

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COLLEGE GROUP NEWSLETTER

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Student Spotlight

Shammah Rugwete's journey from T Level placement to career success highlights the value of industry experience at Buckinghamshire College Group. During her studies in Laboratory Science, she completed a placement with Arla Foods as a Laboratory Assistant, where she impressed the team with her technical skills and dedication. Following a rigorous selection process, Shammah secured a Level 5 Degree Apprenticeship in Dairy Technology, marking an exciting step into her career.

Her employer commented, "She brings energy, positivity, and a strong team spirit, making her a valued member of the team."

An amazing achievement! We wish Shammah the very best in her future career with Arla.



Student Awards 2026

To celebrate our students' hard work, dedication, and success over the past year, we proudly hosted the 2026 Student Awards Ceremony at the Crowne Plaza, Marlow. This special evening was filled with celebration and recognition across a wide range of achievements. From academic excellence to personal growth and exceptional efforts, students were recognised for their commitment and perseverance throughout the year.

Many of the awards were generously sponsored by our valued employer partners demonstrating their continued support and investment in our students' futures. The event brought together staff, families, and peers to share these proud moments. With a diverse range of awards presented, the evening truly showcased the talent, ambition, and achievements of our student community, making it a memorable and inspiring occasion for everyone involved.

Key Dates

* Term Ends

Friday 3rd July 2026

* College Closed

Monday 3rd July- Friday
4th September 2026

* Term Starts

Monday 7th September 2026

* Level 3 Results Day

Thursday 13th August 2026

* Level 2 & GCSE Results Day

Thursday 20th August 2026

Thank a Teacher Day



To celebrate Thank a Teacher Day, we recognised staff across the college who have been acknowledged at national level through prestigious Pearson Teaching Awards, alongside nominations in the Quality Professionals Awards and AAT Teacher of the Year. From innovation to inclusion, teamwork to lifelong dedication, our staff continue to transform lives through education. Their passion, commitment and expertise inspire our learners every day, helping them to achieve their goals and realise their potential. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and grateful for the positive impact they make within our college community and beyond.

This Term in Pictures



Made Here 2026 transformed Aylesbury campus into a vibrant celebration of creativity, showcasing outstanding student work across a range of Art disciplines.



Our Level 2 Creative Media students achieved a clean sweep in the senior category, securing first, second and third places and showcasing exceptional filmmaking talent.



Public Service students developed teamwork, leadership, and tactical skills during a live airsoft assessment at Skirmish Wycombe, testing strategy and communication.



With support from six industry employers, Construction and Motor Vehicle students sharpened their interview techniques through mock interviews and gained valuable career-focused feedback.



Parent's Guide to Exam Results

Results day is slowly approaching and this can be an emotional time for young people and their families. Whether your child is feeling excited, relieved or uncertain about their results, your support and encouragement can make a real difference.

Encourage open conversations, listen without judgement and reassure them that exam results do not define their future. If results are not as expected, help them focus on the options available, including further education, training, apprenticeships and alternative career pathways.

Give them time to consider their next steps and support them in exploring opportunities that match their interests, strengths and goals. For more advice on results day, visit the National Careers Service website.

**National
Careers
Service**



Alumni Success



We are proud to celebrate our alumna, Benedictha Duhoe. Benedictha studied Art & Design at our Amersham Campus, where she developed her creativity. She progressed to university, achieving a first-class degree and gaining valuable experience along the way. Benedictha has since returned to Buckinghamshire College Group as a Youth Worker, where she plays a vital role in supporting students' wellbeing and personal development. Her journey is a fantastic example of dedication and success, and we are delighted to have her back as part of our college community, inspiring the next generation of learners.

We asked Benedictha what advice she would give to current students:

"Believe in your ability to succeed even if you face challenges or limitations along the way. Stay consistent, make the most of the support available to you and don't be afraid to step outside your comfort zone. Your journey may not always be straightforward but with determination and hard work, you can achieve your goals."

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



Apprentice of the Term



Well done to Buddy Walker who is currently completing his Level 2 Bricklaying Apprenticeship! Buddy was nominated by his assessor, James Walters, in recognition of the exceptional progress, commitment, and personal growth he has demonstrated since starting his course. James highlights that Buddy has modelled exactly what Bucks College Group looks for in apprentices: independence.

