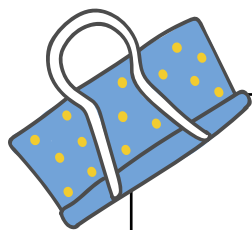


# PARENT AND CARER NEWSLETTER

●●● APRIL/MAY 2024 ●●●



## WELCOME!

Welcome to our latest newsletter!

This term we continued to extend the opportunities for students with a number of amazing trips across the world. Students from different vocational areas visited Germany, Vietnam, and South Africa making memories to last a lifetime.

Closer to home, Foundation and Progression students have been sailing with the Nancy Oldfield Trust and Art and Design students visited the markers festival in Norwich.

As we move into the final weeks of this year we look to support students with next steps and in some cases new choices. In our recent student voice survey, we were pleased to see that students are feeling confident that they know what their options after college look like, but some are still identifying that they need support in making the 'right' decision for them. The college Careers team and Admissions team are always available to support students to point them in the right direction. If your young person has not secured their next step and you would like to talk to someone, please contact [careers@eastcoast.ac.uk](mailto:careers@eastcoast.ac.uk).

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# AUTOMOTIVE TRIP TO GERMANY

Our Level 3 Automotive students travelled to Dresden to visit the phenomenal Volkswagen Transparent Factory. The students learnt about the history and transition of the factory, which was an amazing opportunity for our students.

Our students visited the Reichstag Building the historical government building in Berlin, they could see Berlin from the rooftop terrace and were able to see the Chamber of the Bundestag. The students then visited the Mall of Berlin, which featured a Tesla store. The day concluded with a visit to the most famous landmark in Berlin, the Brandenburg Gate, which was a symbol of division during the cold war but is now a national symbol of peace and unity in Germany.



*Students visiting the Volkswagen Transparent Factory*



*Students visiting the Jewish Holocaust Memorial*

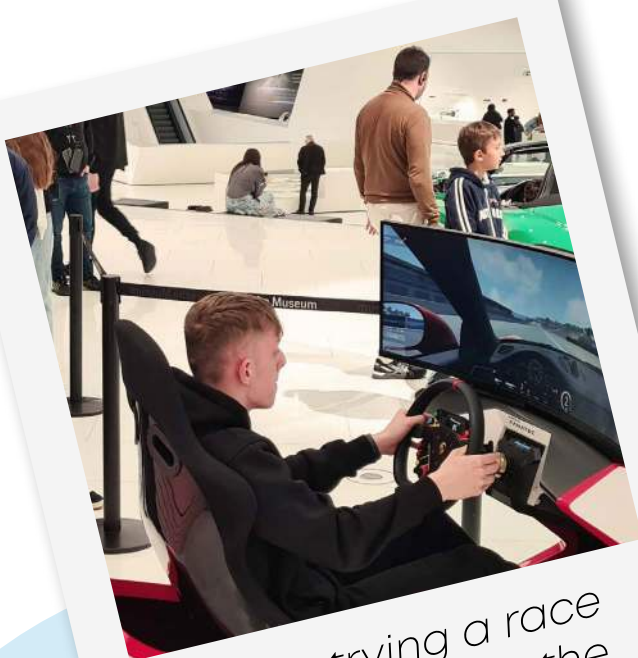
The Automotive students then visited the Futurium museum and learnt about the future of mobility and creating their own future vehicles. Next was a visit to the exhibition at the Volkswagen Forum in central Berlin. Students saw a variety of iconic vehicles, key inventions, developments and events over the last 50 years. The next stop was to visit the Jewish Holocaust Memorial, which students were able to walk through and take in the impact of those killed in Second World War. This was followed by a visit to the famous golden Victory Column in Tiergarten and then finished with a great picture opportunity at the German President's stunning Bellevue Palace!

# AUTOMOTIVE TRIP TO GERMANY

Students then travelled to Stiftung Automuseum in Wolfsburg to learn the history of Volkswagen models. They travelled to Munich to the BMW Welt and Museum where they were able to see different vehicles within the BMW brand and learn the history of BMW and their future plans for sustainability.

