apprenticeship programme.

The choice of Weston as GKN's training provider for its September 2015 apprentice intake at Filton followed a competitive selection process.

GKN Aerospace cited the College's business-focused approach, quality of facilities and the dedication and commitment of staff to ensuring a high-quality learning experience for apprentices as key factors in Weston being chosen.

Dr Paul Phillips OBE, Principal and Chief Executive of Weston College, said: "We're delighted to be working with GKN Aerospace."

"We're committed to creating an engineering training and skills programme which will directly support the development of a highly-skilled, innovative and valuable workforce."

GKN's apprentices will train at new, state-of-the-art, facilities at the South West Skills Campus.

Weston College will also be one of the first in the UK to offer a new Trailblazer Apprenticeship in the aerospace industry.



Teaching talent recognised nationally (again!)

Two talented tutors from Weston College have won prestigious national teaching awards.



Plumbing lecturer Scott Austin and offender learning lecturer Jerry Nightingale were selected from tens of thousands of nominees nationwide to win Silver Pearson Teaching Awards 2015. It's the second year running that Weston College has taken two Silver Awards.

Scott said he was "overwhelmed to have been put forward. To get this far, with the College's support, has been fantastic and a great honour."

Jerry said: "It's fantastic to have this recognition for the work that my colleagues and I do."

Principal and Chief Executive Dr Paul Phillips OBE said: "This result shows that Weston College teaching is at the top of its game."

Outstanding academic achievements – again

The aim of Weston College is to create brighter futures and a key way of measuring success is through the academic achievements of its students.

In 2015, once again, a record number of people graduated from Weston College; so many in fact that, for the first time, the College had to stage three ceremonies in one day in order to accommodate them all.

Meanwhile, the latest A Level results were also cause for celebration: 99% of our sixth form students passed their A Levels, and an outstanding 27% achieved the top grades – A* and A.



Employability Chartermark

Weston College has been awarded an Employability Chartermark for Education in recognition of its commitment to ensuring its students are ready for work.

This is a new accreditation commissioned by the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership as part of its drive to deliver a well-motivated workforce with the skills to meet business needs.

Ben Cocks, Progression and IAG Controller, and Cat Knight, Strategic Lead for Schools Partnership, received the award on behalf of Weston College.

Ben said: "Achieving the Employability Chartermark is significant as it externally verifies the quality of our employability provision across the whole organisation."



Celebrating success

TV's 'The Apprentice' star 'Jedi' Jim Eastwood returned to Weston College to help students celebrate their successes.

Jim, Vice President of internet voucher firm Groupon, was at the Winter Gardens for the College's annual Celebration of Success event.

Principal and Chief Executive Dr Paul Phillips OBE said: "These awards reinforce the success of the ethos which permeates throughout the College, of putting the student at the heart of everything we do and strive to do."



Law and professional services academy

Plans have been submitted to give Weston-super-Mare's historic Winter Gardens a brighter future and a new lease of life as a Law and Professional Services Academy.

Weston College plans to refurbish the 1927 ballroom and restore it to its former glory, ensuring it remains available for public use.

The rear extension, built in 1989, will be transformed into the new academy which will expand the College's existing Law and Accountancy offer to one that provides a dedicated Entry Level to Level 4 curriculum.

It will include:

- Law and Justice Services, such as commercial law, international law, civil law and youth justice
- Financial Services, covering banking, investments, insurance and pensions
- Accountancy Services, including accountancy, audit, taxation and PAYE
- Professional and Business Services, covering leadership and management, sales, marketing, HR and business support services.

Dr Paul Phillips OBE, Principal and Chief Executive of Weston College, said: "Our aim is to bring something to Weston that will aid regeneration and see a growth in learners.

"This facility will meet the demands of local employers and continue to raise Weston-super-Mare's reputation nationally as a centre of excellence for education and training."

It is hoped work will begin on the new academy early in 2016.



The future technology centre

This new flagship facility will up-skill learners, giving them "work-ready" technology skills in a number of key curriculum areas.

These include creative and digital, advanced engineering/civil engineering, automated manufacturing and local carbon.



It will boast the latest technology and state-of-the-art, industry-linked, teaching spaces and will incorporate technology-related employability skills from Entry Level through to Level 4 courses.

With progression pathways designed in partnership with local employers/universities, the new centre will provide a technology-ready workforce for new and established SME employers.

The centre will engage with and provide hands-on inspirational learning activities for both primary and secondary schools in a bid to help create the digital inventors and designers of the future.

NSETC New Build

A multi-million pound project to create the new North Somerset Enterprise and Technology College (NSETC) in Weston-super-Mare is well under way.

Construction work on the purpose-built premises at the Junction 21 Enterprise Area is on schedule for completion in July 2016, with the doors opening to students in September 2016.

The NSETC will house specialist, state-of-the-art, facilities dedicated to the STEM subjects: Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.

BAM Construction UK was awarded the £12 million contract to build the three-storey centre, which will feature a whole floor dedicated to science, complete with 'super labs' and a terrace on which to conduct outdoor experiments.

There will also be technology and enterprise spaces, a dedicated all-weather sports pitch, sports hall, canteen and lecture theatre.

The NSETC will be able to accommodate 700 students, with flexibility to house more should applications increase.

Principal Karen Cornick said: "The fact that this is the only school in England to be built within an enterprise zone means that, from the start, we are part of a wider development in Weston which focuses on developing STEM training, expertise and employment within the region."



Interested in a course? Want to find out more?



Sensory learning base opens its doors

A new Sensory Learning Base for students with Profound and Complex Learning Disabilities (PCLD) has been created at Weston College as the final part of a £1 million investment.

Ben McConkey, the College's strategic lead in inclusive practice, said: *"Our programmes will help young people develop the skills to lead more independent lives, access their community and develop relationships with family and friends through a wide range of sensory experiences and holistic approaches."*

Weston College Principal and Chief Executive Dr Paul Phillips OBE described it as a 'vital' facility for the area.

He said: *"It's a far cry from when the College first opened its doors to a small group of teenagers with learning difficulties and disabilities back in 1981.*

"We now have more than 1,000 learners receiving support on further education and higher education courses across all sites.

"This is a vital new facility for the local authority that will support some of the most vulnerable young people in our community."

Heron's Moor Academy

A celebratory dinner was held to mark Heron's Moor Academy joining the Inspirational Futures Trust (IFT), which is sponsored by Weston College.

The multi-academy trust was created to raise aspirations and offer inclusive learning at all levels.

Through collaboration and partnership, the IFT academies will provide young people in Weston, North Somerset, and beyond with enriching academic, professional and technical programmes to prepare them for successful careers and healthy, confident and active livelihoods.

Heron's Moor Academy is the first primary to join the IFT, which aims to provide bespoke support at every level of education, with specialisms in primary, secondary, special and alternative education sectors.

Julie Fox, Head of Heron's Moor Academy, said: *"We have established a reputation for being forward-thinking and are delighted to have been given the opportunity to join the IFT.*

"We are looking forward to working as part of the trust to enhance the excellent education we provide for all our pupils."



Principal named for BFA

Bristol-born Caroline Down has been appointed the first principal of the new Bristol Futures Academy (BFA) which will open in the 2015/16 academic year.

BFA will be a free school in East Central Bristol for pupils aged 14-16 and will provide an innovative approach to learning for those who find mainstream education challenging.

BFA is part of the Inspirational Futures Trust, which is sponsored by Weston College.

She said: *"BFA is an exciting and unique proposition which will offer young people who have been unable to engage in mainstream provision the opportunity to be successful and to move forward with confidence."*

Jacqui Ford, Chief Executive of the IFT and Vice Principal at Weston College, said: *"All students can, and should, leave education well prepared for their life ahead, academically, personally, emotionally and professionally.*

"The IFT is committed to providing excellence for all learners."



Jacqui Ford, Chief Executive of the Inspirational Futures Trust.

Apprenticeships pay!

An apprentice's story

Weston College works with more than 1,400 employers to offer apprenticeships in over 100 different sectors. There's no doubt that apprenticeships pay – benefiting both the apprentice and their employer. But don't take our word for it...

As Rebecca Millard was nearing the end of her A Levels, she was considering her next step and, although she had applied to take a psychology degree, she decided that university was not the right path for her.

She took two counselling courses, which she funded by working full time, and then attended a Weston College open evening.

"I met some of the team from the Business Enterprise Centre who talked me through apprenticeship options, which I hadn't really considered before.

"This seemed ideal for me, as I could carry on working and earning on top of gaining qualifications within a specific career sector. I decided to begin my apprenticeship, and never looked back."