Buddy has taken personal responsibility for his own learning and engaged fully with every opportunity available to him, voluntarily attending additional sessions (night school) and putting himself forward to become the Mental Health Champion for his curriculum area. James notes that he has never heard a single complaint from Buddy when things go wrong; instead, he consistently demonstrates maturity beyond his years by asking, "Why did this go wrong?" and "How can I do it better next time?" Buddy holds himself to a high standard, attending sessions punctually and arriving fully prepared with the necessary equipment. He works exceptionally well with his classmates and is not afraid to speak up, ask questions, or bring humour to the group, demonstrating his growing confidence. Based on Buddy's achievements, commitment, and continued development throughout the programme, James believes he is fully ready to progress onto Level 3 and continue building on the strong foundations he has established.

"I have had multiple apprentices of varying ages and Buddy is by far the best one I have had. He wants to learn and he wants to be competent. He cares. I have had lads aged 30 asking to borrow my hammer whereas Buddy has gone out off his own back from his wages and bought all his own tools already. He really has got stuck in and is making the most of every opportunity that comes his way. He has rapidly progressed since September and is always showing me pictures of his college projects. He is a great lad who is reliable, has a fantastic attitude and work ethic. I am very proud of him for how far he has come and for getting nominated"

- Buddy's employer: David Pomroy, DJP Builders Ltd

"Buddy looks forward to going to college which is something I never thought possible. Due to Buddy's needs (EHCP), he has struggled with school and never really engaged with formal education, however, he often comes home 'buzzing' and excited to tell me about his day. He shows/tells me what he has built or learned and I can see that he is excited to learn and progress. It is so nice to see him being passionate about his education".

- Buddy's Mum: Sally Walker



Construction begins on 'transformational' new High Wycombe Campus

Construction has officially begun on Buckinghamshire College Group's new High Wycombe Campus, marking an important milestone for local education! A groundbreaking ceremony took place on Friday 15 May 2026, attended by community leaders, college staff and project partners.

The new campus, located across Oxford Road and Brook Street, will bring together the Amersham and Flackwell Heath sites into one modern, accessible location. It will provide industry-standard facilities for over 1,300 students studying vocational, technical and professional courses.

Plans include a construction and engineering skills centre, alongside a seven-storey building with classrooms, workshops, creative studios and digital learning spaces.

Funded by the Department for Education, the project represents a significant investment in Buckinghamshire's future. It aims to enhance student opportunities, strengthen links with employers, and support young people in developing the skills needed for future careers.

Jenny Craig, CEO of Buckinghamshire College Group, said:

"Today marks a hugely exciting milestone for Buckinghamshire College Group, our students, staff and the wider community.

This new campus represents ambition, opportunity and investment in the future of Buckinghamshire. We are creating a modern learning environment that will inspire students, strengthen links with employers and provide the skills our region needs for years to come.

We are proud to be building a campus that reflects the aspirations of our community and gives every learner the opportunity to succeed."

SEND Spotlight



At Inclusive Practice Pathways to Supported Employment, we believe every student has something valuable to share. Recently, students took on the challenge of delivering a lesson to their peers. With support from their tutor, they planned clear objectives, structured the session, and created accessible materials, including worksheets and a presentation. On the day, they introduced the topic clearly, led activities with confidence, and fostered an inclusive learning environment where peers engaged and supported one another. This experience developed confidence, independence, communication, and social skills, while giving the student ownership of their learning. Inspired by this, others are eager to lead, as we continue creating opportunities for students to grow, succeed, and shine.

University Highlight



BIRMINGHAM CITY
University

Upcoming Open Events

Saturday 15th August
Monday 17th August
Tuesday 18th August



Find out more



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

the
future



If you watch one video on social media today...

By her own admission, Dr Katrina Skerratt-Love was terrible at maths and flunked her A-Levels, partly due to undiagnosed dyslexia and autism. She now studies how to make glass that can withstand radiation in space and potentially enable humans to live on Mars. She speaks brilliantly about her passion - **this is one video you really need to watch!**

Student grants, bursaries and scholarships

Student loans can put some people off going to university, but there's lots of types of funding available depending on your circumstances to help you through your degree. If you're weighing up the pros and cons of going to uni, **read about your funding options before you decide.**



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Open events for Year 11 students

If you're finishing your GCSEs this summer, discover what Buckinghamshire College Group can offer by visiting an open event, touring the campus, meeting the tutors, and getting a feel for what it would be like to study there. **See the dates coming up.**



Find a space to grow and belong

Seedsof Change is a hands-on outdoor programme in Wendover for people aged 6–25. It offers a supportive and engaging environment where people can explore food growing, cooking, creativity, and community involvement. **Learn all about this great opportunity.**

Have you considered working in Health and Social Care?