The group were then able to visit the phenomenal Porsche Museum in Stuttgart, surrounded by numerous Porsche factories. The students learned the history of Porsche, saw a huge range of vehicles and got involved in interactive activities. The students then visited Stuttgart where they saw a static military parade, and next was the Staatsgalerie where students saw a modern art display. Students then saw the former King's residence and Schlossplatz statue before heading to the famous indoor German Market.

On the student's final day in Germany, they visited the outstanding Mercedes Museum in Stuttgart. The students received a guided tour and saw all of the amazing vehicles on show. The trip was a life changing experience for the students, thank you to the Turing Scheme!



Students trying a race driver simulator at the Porsche Museum



Students attending a guided tour at the Mercedes Museum



# JOSH'S WORLD SKILLS JOURNEY



Joshua Benjafeld started his journey into welding with Douglas Lawrence, Welding Examiner on a Level 1 course in 2021. It was at this time he secured a part time job in the welding industry at Code-A-Weld alongside his studies.

During his time with the college, he has gone from strength to strength, reinforced with the extra training he receives at work.

David Fowler, Joshua's employer, has nothing but praise for Joshua's fabrication skills and as a result became the first person to gain a BS 4872 welder certification at our Welding Academy in Great Yarmouth.

This prompted the college to enter Joshua in the WorldSkills 2024 competition, where he successfully qualified in the regional stages and is now preparing for the National Qualifiers stage.

We wish him all the best!

# TRAVEL AND TOURISM TRIP TO VIETNAM



Our Travel and Tourism Turing group landed safely in Ho Chi Minh City and moved into the Saigon Hospitality Tourism College where they stayed for their first few days.

The students worked in soup kitchens serving meals to hospital workers, homeless and elderly people who live at the shelter. The students were able to visit the hospital itself to learn about the healthcare system in Vietnam and how important volunteers are to the hospital.

The students embarked on a walking food tour where they were able to try exotic Vietnamese foods and learn more about the culture. The group were also able to visit a local farm where they were able to attend a cooking class, learning how to cook traditional Vietnamese dishes.

The students then went on to explore the tourism industry in Ho Chi Minh where they had a bespoke city tour and visited the Pink Catholic Church, the famous Saigon Post Office and the Palace of Renunciation (Independence Palace) and tried some local specialties. The students also visited the War Remnants Museum, which allowed them to build a link to the work they were doing at the shelter. They learnt some independent living skills by moving into their apartments, where they were able to enjoy the pool.

# TRAVEL AND TOURISM TRIP TO VIETNAM

Our Travel and Tourism students attended a full day tour to the Mekong Delta. During the day they rode Sampans (traditional Vietnamese boats), wearing non-la's (leaf hats) through the bamboo channels where the boat people live. They boarded Vietnamese tuk-tuks, held pythons at the snake farm, drank honey tea at the honey farm, tried tropical fruits grown on one of the holy islands of the Mekong, listened to the traditional Mekong songs deep in the delta and explored a traditional market. The group also visited coconut island and learned how coconut candy is made. Their day ended with a visit to Ninh Tr ng pagoda which is a Buddhist temple near Mỹ Tho.

The students had the opportunity to set sail on a Saigon River Cruise with a full Vietnamese buffet and traditional entertainment, where they were able to try snails. Our students then visited a Rice Paper Village and at the famous Cu Chi Tunnels. They learned more about the Vietnam War, how people lived in the tunnels and the traps. The group explored the tunnels and had a fantastic final day in the jungle.

Our students spent their last days in the coastal town of Mui Ne. The group took a trip up the mountain and visited the famous sand dunes, which gave them first-hand knowledge of coastal tourism in Vietnam.

A massive thank you to Turing Scheme UK for this incredible opportunity!



A student exploring  
the Cu Chi Tunnels



Our Travel and Tourism  
students visiting the  
sand dunes

# BICKLAYING STUDENTS VISIT 'THE PLACE'

East Coast College students were featured in the Great Yarmouth Mercury highlighting a visit to the former Palmer's store in Great Yarmouth. The building is being renovated into a university centre called 'The Place' which East Coast College is a leading partner in.