In summer 2013, Becky began her Sale of Residential Property apprenticeship with Debbie Fortune Estate Agents. She progressed from Level 2 to Level 3, and was named Weston College Apprentice of the Year 2015. She also won the title of Advanced Professional Services Learner of the Year.

"I wanted to be a property developer when I was younger, but without the initial financial input and skills, this was quickly put aside.

"It was when I started to really consider my career options that property again caught my eye."

She said: *"With an apprenticeship, you have so many options. You have an income, which means that you can live more independently and start to gain real work experience.*

"You meet people within your career sector and start to build your reputation.

"The College is in regular contact with employers to keep a strong relationship going between them. This strengthens the effectiveness of the apprenticeship for the learner.

"If a learner needs extra help with their work, their tutor is always at hand to provide extra learning, resources from the internet/college, or extra group learning sessions."

Over the past 12 months alone, Becky has been involved in the sale of 41 properties,



Debbie Fortune, centre, at the 2015 Business Awards, with TV presenter Nicki Chapman and Weston College Chair of Governors Jude Ferguson.

"I was really excited to begin my journey alongside Weston College, and now the final result has surpassed all possible expectations"

ranging in value from under £200,000 to well over £500,000.

Hard work

"The best part of the apprenticeship for me has been the feeling of finally achieving my goal after all of this hard work. It's so rewarding to know I have completed my training and can now go on to progress my career with the qualifications and confidence that being an apprentice has given me.

"My biggest achievement has been winning the Apprentice of the Year 2015 award; what an absolutely fantastic and thrilling way to end my course."

Becky is now working full-time with Debbie Fortune, and aims to get to the top of her field and eventually run her own business.

She added: *"Without Weston College, I wouldn't be where I am today. It was Weston College who actively inspired me to consider an apprenticeship; they fully supported me and their positive attitude towards individual choice and on-going learning made me feel comfortable to explore my options."*

An employer's story

Debbie Fortune launched her estate agency in 2009 and since then has successfully trained a number of apprentices in estate agency and business and administration.

Staff are supported at every stage of their development, through one-to-one mentoring, buddying up with a colleague and active participation in full team daily briefings. Apprentices also attend additional out-of-the-office training, sourced through specialist training providers.

Apprentices benefit greatly from on the job training, learning teamwork skills, negotiating skills, business skills, confidence in the workplace, and working to tight deadlines.

They learn that hard work is vital to succeeding in a fast-paced, competitive, environment.

The company philosophy is *"nothing is too much trouble, put us to the test"*, and that is practised by every member of staff, from Debbie herself to the newest apprentice.

The company was recognised at the 2015 Weston College Business Awards, winning the Apprentice Employer of the Year Award, the Small Business Employer of the Year Award, and being Highly Commended in the Apprenticeship Ambassador Employer of the Year category.

In addition to boasting the 2015 Apprentice of the Year/Advanced Professional Services Learner of the Year, Rebecca Millard, another member of the team, Scott Higgins, won the Intermediate Professional Services Learner of the Year Award.

Debbie Fortune said: *"Apprenticeships have now become a really viable alternative to further education, and are being recognised as such.*

"In my own experience, I've found that with the right apprentices, we have been able to improve everything we do.

"It has been great working with Weston College and I think that the service to employers has developed hugely over the last six years.

"The quality of the tutors is fantastic, the back-up they give and the support we get, is also very good.


"I would say Weston College is up there amongst the best."

“Without Weston College, I wouldn’t be where I am today”



Interested in becoming an apprentice or employing an apprentice?



 **01934 411 594**

 **apprenticeships@weston.ac.uk**

 **www.weston.ac.uk/apprenticeships**

The benefits of becoming an apprentice:

- Earn while you learn
- Gain valuable real-industry work experience
- Work towards nationally-recognised qualifications
- Good prospects: 90% of Weston College apprentices are offered permanent positions by their employers at the end of their training programmes
- Fantastic facilities
- Superb support for students.

Business benefits of employing an apprentice:

- Reduced recruitment and training costs
- Proven increased productivity
- Higher staff retention and staff morale
- Work-based training; most apprentices can work full-time in your premises without the need to come to College; and our trainers will visit you
- Chance to claim £1,500 employer grant
- Grow your own talent: train your staff to suit your own business needs.

English *and* maths

English and maths are critical requirements and basic skills, not only in life but in your career.

Weston College has a range of courses to help people improve their skills, gain qualifications they may need, increase confidence with English and maths and to help get you where you want to be.

It does not matter if you have never done a GCSE in English or maths, you have a grade D, E, or lower.

We can help you achieve the core aim of at least a grade C qualification.

Ofsted said:

“Learners are confident, articulate and receive exceptionally good support to help them develop their skills in English and Mathematics.”



Oscar's story

Oscar Smith studied A Level Maths, Further Maths, Chemistry and Geography at Weston College.

He said: *“I chose to study at Weston because I liked the range of courses on offer and the Sixth Form seemed like a great environment.”*

“The College is great for both teacher-led and independent studying. The teachers go above and beyond with the help they give, both inside and outside of lessons.”

“The maths department has been particularly excellent in engaging me with areas of the subject, and has offered me a variety of trip opportunities. They have also helped hugely with my application to Oxford University. I can't thank them enough.”

Oscar is planning to study maths at Oxford University.



Danilo and Marzena Lima

Polish born Danilo has benefitted from the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) course at Weston College, and has gone on to take two courses in electrical installation. He is planning to complete a Level 4 qualification with the aim of becoming a Programmable Logic Controller engineer.

He said studying at Weston College had given him *“the confidence and knowledge needed to progress to different levels of education”* and said he enjoyed being surrounded by *“great people who push you to achieve your best.”*

His wife Marzena said: *“Studying English at Weston College has helped build my confidence and improved my communication skills, giving me the chance to progress and achieve my goals.”*

“My proudest moment was when I passed my English exams with high grades.”

She now plans to do an Access to Higher Education Nursing course.

Kayleigh's story

Kayleigh Jones re-took her English and Maths GCSEs at Weston College nine years after leaving school and is now studying for a foundation degree in Inclusive Practice.

She said: *“Studying here has made me the person I am today.”*

“Without the level of support I have received, and chances that I have been given here, I don't know whether I would have come this far.”



“I have never thought university was an option for me, but the encouragement I have had pushed me and now I couldn't be happier.”



Peter proves it's never too late

Peter left school at the age of 14 with no qualifications and spent most of his working life as a landscape gardener and supermarket delivery driver, but wanted to take his career in a different direction.

“I knew I had to get some qualifications to get where I wanted to be. Someone suggested I should apply to Weston College and I'm so happy I did; I'm really pleased with the help I got.”

Peter completed Functional Skills in English and Maths at Level 1 and 2, and is now working towards GCSEs in both subjects.

Advanced Learning Loan

If you're under 19, you are entitled to free tuition and you won't have any examination fees. You may have to buy some books or other materials required for your course.

For the majority of people aged between 19 and 23, tuition and exam fees will be free, depending upon your previous attainment and financial circumstances.

If you are 24 or over, there is a range of options available to help with costs, including bursaries, Enhanced Learning Credits, Discretionary Learner Support Fund and more.

If you have to pay more than £120 for a course which lasts 24 weeks or more, you can spread the cost through a Direct Debit scheme.

Another option is the Advanced Learning

Loan. Sometimes, older potential students are put off from pursuing their dreams because they are worried about how much a college course will cost.

That is where the Advanced Learning Loan comes in.

This is available to ALL learners aged 24 and over who are undertaking a Level 3 or higher (Certificate or Diploma) course.

The loan will cover all your up-front tuition fees, including registration and certification of your qualification.

You don't have to pay a penny back until you start earning more than £21,000 per year. Even then, you only pay back 9% of however much you earn above £21,000.

So, if you earn £22,000 per year, your monthly loan repayment would be £7.

If you take out an Advanced Learning Loan to cover the costs of an Access to Higher Education course, and you then complete a university-level (Higher Education) course, then the loan is written off completely and you never have to pay a penny back.

What's more, you could start an Access course in January, and be off to university the following September!

For more information:

☎ 01934 411 481

✉ 24loan@weston.ac.uk

@ www.weston.ac.uk



How the loan helped me

James Moodhoo had been a self-employed builder for a number of years, but business was tough. He wanted to re-train as an electrician, but didn't think it would be possible.

He then heard about the Advanced Learning Loan from his tutor, and the College helped him with his application. He was surprised at how quick and easy it was to complete.

"I couldn't have done this course without the Advanced Learning Loan.

"Funding was my biggest issue when I was considering continuing my studies.

"I was a new father, and we didn't have a lot of money; self-funding the course just wasn't an option.