The Health and Social Care sector is a big local employer, so we asked an award-winning company - Ashridge Home Care - a few questions about what they look for in the people they hire. **Read what they had to say.**

The A-Z of possible careers

Visit our Career Profiles Hub to find information on jobs for (almost) every letter of the alphabet. **Happy searching - and good luck!**

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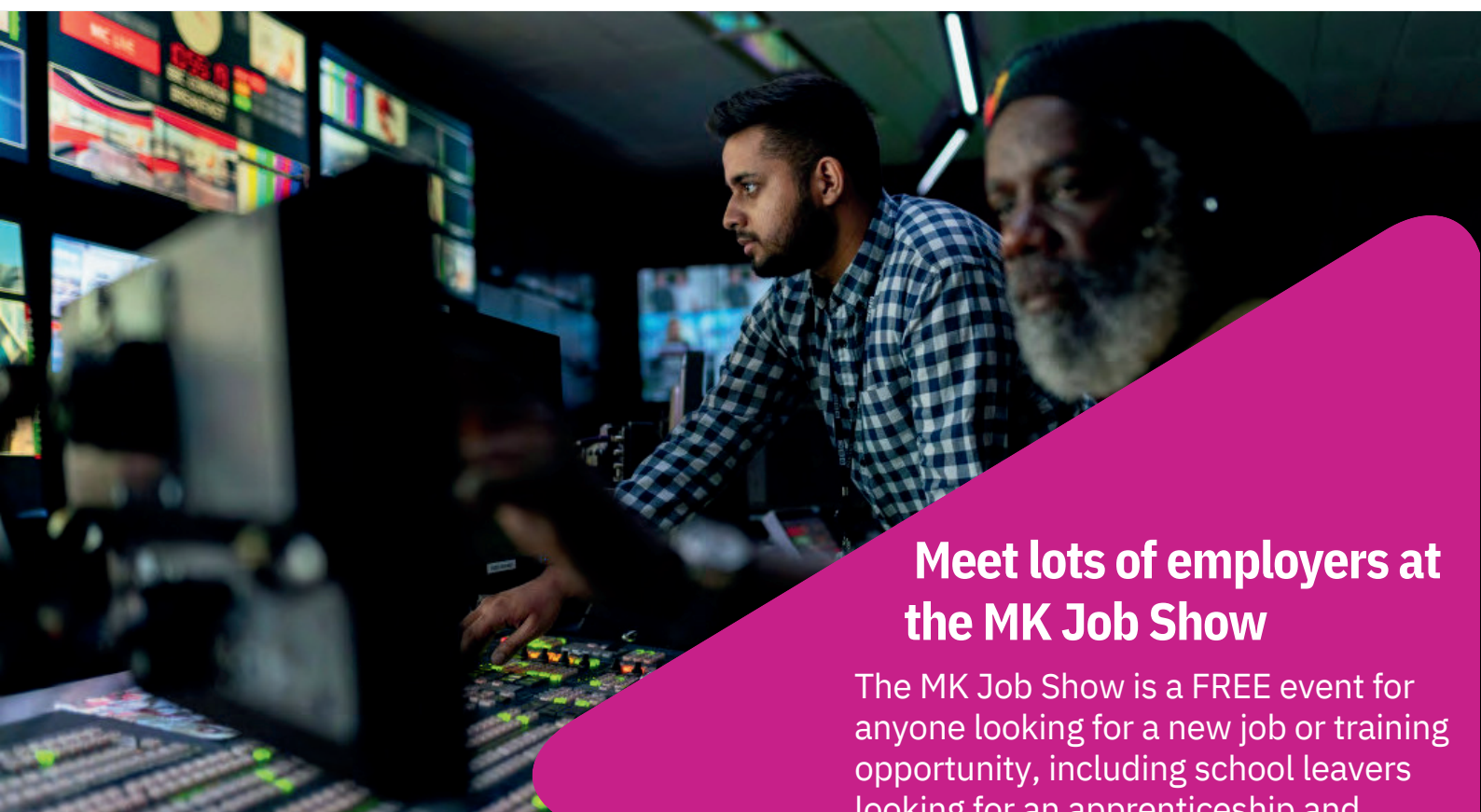
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Apprenticeships at your fingertips

Explore nearly 1,000 apprenticeship opportunities in the summer 2026 edition of the Higher & Degree Vacancy listing from Amazing Apprenticeships. **Download the list of vacancies here.**



Meet lots of employers at the MK Job Show

The MK Job Show is a FREE event for anyone looking for a new job or training opportunity, including school leavers looking for an apprenticeship and graduates seeking their first big role. **Check out the dates and times here.**

Explore your creative energy this summer

Write on Art is a national writing programme for people aged 13-19 who are invited to write a short piece about an artwork of their choice. The prize is a writers' workshop at the Royal College of Art. **Click here to get creative!**

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