The students were given a tour and learned about the additional considerations around the project regarding health and safety, carbon capture and modern methods of construction. They will be returning to the site throughout the year to get hands-on experience assisting in the renovation of the external masonry and brickwork.

See the full story from the Great Yarmouth Mercury by clicking this [here](#)

## PROGRESSION AND CAREERS ADVICE

Our Admissions team are in the process of emailing offers to current students who have been offered conditional places on next level courses and arranging interviews for those wishing to be considered for alternative subject areas. Tutors have met with students to determine their next steps and our careers team will soon be contacting those students without a confirmed destination following the completion of their current course. Enrolment for those planning to continue at East Coast College in September will be taking place during June. Further details of this will be shared with students via their tutors.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding your young person's plans once they finish college you can get in touch by emailing [heretohelp@eastcoast.ac.uk](mailto:heretohelp@eastcoast.ac.uk).



# ART AND DESIGN MAKERS FESTIVAL

Great Yarmouth based Level 2 Art and Design students had great fun on a trip in April. They took part in a range of art workshops at the Makers Festival at the Forum in Norwich as part of their coursework. This was followed by an inspiring trip to the Sainsbury Centre for Arts at the University of East Anglia to see an exhibition by a number of counterparty artists including Jeffrey Gibson and Rashaad Newsome.



## ART SALE

Congratulations to all the Level 2 Art and Design students who hosted their first art sale in April. They did this for one of their core units 'art for sale.' They exhibited and sold many beautiful pieces of art and crafts ranging from original one-off canvases to hand printed cards, T-shirts and tote bags. They raised over £120 for their chosen charity Cancer Research UK. They all really enjoyed the opportunity to sell their work, many for the first time.



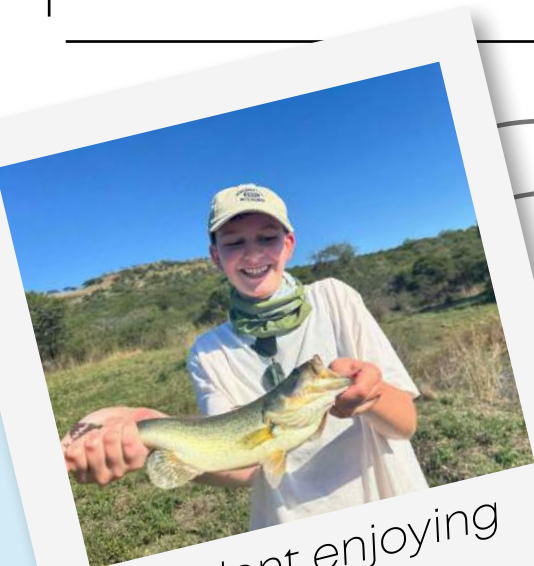
# ANIMAL CARE SOUTH AFRICA TRIP



Our Animal Care students visited South Africa as part of the Turing Scheme, staying at the Umphafa Nature Reserve where they saw a variety of animals including giraffe, zebra, ostrich and plenty of antelope species.

They witnessed a mass game capture of zebra too reduce numbers and spent their downtime fishing. Students helped take down snares on the reserve left by poachers, which is a vital part of conservation on the reserve.

The students visited local schools attending a sports event, giving out donuts which had an emotional impact on the group showing the kinds of things they take for granted. The students ended their trip learning about cleaning predator boma, road maintenance, and fence patrol and were taken on a night drive.



A student enjoying their time fishing



A student dancing with the local children

# ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE TRIP TO CARLTON MARSHES

Our Year 12 A Level Environmental Science students visited the Carlton Marshes Nature Reserve to practice various research methods used in Environmental Science, including water quality sampling, dyke dipping, succession transects and soil infiltration tests.



*Students exploring the marshes*

## PERFORMING ARTS WORKSHOP

A few of our Year 1 Performing Arts students visited East Point Academy to lead a drama workshop for a group of Year 10s.