"Weston College provided fantastic advice, and the loan has really opened doors for me."

James has taken Level 2 and Level 3 Electro Technical Diploma courses and plans to continue studying in order to become a fully-qualified electrician.



Broadening my horizons

For seven years Rachel Edgecombe-Sims worked as a tutor in a secure psychiatric hospital. She was keen to progress in her career, but was concerned about the cost, support and flexibility she would require in order to make the next step.



Rachel picked up a copy of the Adult Course Guide and discovered the Access to Higher Education courses, and then came to Weston College to find out more.

She said: *"When I visited the College, I discovered the Advanced Learning Loan.*

"This has allowed me to study the Access course which, in turn, has enabled me to secure a place to study for a Mental Health Nursing degree at UWE.

"Like many single parents, I didn't have the money to pay for the course at my disposal.

"The loan has given me the chance to work towards long-term financial stability for myself and my son, as well as broadening my horizons."

Abigail's recipe for success

Professional Cookery student Abigail Pearce was named Junior Chef of the Year after impressing two Michelin Star chefs with her tasty lamb dish.

Judges Jonray and Peter Sanchez-Iglesias, of Casamia restaurant in Westbury-on-Trym, sampled the food and also awarded points for presentation.

Abigail's winning dish was inspired by the flavours, colours and aromas of spring; lamb cutlets, textures of bacon and lamb liver, celeriac puree, spring vegetables served with a port wine jus enhanced with dark Belgian chocolate.



Enterprising students win awards

Eight students and a teacher from the North Somerset Enterprise and Technology College gained three awards at the Young Enterprise scheme regional final.

The team won Best Trade Stand, Best Centre Lead and Best Business Advisor, and came third overall in the competition.

The NSETC students formed a company called Re-Kindled Light, making and selling vintage candles.

Managing Director Melissa Sturman (pictured) said: "Taking part in Young Enterprise has been my biggest and proudest achievement."



Chloe is a cut above

Talented teenager Chloe Helmore finished a close second in the British Hairdressing Student of the Year competition after displaying her skills in front of top international stylist Patrick Cameron.

Chloe, pictured with Sandra Bull, Weston College Curriculum Manager for Hair and Beauty, wowed the judges with a glamorous look she created in just 50 minutes.

She said: "It was an amazing challenge and experience. I felt so excited seeing my model on the red carpet and being praised by hairdressing stars."



Sports team bowled over by sponsorship deal

Weston College agreed a sponsorship deal with the ladies section of Victoria Bowling Club, whose members will wear the College logo on their shirts.

The sponsorship deal enables Sports and Public Services students to be introduced to the game.

The College's computing students are also reviewing the club's website.

Club member Cliff Chudley said: "This is a great development because it will encourage younger people to take an active interest in the game, and will enable us to play meaningful matches against College students."

Weston College Principal and Chief Executive Dr Paul Phillips OBE said: "This represents a great opportunity for both the club and the College; it underlines our commitment to the community in which we work and live."





HMP Portland's model learner

An OLS (Offender Learning Services) learner at HMP YOI Portland was nominated for the Koestler prison art award.

A VW Camper Van made entirely from wood by a learner who studied woodwork on a carpentry course at Portland was designed to fit the competition's theme of 'Journey'.

The learner said: *"I feel a great sense of achievement; I thank Weston College for giving me this opportunity."*

Student wins WorldSkills Web Design competition

Weston College student Jordan Tucker was declared winner of the WorldSkills Web Design regional finals.

Competitors received a professional brief and had to design a user-friendly website from conception to completion in a live competition without the use of template libraries.

Jordan, 17, who is taking a BTEC Extended Diploma for IT Practitioners, is now set to compete in a national final at the NEC in Birmingham in November.



Drummer's evening takes some beating

Top drummer Clive Deamer, who toured with Radiohead and played on Mercury Award-winning British albums Dummy by Portishead and New Forms by Roni Size, hosted an evening at Weston College to demonstrate his skills, talk about his career and the music industry.

His visit was part of a series of public lectures linked to the Weston College/Bath Spa University Music Degree course.



Scout hall restored by students

Uphill Scout Hall, near Weston-super-Mare, has been restored by a group of 20 Weston College students who are all on the autistic spectrum.

The students, aged between 18 and 24, prepared and repainted the entire wooden building, including its doors and windows, and even sleepers around the car park.

They undertook the project as part of a one year personal and social development course called Aspirations, which aims to develop independent living and employability skills through a variety of community projects and work placements.



Art students revamp waiting room

Talented art students have transformed the children's waiting room at Weston General Hospital's A&E department with a lively mural, to make the room more cheerful and welcoming, where children can wait happily to see a clinician.



A taste of success for Ben

Three years after leaving his native Hungary at the age of 15, talented student chef Ben Debreceni cooked his way into the final of the South West Student Chef of the Year competition.

Ben's culinary skills saw him create two delicious set dishes in just 90 minutes in the semi-finals, impressing the judges who included top chef Michael Caines MBE.

Ben said: *"The experience of competing was amazing, and I never thought about getting into the final; credit has to go to all my College lecturers for their teaching, support and faith in me."*



Students showcase their design skills

Ten graphic design students staged a showcase of 'Research for Social Impact' which showed ways in which they had used design to address a social issue.

As part of their work for the project, students had to gain an endorsement from a business, charity or other organisation validating the practical application of their idea.

They also displayed their personal branding, such as logos, stationery and promotional materials to pitch to potential employers for work after graduation.

Sport and Public Services Awards

More than 100 students, staff and employers attended the annual sports and public services awards event on the Grand Pier, where students were honoured for their sporting, coaching and leadership achievements.

Guest speaker was Danny Wilson, head coach of Cardiff Blues RFC, who spoke about striving for success and never giving up on your dream.

Sportswoman of the Year was Charley Williams, from the Extended Diploma in Sport and Exercise Science, for her contributions to the Netball Academy.

Sportsman of the Year was Callum Greenwood, from NSETC, who has been making waves in the swimming world.



Digital deal for music students

Two talented Music Technology BTEC and Music Production Foundation Degree students were signed by a record company in a global digital deal.

James Browne and Jake Redman of the band 'Leviathan' released their debut single 'Forgive You' in February 2015 with Bristol singer-songwriter Laura Newman.

Leviathan was signed by the German-based Loud and Lucky record label with world-wide digital release and record distribution in Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

Students design events listing programme

Two art and design students won a competition to design a spring events listings programme for The Cube Cinema Microplex in Bristol.

Evan Hollingdale and Jacob Staffon's design was chosen from more than 20 entries. Their entry, based on The Cube's retro feel and eclectic mix of events, was available in print from The Cube Cinema and various outlets throughout Bristol.



Cyclists raise funds to honour colleague

Cyclists from Weston College raised £1,200 for Diabetes UK in memory of a cherished colleague.

The 35 cyclists included College staff plus friends and relatives of Heather Wood, who worked at the Construction and Engineering Centre of Excellence for 15 years but sadly died in 2014.

CECE staff are planning more fund-raising events for the charity in Heather's honour, including a longer bike ride and a Tough Mudder challenge.



London showcase for College drama students

Musical theatre graduates from the Wessex Academy of Performing Arts at Weston College had their talents put under the spotlight in a show written by their lecturer and watched by a London audience.

The show, 'Somniatis', was created by Weston College teacher Sylvia Lane using material produced by herself and the Las Vegas-based composer Elvis Lederer, musical director of Cirque du Soleil.

MP praises outstanding College

Weston-super-Mare MP John Penrose praised Weston College's "excellent secondary education" in a newspaper article, and also recognised the College's superb apprenticeship provision.

Mr Penrose visited the College in February 2015 where budding broadcast journalists were able to question him on a variety of international and local issues, from global terrorism to the effect of the price of milk on dairy farmers.

After thoroughly enjoying his 'press conference' experience, Mr Penrose said: "I am really, really proud of the outstanding status of the College."



Weston College approved as Apple authorised training centre

Apple experts and industry professionals in Apple and Adobe technology will offer a wide range of bespoke courses aimed at first-time Mac users, IT or creative professionals, service technicians and all who use Apple Macs and Creative Suite for Business.

University Campus Faculty Head of Creative Arts Sarah Clark said: "This is a fantastic opportunity to find tailor-made courses with wide-ranging options – we can even deliver them at workplaces on a flexible basis to suit business needs."



**Authorised
Training Centre**
Education

Gold for care student

Health and Social Care students Charlotte Ludwell, Paul Marin and Isabelle Brunson were selected to take part in the WorldSkills UK South West area heats after submitting personal portfolios and placement experience essays.

