

PARENTS' AND CARERS' NEWSLETTER

April 2025

GOOD NEWS FROM KIRKLEES COLLEGE

We've had another busy and exciting term at Kirklees College. From student trips spanning the globe, to unveiling brand-new facilities, there's plenty to celebrate this Spring. In this newsletter, you will find a summary of all that's been happening at college, as well as some important updates regarding Summer exam preparation, progression to next steps at college, and our Spring Adult Course offer.

KIRKLEES COLLEGE STUDENTS TAKE ON THE WORLD!

This term, Kirklees College students from across all seven centres and a variety of courses have embarked on some truly amazing trips.

BALI

In February, Education and Early Years and Xplorer students travelled halfway across the globe to Bali, Indonesia. They spent just over a week exploring the culture of Bali, immersing themselves in life in local villages and towns. During their time, they visited Penglipuran, the cleanest village in Bali, spent time at Sarin Rare school, learning about education in Indonesia, and discovered the incredible work of the Kultura Rehabilitation Centre, supporting children and adults with additional needs.



ARUBA

March saw our Sports students travel to Aruba, giving our students new perspectives on sport, culture and teamwork. During the trip, they watched a local rugby game, tried kayaking and BoxFit, visited South Pacific University to explore traditional games in local school curriculums, and coached a netball session with the Fiji U21 team as they prepare for the World Cup. There was also plenty of time for cultural activities, such as learning about local customs, farming and everyday life.

SOUTH AFRICA

Also in March, our Animal Management students were in South Africa! Whilst there, students had an unforgettable day trip and game drive at Hluhluwe–Imfolozi Park—Africa's oldest proclaimed nature reserve! Covering 960 km² of stunning, hilly landscapes and located just 280 km north of Durban in central KwaZulu-Natal, the park is renowned for its rich wildlife and innovative conservation efforts. This adventure offered an immersive learning experience in the heart of nature, where education meets the wild side of conservation.



VALENCIA

Just last week, our Football Academy touched down in Valencia, Spain, for a two-week training programme. This incredible opportunity allows them to train with experienced coaches, develop technical and tactical skills, experience football in a new environment, and immerse themselves in Spanish football culture!

DISNEYLAND PARIS

Health and Social Care students also travelled this term, embarking on a trip to Disneyland Paris! Whilst they were there, students attended an Equality, Diversity & Inclusion seminar, linking perfectly to their course. They gained insight into the inner workings of Disneyland and explored how the park supports neurodiversity—a fantastic opportunity to see classroom learning come to life!



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GCSE EXAM DATES

The summer exam period for GCSEs / BTECs and T Level exams is fast approaching. If your young person is resitting their maths and English GCSEs at college, the exam dates are:

- **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.

EASTER REVISION SESSIONS

There are GCSE maths and English revision sessions taking place this Easter at our Huddersfield and Dewsbury Centres. Your young person can book a place by speaking to their tutor.

HUDDERSFIELD CENTRE SESSIONS:

Monday 7 April – Thursday 10 April

- Maths 9am – 12pm and 1pm – 3pm
- English 10am – 12pm and 12.30pm – 3pm

PIONEER HIGHER SKILLS CENTRE

- Maths: 9 & 10 April, 9.30am – 12pm
- English: 7 & 8 April, 9.30am – 12pm



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HELPING YOUR YOUNG PERSON PREPARE FOR EXAMS

We know this can be a stressful time for many. It's completely natural for young people to feel some pressure, but looking after their mental wellbeing is just as important as preparing for their exams.

Here are a few tips to help them stay on top of things:

Create a Study Plan: Break down revision into manageable chunks and set realistic goals. Having a plan helps to stay focused and reduces anxiety.

Take Regular Breaks: Don't underestimate the power of a short walk, a chat with a friend, or simply stepping away from a study space to clear the mind.

Stay Active & Eat Well: Physical activity and healthy eating can boost their energy levels and improve their mood. Even a quick workout or a nutritious snack can make a big difference.

Reach Out for Support: Remind them that they are not alone. Talking to someone can really help. Whether it's a friend, family member, or a member of our team at Student Services, support is always available for our students

At Kirklees College, our Student Support Services are here for our students. Whether they need someone to talk to, tips on managing your workload, or guidance on maintaining a healthy study-life balance, we're here to help.

KIRKLEES COLLEGE UNVEILS NEW OPERATOR SKILLS HUB FACILITY

On 11 March, Kirklees College held the official launch of the Kirklees Operator Skills Hub, which is now on-site at our Engineering Centre in Huddersfield. This amazing new facility is part of our partnership with Flannery Plant Hire and Kirklees Council and will open opportunities for adult learners in our region to train as plant machine operatives as part of Skills Bootcamps. This is just the beginning, however, and it is hoped that the Hub will offer many more training opportunities for young people and apprentices in the future.



ARE YOU KIRKLEES COLLEGE ALUMNI?

This year, we are celebrating the 200 Year anniversary of technical education in Kirklees. As part of the celebrations, we are asking alumni to get in touch if you have a story to tell about your college days!



Kirklees College has been known by many different names over the years, some of which are:

- Huddersfield Technical College
- Dewsbury College
- DABTAC
- Batley School of Art
- Ramsden Technical College
- Wheelwright Sixth Form College

If you would like to share your story, please email communications@kirkleescollege.ac.uk.

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INTERNAL PROGRESSION

After the Easter break tutors will start having progression discussions with students to plan their next steps. To support progression, it is important that all students continue to maintain good attendance and punctuality, complete all coursework to set deadlines and attend any exams they may need to sit. Information will be sent home providing further information about internal progression. If your young person is not sure about their next steps then they can book an appointment with our impartial Careers service provided by C&K Careers.



ADULT COURSE OFFER

We have a wide range of adult short courses starting after Easter at Kirklees College!

Our exciting new offer includes courses in:

- Art and Design
- Business and Professional
- Computing
- Community
- Construction
- Creative Industries
- Hair and Beauty
- Health and Social Care
- Hospitality
- Sport

Visit www.kirkleescollege.ac.uk/adult-learners/ to enrol on a course now and start your next chapter!