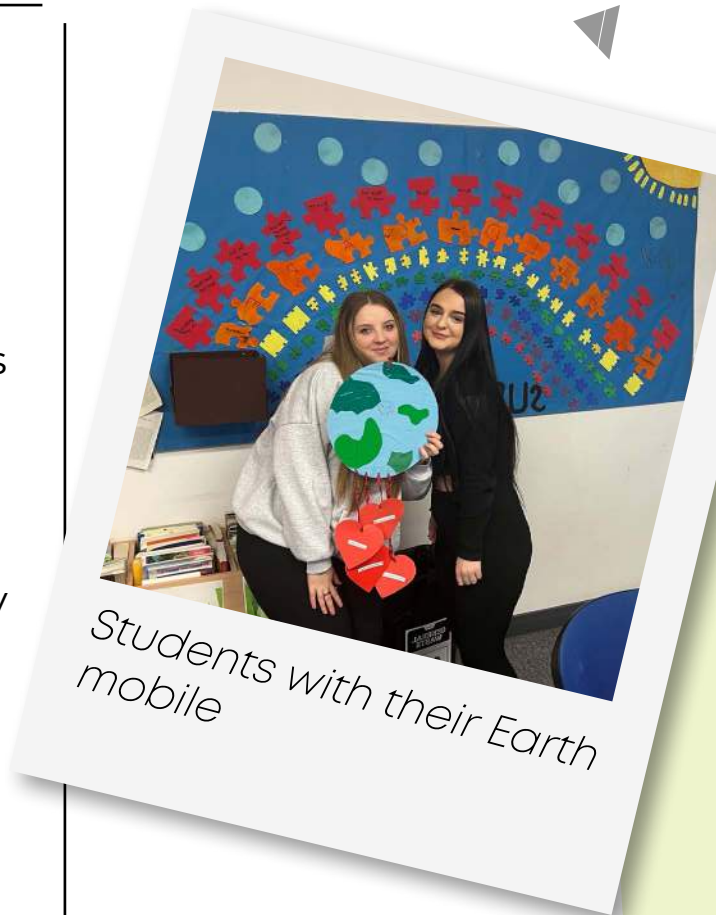
Our students did a fantastic job and the Year group were very receptive and worked hard!



# EARTH DAY

Level 3 Childcare and Education Learners at Lowestoft campus completed activities linked to Earth Day in April as part of their curriculum 'hot topics' section. The theme for Earth day this year was Planet Versus Plastics. Earth day has been established as a global event since 1970.

This group are previous winners of the East Coast College Sustainability Induction Project. Learners used a range of artistic talent to create world mobiles suitable for primary school age children, highlighting ways in which the children can address sustainability and wider global issues within the classroom.



*Students with their Earth mobile*

## GUILD OF BRICKLAYERS COMPETITION



*Enamulah at the competition*

A massive congratulations to Enamulah Safi who placed 2nd in the senior competition of the Guild of Bricklayers Eastern Region competition at City College Norwich. He produced a fantastic model which was very clean and he was commended by many of the other college staff members and judges for his efforts.



# COMMUNITY ACTION PROJECT- FOUNDATION

The Foundation Broads group have had a busy term. They have undertaken a Community Action Project, linking with Hemblington preschool. This has involved the re-launch of the Story Sacks library, a resource used to develop preschoolers' communication, social and literacy skills. The group have undertaken making some additional story sack bags alongside creating their own story sack to donate to the preschool. The group chose Room on The Broom By Julia Donaldson.

The preschool manager Fiona Trimble visited the college and met the group who shared with her their work and in turn she read their story sack.

She was incredibly pleased to meet the group answer their questions.

Recently, the Broads 1 group have been sailing at the Nancy Oldfield Trust (NOT) at Neatishead. The five learners arrived ready for a new experience. One of the learners in the group attends the NOT to sailing in the holidays and breaks and wanted to share this experience with his friends. Needless to say they all loved the experience, being out on the water, in the sunshine close to nature, the breeze blowing them along Barton Turf Broad. Thank you for this fantastic experience, it really gave the students a great memory and put smiles on their faces.



Students enjoying sailing on the Broads.



Students enjoying sailing on the Broads.