Charlotte went on to win the Gold award in the heats and will represent the College in the finals in November 2015.

140 students applied to take part on the WorldSkills UK event for Health and Social Care students and only 48 were chosen to participate in six area heats.





Weston students earned a clutch of awards at an inter-college South West Hair and Beauty competition.



Weston College loves nothing more than celebrating success, and hosts several glittering gala events each year to honour the achievements of students, staff and partner organisations.



Each summer the Creative Arts department hosts an end of year show at our University Campus. The show celebrates the talents and hard work of students on our further education and degree level courses. This year hundreds of people visited the show which boasted a fabulous mix of fashion, live music, sculpture, media and more.



Performing Arts students from Weston College and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, used ground-breaking computer technology to stage a joint show called Time Lapse, which made it look as if they were performing alongside each other.



One of two Formula Ford cars sponsored by Weston College and which give motorsport students the chance to work alongside real mechanics at trackside on race days.



The Sixth *Form*

The Sixth Form at Weston College has its own entrance and outdoor social spaces, linked by a glass bridge to the remainder of our University Campus, with Loxton's dining area, café bar and award-winning LibraryPlus resource centre.



We offer a wider range of A Level courses than you will find in most school sixth form centres, plus many additional facilities and the chance for learners to immerse themselves in college life.

A Level students are taught in modern classrooms and use dedicated science laboratories, seminar rooms and computer suites.

All classrooms have interactive whiteboards, and creative arts learners study in two customised rooms which include sophisticated laser cutters for DT and textiles, and a large art room.

Bar mock trial

A group of 14 A Level Law students from Weston College travelled to Cardiff Crown Court to take part in the Citizenship Foundation Bar National Mock Trial competition.

Each school and college had to create a team of prosecution and defence barristers, jurors and witnesses in a mock trial that was assessed by a real judge.

The Weston team didn't make it through to the final, but did win some heats, with the 'jury' finding in favour of Weston's efforts, and those

who took part, in the setting of a real, working, crown court, said they thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

"Fun, practical insight into the world of legal battles. Definitely for those considering a legal career." – Josh, 'barrister for the prosecution.'

"Nerve-wracking, but considerably enjoyable. It has made me much more familiar with how a court operates." – Ryan, 'defence barrister.'

"A fascinating insight into the legal system." – Matt, 'witness.'

Erasmus cultural exchange

The Erasmus exchange programme provides Weston College Sixth Form students with the chance to experience living and learning in a different culture.

The Erasmus Project is a European Union-funded initiative linking Weston College with Berufliche Oberschule Rosenheim in Germany and Istituto Magistrale Statale Giulia Molino Colombini in Italy.

It allows students to visit the other areas, take part in lessons and broaden their horizons.

Jake Ruffles, a Weston College Erasmus Ambassador, spent a week at the school in Rosenheim, near Munich, taking part in

classes, visiting Munich University and being guided around the area by his hosts.

He said: *"The trip was a great experience for me. It gave me an insight into how our culture differs from theirs, such as the education system and day-to-day life."*

"I have also gained some valuable life skills and independence. I can't wait to go back!"

Confident presentations

The Extended Project Qualification is an optional extra for A Level students, although it does earn UCASS points, and requires them to complete an extensive piece of work, written or practical, in a subject area of their choice.

It culminates in a presentation evening which demonstrates the years' work of the learners.

Among the most notable presentations at the last EPQ presentation evening were Amy Burt's dress made from rubber tyres, Rebecca Capel's study on education, Alisha Elliman's upcycled chair and a presentation from Charlotte Grice, who had researched the effects of addiction on the unborn child.

Many staff and parents attended the presentation evening and were impressed by the confident presentations of the A Level students.



Field trips

Classroom learning in the company of a talented teaching team is just a part of the learning experience at The Sixth Form at Weston College.

Field trips also play an important role. Here's just a snapshot of some of the many trips taken over the past year:

The wonders of Wales for geography students

Geography needs fieldwork for students to be able to relate what they learn in the classroom to reality, so field trips are a key part of the learning opportunity offered to AS students.

This year, they went to Margam, South Wales, a trip that proved enjoyable from both an educational perspective and a class-bonding exercise.

Students visited a mountain biking centre, Cardiff Bay and Porthcawl, and enjoyed a coastal walk while supporting their learning through the use of GIS and other fieldwork techniques.

Gallery trips put art students in the picture

The AS and A2 art groups visited the Arnolfini in Bristol and Spike Island galleries, which provided students with an insight into some contemporary practice and informed their practical and contextual studies.

Both visits allowed the students to enjoy a talk from the head of programming, a tour of the exhibition and the chance to gain valuable knowledge through a Q&A session.

Eden Project

Aimed at the biodiversity unit for A2, students visited the Eden Project for a lecture to support their studies and add further perspectives to current environmental issues.

The trip also gave the students time to explore the different biomes at the project, and visit the 30-metre high viewing platform.

Historic trip to Rome

Half-term revision for History AS Level students involved much more than just reading books.

They spent four days bringing their history lessons to life by visiting Vatican City and the Colosseum in Rome.

They also enjoyed visiting other historic locations including the Roman Forum, Trevi Fountain, the Pantheon and the balcony from which Mussolini made many historic speeches.

Taking tips from the Clothes Show

AS and A2 Fashion and Textile learners visited the Clothes Show at the NEC in Birmingham to see a wide range of catwalk creations from the links of Zandra Rhodes, Mary Kantranzou, Julien McDonald and Henry Holland.

The students had a wonderful experience and returned to College eager to use their new-found inspiration.

Students enjoy magical experience

Media Studies and IT students had a magical time at the Harry Potter Studios in London to help with their respective studies of the film industry/context of film production, and animation.

Students were able to go behind the scenes and see many things that the camera never showed, such as the full level of detail in the sets and stunning costumes, props and animatronics.

The Making of Harry Potter gave them the ultimate opportunity to step onto authentic sets and discover the magic behind the movies' spellbinding special effects.

Students also got to star in their own scenes from Harry Potter, putting their acting skills to the test driving the famous Ford Anglia and playing quidditch on board a flying broom.

Textiles trip to London

First year A Level students travelled to London's V&A Museum to see McQueen's Savage Beauty exhibition.

The students enjoyed the inspiring opportunity and returned to College full of ideas.

The trip has motivated new and exciting ideas for an 'upcycling meets plastic surgery' unit, and was enjoyed by all the students, eager to put what they learned into practice in their second year.

Maths in the real world

A trip to Bath University offered 11 excellent mathematicians from The Sixth Form the chance to experience "maths in the real world" and received a masterclass on the papers required for students to progress into mathematics at top universities, including Oxford and Cambridge.

The valuable experience was part of the Further Maths course at The Sixth Form, where 30% of students are expected to progress of Oxbridge.

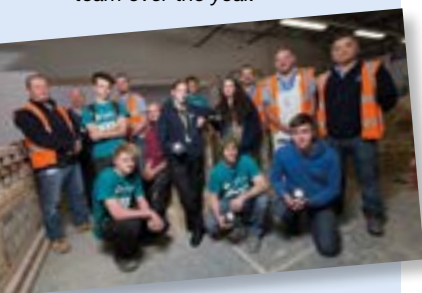
SkillBuild success for students

Weston College achieved Overall Best Performing College at SkillBuild South West 2015, after students from the construction department won a total of eight medals.

It was a record number of medals at the event for a single establishment, beating the previous record set by Weston College students in 2013.

Shaun Canniford, Construction Curriculum Manager, said: "Weston College has enjoyed a lot of success at SkillBuild South West over the past three years, and we are delighted that this year we have beaten our own record for medals awarded.

"It is a great achievement on the part of our students, and is also very much a reflection of the support the students have received from our dedicated staff and the British Ceramic Tile company, who have sponsored our tiling team over the year."



SkillBuild is an inter-college championship that takes place across the country with the support of the Construction Industry Training Board, with this year's South West Regional Heat being held at South Down College in Devon. Winners with the highest number of points are invited to a national final at The Skills Show, and the top performers are then selected to compete in WorldSkills, a national skills competition.

College gears up for engineering courses

Weston College has taken delivery of state-of-the-art machinery which will be at the heart of its new engineering provision.



The machines, some weighing over two tonnes each, were delivered to the College's South West Skills Campus on the backs of four large trucks, before being lifted into the College's new engineering centre.

Weston College invested £1.5m in creating a bespoke training centre that offers a full engineering and manufacturing curriculum, and became one of the few colleges in the country to offer an apprenticeship pathway in composites.

