

PARENTS' AND CARERS' NEWSLETTER

CELEBRATING 200 YEARS OF TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN KIRKLEES



Are you a Kirklees College alumnus?

2025 is a momentous year for Kirklees College, as we mark 200 years of technical education in Kirklees, through which we can directly trace the history of our college in its various forms in Dewsbury, Batley and Huddersfield. As part of our 200 Years celebration, we want to get as many members of our KC Community involved as possible, including our Parents and Carers!

Throughout the year, the Marketing team will be leading on a series of alumni case studies and podcasts, interviewing as many former students of Kirklees College as possible.



Who are we looking for?

- Parents / Carers who are former students of the college and have inspirational stories to share about how their education shaped their lives
- Former colleagues of Kirklees College who would like to contribute their memories of working with us over the years
- Kirklees College has changed its name many times over the years, and you may not realise you studied and / or worked here. Former names of Kirklees College include:
 - Batley School of Art
 - Dewsbury College
 - DABTAC
 - Huddersfield Technical College
 - Batley Technical College
 - Dewsbury Municipal Technical College
 - Ramsden Technical College
 - Wheelwright Sixth Form College

There is no formal deadline for these as it is an ongoing project, so please contact the Marketing team by emailing communications@kirkleescollege.ac.uk if you think you, or someone you know, has a story to tell.

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GOOD NEWS FROM KIRKLEES COLLEGE

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK ROUND UP

Monday 10 – Sunday 16 February was National Apprenticeship Week, a week-long celebration that brings together businesses and apprentices across the country to shine a light on the positive impact that apprenticeships make to individuals, businesses and the wider economy.

Kirklees College is one of the top apprenticeship providers in the region, employing over 1,000 apprentices across 1,000 employers every year. Therefore, during the week, across the college's seven specialist sites, apprentices, college staff and employer partners came together to showcase the outstanding achievements of the college's apprentices and highlight the benefits of the apprenticeship route.

Two Apprenticeship Recruitment Fairs took place at the college's Huddersfield Centre and Engineering Centres to offer students the opportunity to meet and discuss apprenticeship opportunities with local employers, such as Royal Navy, Marshalls, Haribo and Arla.

On social media, we highlighted some of our best apprentice, employer and T Level case studies to amplify the amazing placement and career opportunities available to our students through our vast employer network in Yorkshire. Check out our Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn profiles - @kirkleescollege – to see all the highlights from the week!



KIRKLEES COLLEGE HOSTS GROUND-BREAKING WORKSHOPS AND PERFORMANCE FROM SHARON DE-LEONARDIS

In January, we welcomed Sharon De-Leonardis of Spectaculararts to our Huddersfield Centre for a two-day programme of activities tackling issues of racism and the legacy of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. Day one saw students attend a Cultural Heritage Workshop led by Sharon, which explored the lasting impact of slavery and celebrated the achievements of those who have been affected by these impacts, but continue to strive for an equitable future.

On the second day, Sharon performed her ground-breaking play 'Rise of the Empress' to a sold-out crowd of students and staff. The play explored themes of belonging, heritage, self-discovery and resilience. Students and audience members were invited to challenge stereotypes and broaden their understanding of the diverse narratives that shape Black British Life. After the performance, there was an opportunity for students to discuss what they'd seen with Sharon, and audience participation was encouraged throughout.

These events are supporting the college's commitment to becoming an anti-racist organisation, promoting equality, diversity, and inclusion. Together, we can celebrate hope and work towards a brighter tomorrow, fighting racial inequalities and modern slavery.



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GOOD NEWS FROM KIRKLEES COLLEGE



CELEBRATING OUR APPRENTICES AT THE FOOD AND DRINK ENGINEERING AWARDS 2025

On Wednesday 5 February, Kirklees College hosted an awards ceremony to celebrate the hard work of its Food and Drink Manufacturing Apprentices. The awards were held at the college's Huddersfield Centre for the first time, and apprentices, their employers and family and friends were invited to enjoy a two-course dinner and drinks reception prepared by Kirklees College students before the awards commenced.

Awards presented included Best All-Rounder, Best Practical, Best Theory, Most Improved and Tutor Choice, with an apprentice from year one, two and three all being honoured in each category. Finley Campbell, Level 3 Food and Drink Maintenance Engineering Apprentice, secured the special Outstanding Learner award in recognition of his exceptional commitment to his apprenticeship.

The apprentices, who study at the college's specialist Process Manufacturing Centre in Huddersfield, are employed by some of the region's biggest Food and Drink employers, many of whom attended the awards. Employers in attendance to support the learners included: Princes Soft Drinks, Mars Petcare, Arla, Solina, Fox's Burtons Companies, Haribo, Premier Foods, Hovis, Grupo Bimbo and Sonoco.

Congratulations to all our worthy winners and thank you to all the employers and partners who attended the event to support them.

IMPORTANT STUDENT SERVICES UPDATES

The Student Services team are responsible for coordinating Financial Support for students across the college. Recently, we have increased our bursary eligibility threshold from £30,000 to £40,000. This means more students may now qualify for financial support to help with travel, meals, and study costs.

If your household income is £40,000 or below, your young person could be eligible. If they have previously been declined due to income, they may now qualify for support. Students can speak to the Student Services team at their centre of study for help with applying, or apply online at www.kirkleescollege.ac.uk/financial-support.

APPLYING FOR HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT FINANCE IN SEPTEMBER 2025

If your young person has applied to university, or a higher education course at Kirklees College or elsewhere, it's never too early to start preparing for their Student Finance application. Here's what you need to know:

- Applications open very soon (approximately March 2025)
- They will need your personal details, course info, household income (if applying for a maintenance loan) to hand when you apply
- Apply as soon as possible to ensure their funding is in place for the start of their first term

Head to <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance-register-login> to start their application.

Need help? Our Careers Team is here to support students with their applications. Drop by Student Services for advice on funding, budgeting, and what financial support is available. Students can get in touch with the Student Services team any time by emailing studentservices@kirkleescollege.ac.uk.

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IMPORTANT UPDATES

GCSE DATES / EQUIPMENT LIST

If your young person has not achieved a grade 4 in their English and/or maths GCSE, they will continue to study these subjects at college, as it is a legal requirement that all 16 - 18-year-olds continue to work towards gaining these qualifications.

To enhance their likelihood of achieving at their potential we plan to provide students with three opportunities to sit practice papers over the academic year and focus teaching and learning on areas to develop identified from the practice papers.

Maths practice papers:

Practice 3:

Component 1 non-calculator - 3 March 2025

Component 2 calculator - 17 March 2025

English practice papers:

Practice 4: Reading assessment - 17 March 2025



The real GCSE Exams take place in May and June 2025:

- GCSE Maths: Thursday 15 May and Wednesday 4 June
- GCSE English Language: Friday 23 May and Friday 6 June

For GCSE Maths exams, students will need to bring a scientific calculator to their calculator exams, and a black pen, pencil, ruler, eraser, protractor and compass to both exams.

For English exams, students need to bring a black pen, highlighter and pencil.

These are national exams and cannot be taken on any other date.



ADULT COURSE OFFER

At Kirklees College, we run hundreds of adult courses throughout the year to help you upskill in your career, or learn something brand new. With courses available across our Dewsbury and Huddersfield Centres, including our specialist Construction, Animal Care and Engineering centres, there are low-cost courses available at all levels across industries.

To view our latest course offer for adults, visit www.kirkleescollege.ac.uk/adult-learners.