


BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COLLEGE GROUP NEWSLETTER

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Student Spotlight

Our Level 1 Caring for Children students recently organised a wonderful fundraiser at our Wycombe campus to support the NSPCC. They raised money for the charity by selling delicious cakes, cookies and brownies. Well done to our students for making a real difference in the community and helping children who need it most.



GCSE Resits

Congratulations to all our learners for completing their GCSE resit exams in Maths and English! We're incredibly proud of the effort and commitment they've shown throughout the exam period.

Please note that it's very important for students to continue attending all their timetabled lessons until results are released on **Wednesday 8th January 2026**. Ongoing attendance will help them build confidence, strengthen their skills, and stay fully prepared for their next steps.

At Buckinghamshire College Group, we are committed to supporting our students during this period and beyond, to help them achieve success in all of their qualifications.

Thank you for encouraging their continued engagement and positive attitude.

If you or your child have any questions or need support, please contact their tutor or the Maths and English team.

KEY DATES

- * **Term Ends**
Thursday 18th December
- * **Inset Day**
Friday 19th December
- * **College Closed**
Monday 22nd December -
Friday 2nd January
- * **Term Starts**
Monday 5th January

"The first term is always an exciting time at the College as we welcome new students and staff and settle into new routines. I hope that this newsletter gives you a glimpse into student activities and achievements and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all an enjoyable break over the festive period."

Jenny Craig, Principal & CEO



Students and Employers Take Part in Velocity 2025

Many students recently took part in Velocity 2025 – a fun and dynamic day where they collaborate with their peers to develop innovative business ideas, before presenting them to a panel of employers. Think Dragons' Den meets The Apprentice!

Velocity is all about boosting work readiness skills and developing the confidence to step out of their comfort zones. It's also a valuable opportunity to think outside the box, get creative, and network with a variety of local employers.

Support Local Talent and Build Your Future Workforce

If you're interested in offering a placement, please get in touch:

 placements@buckscollegigroup.ac.uk

 01494 585 582

This Term in Pictures



From local businesses and clubs to tasty treats and an inflatable obstacle course, Freshers Fair had it all!



Sweet Science Foundation held a boxing session for our Accelerate students at the Wycombe campus.



Music Performance students kicked off the year with their Halloween Gig at the Amersham campus.



Public Services students lead our Remembrance Day march at the Aylesbury campus in November.



Special Effects Students Bring Killer Looks on Halloween

Our talented Special Effects Makeup students have been getting hands-on industry experience in the spookiest way possible by transforming actors into terrifying creatures for Buckinghamshire Railway Centre's annual Halloween event, Night Fright.

"This collaboration offers our learners a unique opportunity to apply their skills in a live entertainment setting, gaining valuable experience in theatrical makeup, time management, and working with performers in a fast-paced environment."

College Clubs

College isn't just about lessons and exams, it's about discovering who you are, building lifelong friendships, and exploring your passions. That's where College Clubs come in! Check out the full list of clubs on Student Space, or speak to Student Services to find out more.

Apprentice of the Term



Well done to Monty Dorling who is currently completing his Level 3 Plumbing & Domestic Heating Apprenticeship with P&R Mechanical. Monty was nominated by his Training Supervisor, Natasha, who said:

“Monty is just outstanding. His attendance is 100%, he is completely dedicated to the apprenticeship, and is ahead of his class. His employer has been really pleased with his progress so far - keep it up!”

University Highlight



Upcoming Open Event

Saturday 14th March



Find out more



A Trauma-Informed College

We are proud to announce that we have been awarded the Bronze Award in Trauma-Informed and Attachment-Aware Practice by the Buckinghamshire Virtual School. This recognition reflects the College’s unwavering commitment to creating a safe, inclusive, and nurturing environment for all learners, particularly those who have experienced adversity. This award reinforces Buckinghamshire College Group’s commitment to supporting every learner and fostering an environment where all students can thrive.

This achievement comes on the heels of the College’s recent Ofsted inspection, which rated Buckinghamshire College Group as “Good” across all categories, including the quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development, and provision for learners with high needs.

Trauma Informed and Attachment Aware College



Bronze Award

Valid for 2025 - 26

“Buckinghamshire College Group has demonstrated a deep commitment to understanding and meeting the needs of all its learners. Their work in trauma-informed and attachment-aware practice sets a powerful example for others and will have a lasting impact on the lives of young people across the county.”