Dave Bassett, Weston College's Engineering Manager, said: "Engineering is an incredibly important part of both the local and national economy, and is responsible for £280bn of the country's gross added value. It's a fast growing industry and there is an enormous demand for qualified engineers.

"Weston College's brand new facilities will enable us to provide students with training on the most current and up-to-date machines, and properly prepare them for jobs in the engineering industry."

Engineering graduates can expect to earn 20% more per year than graduates from most other subjects, and it is expected that there will be 1.86 million jobs available in the sector over the next five years.

One of the strengths of Weston College in recent years has been to listen – and respond – to the needs of businesses, locally and regionally.

This is what has prompted the growth in the range of engineering courses being offered.

Weston College offers apprenticeships and traineeships to help businesses secure the highly-skilled talent they need, as well as offering bespoke training for existing employees.

The range of courses includes:

- Manufacturing engineering
- Mechanical engineering
- Electrical and Electronic engineering
- Composites engineering
- Maintenance engineering
- Aeronautical engineering
- Fabrication and welding engineering
- CAD/CAM engineering.

The College's state-of-the-art engineering workshops and labs include fully-equipped machining workshops, materials labs, hydraulics and pneumatics labs, PLC and control systems labs, electronics workshop, CAD suites, composites workshops, 3D printing facilities and fabrication workshops.



For more details about Weston College's engineering provision, visit: www.weston.ac.uk/engineering

Promising career in the pipeline

Chantail Brislin has been thoroughly enjoying her Level 3 Maintenance Operations Apprenticeship with Knightstone Housing, a key business partner of Weston College.

She said: "The facilities at Weston College are excellent and the teachers are incredibly helpful. My dream is to become a gas-safe plumber. The College has helped me gain the correct qualifications, and given me the

confidence I need to pursue this career.

"The College has arranged for me to complete my apprenticeship at Knightstone Housing, where I'm part of a team that works on empty houses and gets them ready to let."

After completing her apprenticeship, Chantail hopes to continue working for Knightstone Housing and to study for an NVQ in plumbing.



Interested in a course? Want to find out more?

College holds construction Open Day for women

Weston College held a construction Open Day for women at its South West Skills Campus.

The event was aimed at building upon the success the College has had in training female students in the traditionally male-dominated building industry.

Shaun Canniford, Construction Curriculum Manager, said: "We have seen an increasing number of women joining the construction department at Weston College in recent years, and we would like to encourage even more to join."

"The open day was an opportunity for prospective female students to meet staff from the construction, engineering and automotive industries and to discuss potential course and career options."



"It also offered them the opportunity to see our state-of-the-art industry-standard facilities and to find out about forthcoming taster sessions."



Apprentice Alex nails it!

Carpentry apprentice Alex Eastwood is building his brighter future thanks to the support he has had from Weston College.

He said: "The teachers at Weston College go above and beyond."

"I have been able to gain hands-on experience and have been able to use the skills that I have learned in the real world."

"Without Weston College, I would not have been able to find such a fantastic apprenticeship, and without them and Inspired Worx, I would not currently be working towards my career goals."

After completing his apprenticeship, Alex plans to complete an NVQ Level 3 and continue to work for Inspired Worx.

Set up for life – thanks to Weston College

Jorell Jemmett came to Weston College having been told by his school teachers that he would go nowhere in life and would not make anything of himself.

After a visit to his school from Weston College staff, he picked up a prospectus because, in his words, "I thought I had nothing to lose."



"Thank you so much to Shaun Canniford and the team; you have set me up for life."

"I didn't think I would get in, because of my qualifications, and I did not think I was going to commit to college."

"The attitude of the College staff, to want to help me, made me more respectful of rules; I was told what would happen if I got a job in the real world and kept turning up late."

"At college, they speak to you more like humans, all equals."

"I was very shy and did not have a lot of confidence when I came here."

"But I came out of my shell here because I thought I could talk to people normally."

Jorell completed a Level 2 Maintenance Operations Diploma, and is now working as a warehouse operative in Portbury.

"I am really enjoying it," he said.

"I am laughing at all my old teachers now; I have a steady job, a salary, and a lot of potential new doors are opening as a result of this job."

"Weston College has totally transformed me; if you met me two years ago, you would not believe the difference."

Major rally's pre-race inspection comes to the College

The College's Construction and Engineering Centre of Excellence hosted the 2015 Brean Stages Rally's scrutineering stage in January, an event that saw 107 rally cars visit the South West Skills Campus' Automotive Technology Centre (ATC).

The 'scrutineering' stage involves the cars being comprehensively checked by specialised inspectors from event organisers Club Rallysport West, to ensure sure they reach the exacting safety standards required to take part in the event.

This is the second time that the College has been asked to host the rally's pre-start 'scrutineering' stage. Weston College's ATC Curriculum Coordinator Paul Gavins said: "Being asked to host the scrutineering stage shows how excellent our facilities and inspection standards are."

"It was a show-stopping event and a great opportunity for rally fans to have a good look at the cars before they go down to Brean."

"The use of College facilities complements the College's dedicated course in Motorsport Engineering."



FdA Film & Media Arts Production

It has been an excellent year for the Degree in Film and Media Arts Production, with our first year of graduates completing the degree – and over half the students attaining distinctions.

This year has seen the students undertake their first on-location shoot, spending a week in Street and Glastonbury making the short film 'Writer's Block'.

This was a superb learning curve for them, as they were working with professional actors, and had to organise every element of the five-day shoot. Our first year students had a residential filming project of their own, spending five days filming a documentary in Nantes, France.

This excellent project introduced them to the dynamics of group collaboration, and resulted in a film that subtly and meditatively explores Nantes through the perspective of the outsider. The students then had the pleasure of seeing their films premiere at the Odeon in Weston-super-Mare.

It screened as part of a showcase screening event between BTEC Media Production and FdA Film and Media, with two hours of films from the two courses being played to a sold-out cinema. This screening followed the inaugural Dirigo Film Festival, an international student-film festival organised by our students, and taking place at the Cube Microplex in Bristol.

The festival was a huge success, with over 900 submissions from around the globe being curated in to a 20-film competition. Alongside these films, our students presented a one-hour showcase of their own films which sat very well amongst the best of their international contemporaries. Other exhibitions and showcases that our students have taken part in this include the Profusion Exhibition with FdA Photography, an evening of films at Loves Café, and a number of screenings at the bi-monthly Bluescreen and CineMe events in Bristol.

Higher Education at Weston College

More students are choosing to study degree courses with Weston College every year which is a reflection of our mission to deliver an outstanding Higher Education experience, enabling success and inspiring ambition.

Weston College has invested millions of pounds in our campuses and facilities, and recently completed an extension to our University Campus to provide six new, state-of-the-art, classrooms to accommodate our growing number of degree-level learners.

Year on year, our academic achievements exceed national figures. Last year, 20% of students

earned First Class Honours, significantly above the UK average.

Our university-level provision was recognised when it was awarded the highest judgement possible by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), the body responsible for academic quality and standards in UK Higher Education.



Lecturers gain Masters Degrees

Three lecturers became Weston College's first graduates from a Master's degree delivered in partnership with the University of the West of England (UWE).

Mark Harvey, James Hazzard and Gill Cook each received their MA in Education at a graduation ceremony held at UWE.

Mark, Programme Coordinator for degree courses in Uniformed and Public Services at Weston College, said: "The course fitted well around my work commitments and has enhanced my knowledge. The support from Weston College gave me the confidence to engage fully in the course and embrace the challenges it held."

James, who teaches further education (FE) and higher education (HE) courses in sport and who has also taken on a role in HE Quality and Curriculum, said: "The College encouraged and supported me to complete the MA in Education, which was tailored to meet the needs of a full-time employee, focusing on twilight lectures and flexible tutorial meetings. The one-to-one support at the College was outstanding.

"The course has allowed me to develop research skills that are transferable to a number of areas within the profession, as well as developing knowledge enabling me to further support Higher Education learners at Weston College."

Gill, Programme Co-ordinator for degree courses in Animal and Equine Management and a Tutorial Champion for the Business, Management and IT Faculty, said: "The MA has enhanced my ability to support students through the research process and allowed me to expand my teaching to research-based modules within our Foundation Degrees.

"It has also supported my tutoring at FE level and supported my role as Senior Tutor to guide and advise the Faculty on the most effective way to use tutorial and support systems."

Interested in a course? Want to find out more?



Expert engineer gives insight into software development

Degree level computing students received a unique insight into software development from Xbox Advanced Technology Group senior engineer Dr Mike Froggatt.

Dr Froggatt spoke to students about the latest in computer games development at Microsoft, recent hardware and software releases, the best free software applications to use when selecting games development projects for computing studies and offered future technical advice and support for Applied Computing students.

The visit was organised by HE Computing Lecturer Belsam Attallah who said: *“Computer games development is one of the preferred routes for HE Computing students, and Mike’s talks and up-to-date information in this field are always inspiring to them.”*

Top music producer in live broadcast

Top music producer Greg Haver provided a unique insight into the music industry by taking part in a live broadcast and public discussion at Weston College’s University Campus.

Greg has had a long-standing working relationship with the Manic Street Preachers and is renowned for his diverse production skills and innovative arrangements.

During his visit to Weston College Greg spoke about the current music industry, the role of the modern ‘recording studio’ compared to the project studio and the web’s impact on the sales and distribution of music.



Adam gets ahead with a bronze

Weston College student Adam Rush wowed London art lovers with his first sculpture commission.

His bronze busts of the Duke of Gloucester are on permanent display at the Museum of the Order of St John and at Kensington Palace.

He said: *“I was absolutely thrilled when I was asked I’d like to do the sculpture. It was the opportunity of a lifetime.”*

The work involved creating a clay model using photographs, combined with detailed measurements taken from the Duke himself.

Adam hopes to set up a studio with his painter brother.



Did you know...?

In September 2015 Weston College launched a brand new programme: FdSc Games and Animation Production, a rare combination of the two, incorporating both the creative and technological aspects of the industry.

Mixing business practice with sustainability

The first cohort has graduated from Weston College’s 10th Honour’s top-up programme.

The BA (Hons) in Business Management with Sustainability, awarded by Bath Spa University, teaches business knowledge compatible with issues around globalisation, ethics and cultural and social responsibility.

The one-year top-up course, aimed at learners with a Foundation degree or Level 5 qualification in a management-related subject, will train the socially and environmentally responsible business leaders of tomorrow.

It combines classroom-based work with industrial visits to show how the environment and business can work hand-in-hand.

Anthony Murray, Weston College’s Director of Higher Education, said: *“The introduction of this qualification is a landmark development for Weston College.*

“It provides students and employees with the opportunity to develop their leadership skills and understanding of business management with a particular focus on sustainability.

“It will help to create entrepreneurial future business leaders who are socially responsible.”

Success!

99% of Weston College’s graduates from 2014 were in employment or further study within six months of completing their course.

College launches exciting three-year law programme for apprentices

Weston College launched a new three-year law programme for apprentices, with law firm Foot Anstey taking on the first six.

The Business Administration Level 2 with Legal Pathway Apprenticeship can progress onto an Advanced Apprenticeship in Legal Services with careers leading to a variety of legal careers.

Weston College's Business Administration Coordinator Liz Painter said: "We set up this apprenticeship in response to requests from legal firms.

"The traditional approach to a legal career via A Levels and university is being challenged by apprentices wanting to earn while they learn."



Susie Halliday, Head of Learning and Development at Foot Anstey said: "We are delighted to be at the heart of this exciting new initiative which gives young people the opportunity to grow and have long-term careers with our business."

Success!

Nominations from employers for the annual Weston College Apprenticeship awards increased by 200% this year; that's a lot of happy employers.

Success!

More employers were nominated by their own apprentices than employers nominated themselves this year; that's a lot of happy apprentices.

Award shortlist for recruitment team

The Apprenticeship Recruitment Team at Weston College was shortlisted from entries all over the UK for the prestigious Recruiter Awards for Excellence.

They were the first college recruitment team to be shortlisted for the awards.

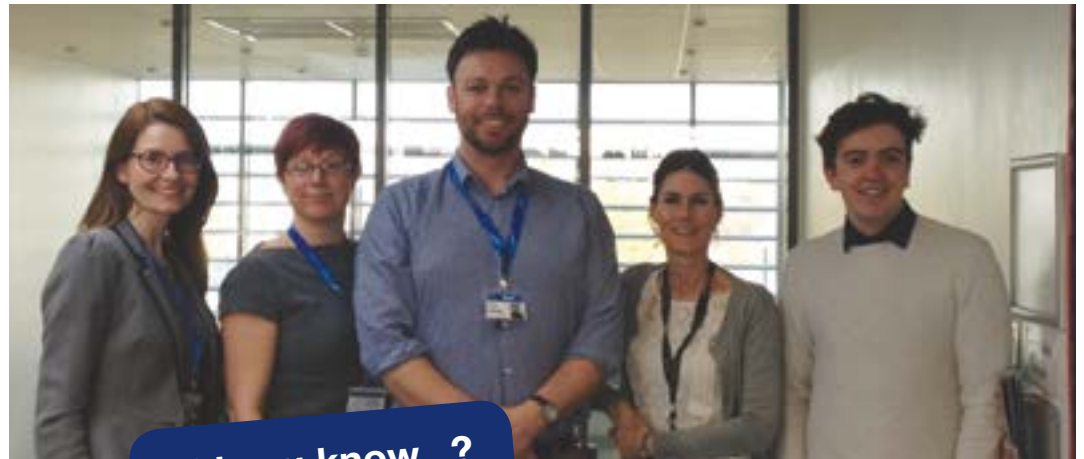
The team is comprised of experienced private sector recruiters and qualified career advisors, and works closely with the sales team, who reach out and engage with employers to identify their apprenticeship needs.

They advertise vacancies online, quality check

candidates and submit them to employers for interview.

The team was expanded in 2011 as part of a strategic plan to extend Weston College's apprenticeship offer to as many employers in the region as possible.

Since then, apprentice learner numbers have doubled and the College has become a national leader in apprenticeship provision.



Did you know...?

There are no age restrictions on our apprenticeships.

Did you know...?

Weston College has received twice as many apprenticeship vacancies in the last 12 months compared to the year before.

Prepare for work



Students gained a vital insight into what employers want as a result of Barclays Prepare for Work.

The week-long event featured a programme of activities which toured each Weston College campus.

It was staffed by Weston College Business Studies students who were specially trained as College Champions.

Tutorials were delivered focusing on CVs, applications, interviews and online resources were available to all learners to boost their employability skills.

Find out more!

If you want to become an apprentice, or want to hire an apprentice, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/WestonCollegeApprenticeships>

It is updated with regular information on how to get the best possible apprenticeship for you.

Email or call the Apprenticeship Recruitment Team on 01934 411 594 or email apprenticeships@weston.ac.uk with any questions you might have.

Come in and see us! We are based on the South West Skills Campus, Locking road, Weston-super-Mare, BS22 8NL

Register on www.apprenticeships.gov.uk to search and apply for all Apprenticeship vacancies.

Did you know...?

The majority of Weston College apprenticeships do not require a day release to college.

Want to know more? Contact the Business Enterprise Centre.

An apprentice of our own....

Damon left school last year and has just turned 17. He did not want to go to college full time and had had his fill of the classroom.

He wanted to be an apprentice and applied specifically to join The Apprenticeship Recruitment Team here at the College. In six months, he helped fill well over 100 apprenticeship vacancies with other employers. He reviews CVs and shortlists candidates under supervision, arranges interviews and compiles start information.

During National Apprenticeship week, Damon helped deliver assemblies to over 1,500 school children to talk to them about his experiences so far.

Weston College's Apprentice Recruitment Co-ordinator James Wilmot said: *"Damon arrives early and stays late. He seeks out new tasks and responsibilities. He does make mistakes but he learns from them. Don't we all?"*

"I have worked with many recruiters in the private sector over the years and I cannot think of many who displayed such professionalism and diligence.

"Damon is what apprenticeships are all about. For the apprentice, it's about building skills and confidence while taking opportunities to become



indispensable. For employers it's about providing the opportunity to someone who in no time at all becomes an invaluable member of a business that could not survive without them! Hiring an apprentice isn't a chore... it's a privilege."

Jordan's job success follows traineeship

Teenager Jordan Eyles had not worked since leaving school but was offered a job by Sainsbury's supermarket while on a six-month Traineeship at Weston College.

Traineeships are designed for young people, aged between 16 and 24, who want to work but who need a little extra help and support to get onto an apprenticeship or into a job.

The programme is made up of three main elements: personal, social and employability development; work experience; and functional skills, like English and maths.



Sometimes, our candidates may not have the confidence or the skills to progress straight into an apprenticeship, or they know that they want an apprenticeship but are unsure what industry to move into.

Traineeships are a perfect solution to these situations. Traineeships at Weston College include unpaid work experience arranged by us in industries suited to your ambitions to help develop skills and experience in the workplace.

Traineeships can also support improving your literacy, numeracy and ICT qualifications. In short, traineeships can help you become an A* apprenticeship candidate to help you successfully begin your career.