Emma Owen, Head of the Buckinghamshire Virtual School

SEND Spotlight

Our Pathway to Independence students have had a busy and creative start to the year. They launched a fundraising project to add sensory lights to their garden, to build teamwork and entrepreneurial skills. October brought Halloween-themed art projects, focusing on motor skills, creativity, choice-making, and communication. Students also had an amazing opportunity to attend immersive learning sessions designed to promote relaxation and interaction skills. These sessions provided a calm environment for students to practice social engagement and mindfulness.





Careers Education at College

At Buckinghamshire College Group, we are committed to ensuring every student reaches their full potential. Our goal is to equip all of our students with the knowledge and confidence they need to make the best choices for their future. This journey involves supporting many aspects of your child's personal and professional development.

Keep an eye out for updates on our upcoming events, webinars, and local labour market insights. And don't forget to encourage your children to join our new Work Ability Workshops - a great opportunity to build confidence and skills!

Our careers programme is focused on getting our students work-ready. These sessions will give students the opportunity to develop key skills in areas such as digital literacy, CV writing, UCAS applications, and employee rights and responsibilities.

We will also be welcoming external providers to deliver talks and workshops on career pathways across a range of industries. These sessions will offer valuable opportunities for students to network with employers, explore local opportunities, and gain advice and guidance on their next steps after College.

"Hello! My name is Helen Smirthwaite, and I am excited to have joined the College as a Careers and Progression Adviser. I am Level 6 qualified and ready to support your child(ren) with their next steps, whether they already have a plan or are still exploring their options. Whatever stage they are at, I am here to talk things through and help them feel confident about their future and the choices ahead. Career guidance sessions last between 30 and 60 minutes. Afterwards, each student will receive a personalised action plan outlining what we discussed, signposting any relevant information, and setting out clear next steps with actions."

Please feel free to get in touch!

 hsmirthwaite@buckscollegigroup.ac.uk

Work Experience Placements in the NHS

Discover a range of clinical and non-clinical roles, including:

- * Nursing
- * Midwifery
- * Pharmacy
- * Clinical Psychology

Applications can be made between Friday 19th December and Sunday 4th January.

Find out more



Useful Websites



Find out how to access and develop skills, qualifications and career opportunities.

Check out their Classroom to Careers Newsletter for more information on local employers and events.



A free employability and financial education programme, to unlock skills and employment opportunities for all ages.



Gain virtual work experience and try university courses before you apply.



Alumni Success

Congratulations to our alumna Jasmine Nituan on the release of her debut album *Antecedent*, which is now available to stream on Spotify. Jasmine stood out during her time at College for her creativity, dedication, and passion for music. We are incredibly proud of her journey, and we can't wait to see what she does next!

Keeping our Students Safe




To ensure we are providing a safe learning environment for your young person, we have dedicated Safeguarding Officers at each campus, in Student Services.

Students can pop in to discuss any concerns. They can also contact us via Teams, email or by using the 'Report a Concern' button on Student Space. The contact information can be found on the back of their College ID badges.

To help support their safety we ask that students wear their ID badges at all times on site and familiarise themselves with College policies such as the Supportive Performance Management Policy, Health & Safety, and Internet Safety Guidance.

During their WISPA tutorial sessions they will cover a variety of topics, including Safeguarding, Prevent and staying safe online.

If your young person requires any support they can also access the following support agencies:

-  Kooth.com (free, safe and anonymous online support and counselling)
-  Text SHOUT to 85258 (free, confidential support, 24/7)
-  Call Samaritans on 116 123 (call free any time, from any phone)

Mental Health and Wellbeing Signposting



Call 0300 123 3393



If someone's life is in danger, call 999 or go to A&E immediately—for example, if they have seriously harmed themselves, taken an overdose, or you cannot keep yourself or someone else safe. A mental health emergency is just as serious as a physical one, and you will never be wasting anyone's time by calling 999.

Drop-ins for young people

Southcourt Family Centre Plus
Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm

Everyone needs a bit of help
from time to time.

The Family Hub Team are here to
do just that. If you are a young
person, parent or carer in need of
support come to our drop-in. The
team can offer:

- ✓ **On the spot support**
- ✓ **Information and advice on a
range of topics**
- ✓ **Signposting to other services
that may be able to help**

No need to book, just turn up.

  @BucksFamilyInfo

 01296 383293  familyinfo@buckinghamshire.gov.uk



**Buckinghamshire
Council**

Family Hub Network
Buckinghamshire