If you would like more information or if you are an employer who would like to offer a traineeship opportunity to someone, then please contact us on 01934 411 594.

It's a students' life for Weston College apprentices

Apprentices can still access all of the benefits of being a Weston College student, such as an NUS student discount card, subsidised bus pass, student support services and a wide range of enrichment activities.

Employers can also be included in networking events with other businesses, increased exposure in the media and can access other training opportunities for their staff at a greatly reduced rate than offered by other training providers. Employer and apprentice satisfaction rates are significantly higher than other colleges and training providers in the region.

Who are apprenticeships for?

Apprenticeships are the perfect choice for anyone who is:

- Leaving school, sixth form or college and looking to progress to the workplace and develop their skills.
- Interested in a particular industry sector but need to begin at entry level.
- Working in a job but without relevant vocational qualifications to reflect their skills and experience.
- Already employed and looking to develop their career further.

Apprenticeships are just the job for employers

The Weston College Apprenticeship Team works with employers of all sizes and from all industries.

The feedback is extremely positive and many state that their business could not function as successfully without their apprentices. Other reported benefits to business include:

- A more motivated workforce.
- Staff retention.
- Fresh ideas and a new perspective
- Cost effectiveness.
- Making a positive impact in the community by offering a great opportunity to a new recruit.

Did you know...?

The minimum wage for apprentices rises to £3.30 per hour in October 2015, but most employers pay significantly more.

Campus recognised for design excellence

Weston College's South West Skills Campus was recognised for its quality and design at the Local Authority Building Control (LABC) Building Excellence Awards.

The Locking Road site was chosen as a finalist for the Best Educational Building and Best Change of Use of an Existing Building or Conversion.

Linda Burlison, Weston College Assistant Principal – Systems and Resources, said: "Weston College believes in investing for its learners, and the South West Skills Campus is making a significant contribution to the training of a workforce ready to meet the demands of the future.

"We've worked hard with our partners, including Midas, to ensure that our outstanding College offers the best possible learning environment."

The Midas Group was recruited by Weston College to work on the £11 million project to create the South West Skills Campus on the site of the former Clark's shoe factory.

The project was designed to provide flexible learning spaces that could service teaching in the full range of construction trades, and enable Weston College to meet changing skills gaps identified by employers and businesses, as well as better meeting the needs of learners.

Is your business ready for Hinkley?

What is Hinkley Point C?

EDF Energy plans to build two new reactors at Hinkley Point on the northern Somerset coast next to the existing Hinkley Point A station, which is being decommissioned, and Hinkley Point B station, which is operational. This project, and all of its associated developments, is known as Hinkley Point C (HPC).

A new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point will not only provide a clean, secure and affordable source of electricity for around five million homes, it will also provide 900 new jobs at the power stations for more than 60 years.

There will also be a programme of investment in community wellbeing, education, employment and skills, and opportunities for businesses to win a share of £16 billion which is being invested in the construction project.

How does HPC affect my business?

Hinkley Point will bring around 25,000 employment opportunities to the South West throughout the build and as part of the contract, EDF has agreed that 34% of the employment will be within a 90 minute commute.

Although construction skills will be in popular demand there are many other trades needed for this project that include:

- Business and Management
- Health and Safety
- Engineering
- Administration
- Hospitality and Catering
- Facilities Management.

What can Weston College do for me?

Weston College will be working with local businesses to help maximise the potential HPC brings the area. We can support you to either reskill or upskill your workforce and help prepare for the huge impact HPC will have on our economy.

Flexible training solutions

We provide a wide range of learning programmes designed to suit your individual business needs, including; work-based learning, blended learning (a mixture of work-based, e-learning and college-based learning), as well as fast track routes for those with existing skills and experience.

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships are work-based learning programmes available at Levels 2-7. We offer a variety of different apprenticeships which will help provide your business and the learner with the skills needed for the HPC build and day to day operation.

Sector Based Work Academies (SBWA) and Sector Based Training Academies (SBTA)

SBWAs and SBTAs are available (demand led as and when required) to cater for individual employer needs and/or the needs of a group of businesses.

This bespoke training can be centred on a particular topic or identified sector need and can both complement and enhance other forms of training.



Want to know more? Contact the Business Enterprise Centre.

New apprenticeship recruitment agency launched

Brighter Futures Recruitment is a new agency supported by the Weston College Group.

We are an Apprenticeship Training Agency (ATA) working in partnership with the National Apprenticeship Service to provide a new business offer to all industries.

We remove a lot of the bureaucracy of employing new staff by providing a comprehensive recruitment service as well as delivering continuous support to both the apprentice and the business to ensure the placement remains beneficial to both parties.

In addition to the regular apprenticeship model, in which the business employs the apprentice and the training will be delivered by Weston College, we can offer an alternative for those businesses who require greater flexibility.

The apprentice can be employed by Weston College for an agreed period and Brighter Futures Recruitment, as the agency, will be responsible for HR and payroll. We simply invoice the business a hire fee which will include the apprentice's wage.

How it works:

- We meet with the business to discuss the skills needed, agree a job description and decide which apprenticeship model would be most appropriate
- We advertise the vacancy and screen potential applicants
- We then provide a shortlist of suitable candidates to interview
- The employer will conduct the interviews and select which candidate to recruit
- Depending on which apprenticeship model has been chosen, the contract of employment will either be delivered by the business or Weston College
- The apprentice will receive outstanding training provided by Weston College
- We remain in contact with both the business and the apprentice for the duration of the programme.

If you would like to find out more please contact our team:

☎ 01934 411 594

🌐 www.brighterfuturesrecruitment.co.uk

✉ info@brighterfuturesrecruitment.co.uk



What our learners say...

Lacey Clark Childcare Apprenticeship

"Weston offered an apprenticeship that I really wanted to do and combined practical work, trips and work placement in a way that has helped me gain experience, qualification and training. As part of my course I have been placed at Golden Valley House Day Nursery. My greatest achievement at the College has been passing my Level 2 qualifications and progressing onto Level 3."

Lacey hopes to remain working for her employer at the end of her apprenticeship.



Nathan Gelder Business Admin Level 2

"I am really passionate about IT and getting an apprenticeship with Roland DG via Weston College has been my biggest achievement. My apprenticeship tutor is brilliant and I really like the fact that I am learning valuable skills and at the same time getting paid."

After completing his apprenticeship Nathan plans to become a Technical Support Advisor.



Toni Squires Business Admin Intermediate Apprenticeship

"I chose to study at Weston College because I heard a lot of my friends saying how much they liked studying here. I really enjoy learning on the job because it means that I can work and make money, but at the same time earn a qualification and gain valuable work experience."

"Studying an apprenticeship has given me a better understanding of the roles and expectations of the world of work, and has encouraged me to become successful by showing me the possibilities and options that are available to me."

When this apprenticeship is complete Toni plans to start a Customer Services apprenticeship.



Billy Walker IT Professional (Intermediate and Advanced) Apprenticeship

"The support from the College has been exceptional and the units are well structured and very enjoyable. During the programming unit, I developed a computer program to automate the creation of reports. Studying an apprenticeship with Weston College has empowered me to complete tasks I thought that I would never be able to achieve."

After his apprenticeship Billy plans to remain with his employer, Symmetry, and become a DevOps Engineer.



Helping YOU get to university

If you always dreamed about going to university but felt it would not be possible because you don't have the right qualifications, Weston College may have the answer.

Access to Higher Education is a Level 3 Diploma designed to help adults who wish to progress to university to achieve their dream.

Weston College offers a broad range of diploma options which can enable progression onto a wide range of university degrees.

You do not necessarily need any formal qualifications to begin an Access programme, and you do not have to have been in education recently.

There is a route for you, whatever you aspire to. This year, our Access students have received university offers to study degrees in a wide range of subjects including:

- Paramedic sciences
- Diagnostic imaging
- Physiotherapy
- Nursing
- Midwifery
- Forensic Science
- Marine biology/zoology
- Cancer biology
- Social work
- Law/business
- Psychology/criminology



- Civil engineering
- Geography
- Inclusive practice
- Philosophy
- History
- Education.

We've done it, you can too!

Voluntary Work to Social Work

Ian had some challenges in his life as a child and young adult, which resulted in him not completing his education.

As an adult, however, he has decided to pursue his dreams.

Although he lacked self-confidence when he started his Access programme, he has excelled and earned offers to study degrees from three excellent universities.

He has accepted a place on a Social Work Degree at Brighton University.



Support Worker to Paediatric Nurse

Nadya has been juggling the challenging demands of motherhood while also being a support worker for adults with learning difficulties.

She achieved a distinction profile, and has been studying GCSE maths at the same time.

She has accepted an offer of a much sought after and highly competitive Paediatric Nursing Degree.



Waitress to Learning Difficulties and Disabilities Specialist

Angie has worked as a waitress for the last few years, while raising her family.

She has always had a desire to work with young adults who have difficulties.

She has been successful in her application to the University of the West of England for their Inclusive Practice Degree.

She is pleased that she will be based at Weston College for the first two years of her degree, and is extremely excited at being offered a work placement at Weston Bay, supporting young adults who are on the autism spectrum.



Success!

99% of learners successfully achieved their Access qualification in 2014

98% of Access learners who applied to university in 2015 were offered places

100% of those learners achieved the grade profile required to accept their offer of a university place

It's recommended that you have a GCSE Grade C in English and Maths before you start your Access programme, but if you don't, we have a range of options available to help you gain these qualifications and provide the stepping stones you need to get to university.

Adult courses

It's never too late to learn, and age should be no barrier to you taking a course at Weston College and following your dream. We offer hundreds of adult and part-time courses. More than half of our students are aged over 19, and we work hard to provide an adult-friendly learning environment.

Coming to college can be a daunting prospect, particularly if you're returning to education after a long break. But we work hard to ensure that every student feels as comfortable as possible, so that they can make the most of their time with us.

We also know that, as adult students, you are likely to have many other competing demands on your time. Our flexible, part-time course provision has been created with this in mind.

It could be that you have decided you would like to learn new skills, but are not sure precisely which course to take; do not worry. We offer free, individual, advice and guidance to help determine the most appropriate path for you.

Are you:

- Looking to find employment?
- Wanting to upskill or refresh your existing skills, so that you can be better in your current job?
- Pushing for promotion?
- Considering a complete change of career, in which case you may need to re-skill?
- Dreaming of going to university?
- Hoping to develop an existing hobby or interest, or take up a new one?

Whatever you want to do, Weston College will have a course which can help you succeed.

Facts:

- 96% of 19+ adult learners would recommended their course to others*
- 98% of 19+ full-time learners think "the College is a great place to study and learn."**
- Weston College provides over 1,000 businesses with training and support.
- Weston College provides superb support for students, individually tailored to their specific needs and circumstances.

*Mid-year student survey 2015.



Our Adult Course Guide (pictured) is full of information about the wide range of adult and part-time courses available, including:

- English and maths
- Access to Higher Education
- Animal Care and Equine
- Creative Industries
- Health, Public Services and Care
- Construction and Building Services
- Hairdressing and Beauty
- Motor Vehicle
- Teaching and Education
- Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities (LDD)
- Tourism, Sport and Hospitality.

What our students say!

John-Paul (Adult Literacy, Level 2)



John-Paul's course has been invaluable to him, as it has given him the opportunity to start a new job. He now feels he has the confidence to move on with his

life, and has started a career with UPS, where he has been receiving lots of new training.

He said: "It's been a fantastic course, just what I've always wanted to do."

Richard (Plastering, Level 1)



Richard left his previous job in search of a new challenge, and found Weston College very easy to commute to.

He said: "I enjoyed the course immensely. I am a DIY perfectionist, so being taught how to work to such a high level has given me a lot of pleasure."

Bethany (Travel and Tourism Level 3)



Bethany has really appreciated the diversity of courses and progression routes available within Weston College, so that

advancement can easily occur with minimal disruption to a settled student. She has also really enjoyed the residential trips, and carrying out projects in and around Weston. She said: "The support I received from the College really helped me transition back into education."

wife, who also studied here. He said: "The College has absolutely lived up to my high expectations. Staff are very professional and helpful, and now I am full of confidence about my new profession."

He is hoping to work full-time as an electrician.

Adam (Maintenance Operations, Level 2)



Adam fitted his studies around a job.

He said: "All my experiences at the College have been rewarding and

beneficial. The course I am doing is helping me develop skills in every aspect of the construction trade.

"It has provided me with options and the ability to see what I am good at."

He has even been able to use his new-found skills to do up his house outside of college.

Srikanth (Electrical Installation Level 2 and 3)



Srikanth ran his own convenience store, but was looking for a new challenge, and was prompted to come to Weston College by his

Creating brighter futures

The Weston College strapline is “creating brighter futures”, which means doing everything we can to secure a positive outcome for all our learners. Here are just a few of the many Weston College success stories. Maybe next year, YOUR story could be here!

Living their dream

A trio of former Weston College students hope to make music their lifelong career after releasing their debut CD.

Sisters Sally and Natalie Joiner, together with Anja Quinn, are collectively known as the Honeyfire.

Their music has been described as a “dark yet harmonious take on the indie-folk genre”.

Their self-titled debut CD was released through Jelli Records. Sally said: *“It has been tough, but seeing the finished product and playing to people who genuinely love our music makes it more than worth the effort.”*

Sally said she chose Weston College as she had been impressed by the quality of teaching and the standards of resources available when she had done work experience there, and went on to thoroughly enjoy her time as a student.

She said: *“It was a great feeling to be among such like-minded people, who were all so passionate.”*

It was while at college that Sally, who studied a BTEC Extended Diploma in Music Performance, (sister Natalie did a UAL Level 3 Art and Design Diploma), met Anja, a BTEC Extended Diploma in Music Practice student.

Anja had chosen Weston College because she felt the music course suited her better than those offered at other colleges and sixth forms.

She said she *“mostly enjoyed the amount of freedom and independence we were given as students.”*

“The opportunity to perform regularly in the College performance space was really beneficial as well as enjoyable. Being taught by talented professional musicians was inspiring.”

The Honeyfire have performed at Bristol Harbour Festival and the Bristol Acoustic Music Festival and have supported a number of national touring acts.



How Weston College has helped me

Apprentice Joshua Shapland plans to train to become a teacher, and says he has had a huge helping hand from Weston College.

“When I was applying for my apprenticeship, Weston College made me feel really welcome. I really liked the apprenticeship as it enabled me to learn hands-on skills and was not exam-focussed.”

“The College has really helped me with my applications to university and student finance and without Weston College’s help I would not have had the confidence to apply.”

Interested in a course? Want to find out more?



Paddy's palate gives him taste of success

Despite struggling with dyslexia in his paperwork exercises, Paddy Summerell-Youde is carving out a promising career as a Chef. He was named Hospitality and Catering Learner of the Year at the 2015 Weston College Business Awards.

Paddy started a Professional Cookery Apprenticeship in November 2011 at Gilly's Café in Nailsea, where he quickly demonstrated a natural palate and extra-special culinary skills.

He said: *"I've always loved cooking and, as a child, I was always influenced by my mum's passion for food at home. Studying at Weston College has enabled me to gain the qualifications I need to pursue my career as a chef."*

His employer, Gilly Chu, said: *"Paddy has been instrumental in bringing my business to where we are now."*

Paddy has become actively involved in all aspects of the daily running of a professional kitchen and has played a significant role in the planning, development and opening of Gilly's latest venture, an evening restaurant with a monthly changing menu of classic and international dishes.

Weston was "the perfect place" for Emma

Emma Hopkins is Global Creative Design Specialist at Twitter, and has been carving out an enviable career for herself since completing a Graphic Design BA Hons Degree at Weston College.

Emma knew from a young age that she wanted to be creative, but it wasn't until she came to Weston College that she received the guidance and encouragement to explore graphic design.

She said Weston College turned out to be the "perfect place" for her.

"The classes were small, the creative department has its own campus, which

made for a very amazing, 'real art school' experience, and tutors really encouraged experimentation and image making for your projects unlike other, more conservative, programmes.

"I don't think I would have had as good an experience at any other college and I should thank my tutors every day for how much they changed my life."

In 2014 Emma won the design category in the Brand You awards, hosted by Bristol Media. She has worked a number of high-profile clients including Cornetto, Colman's Mustard, Collins Dictionaries and Pampers.



Hollie's day!

Hollie Morgan's A Level results day was a good one – she earned A-stars in Biology, Chemistry and Maths, and she went on to win the A Level Student of the Year Award at the Celebration of Success event in January 2015.

After opening her results Hollie, who is partially-sighted and has sensitivity to light, said: *"I'm so pleased, I couldn't have done any better."*

She has deferred a university place to work with Vision North Somerset, a charity supporting blind and partially-sighted people.



We're officially UK College of the Year!

Come and see our
outstanding College
for yourself!

Open evenings

5pm-8pm:

Wed 14th Oct 2015

Tues 10th Nov 2015

Wed 13th Jan 2016

Wed 15th Jun 2016

www.weston.ac.uk/collegeoftheyear



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