# CAMBRIDGE TRIP

Our Year 12 and 13 students from English Literature, History and Graphics/Photography visited The Fitzwilliam Museum, University of Cambridge. They were welcomed by museum staff who gave a brief talk about volunteering and working in the industry.

Museum education staff then introduced the current exhibition 'Blake's Universe' and discussed aspects of his work and life as an activist. After lunch and time in the museum garden, students visited the rest of the galleries, including Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece, themed galleries with older and contemporary works and an unexpected collection of the famous Lowestoft china!

This trip provided the students with contact with real-life researchers and educators working with English Literature, Visual Art and History in a Higher Education context. Also to gain a deeper exploration of ideas and issues covered at A Level, as well as an insight into life and study in a university city.



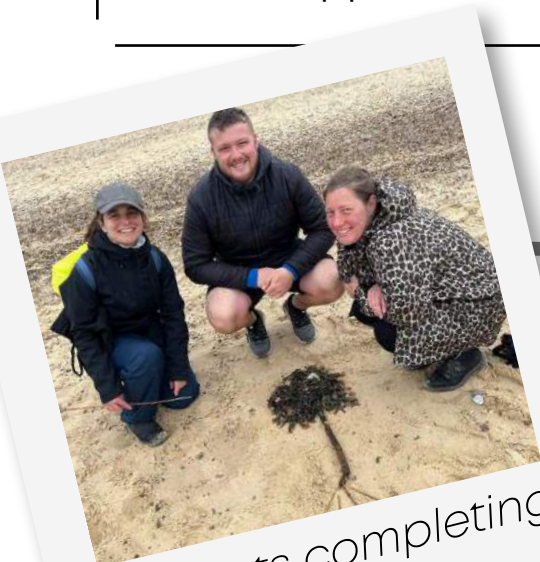
# BEACH AND FOREST SCHOOL TRAINING



Recently our Level 3 Supporting Teaching and Learning students and the Level 3 Diploma in Childcare and Education students from our Lowestoft campus attended an Introduction to Beach and Forest school training as part of their Personal and Social Development.

Learners completed mindfulness activities, ephemeral art, parachute activities to learn about the phases of the moon and tides, emergency bothy shelters, types of knots, emergency beach flags and signs and forest activities amongst others.

The initial rain did not dampen spirits and learners enjoyed this immersive experience. This will allow them to take back ideas and approaches to their school and childcare settings.



Students completing beach training



Students completing beach training



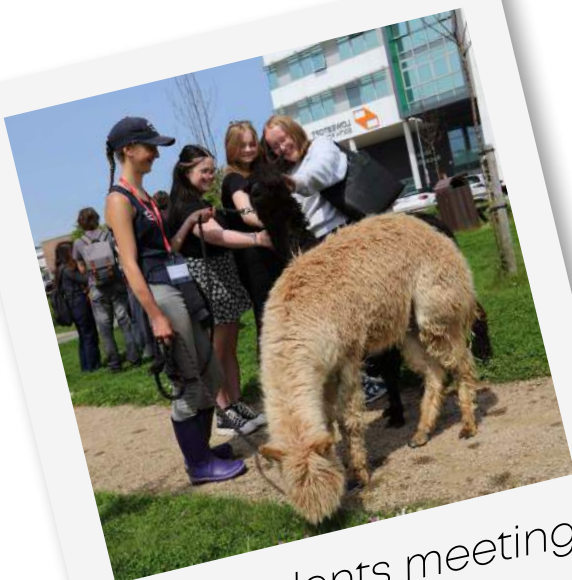
# HAIR AND BEAUTY INDUSTRY TALK



Recently local hair and beauty wholesale supplier Capelli Salon Supplies visited our Hair and Beauty students to give an industry talk. They gave an introduction to Capelli and the brands they supply, the support they offer their customers and an insight into the Capelli customer service standard.

The talk also covered how wholesale operates as well as an overview of the haircare brand OMSO's ethos and products. The session finished with a talk on 'You' and the importance of how students promote themselves as their own business.

## ALPACA WELLBEING WALKS



Our students meeting the alpacas

We had a visit from Unicorn Alpaca's Rafiki and Gino as part of mental health week. Students had the opportunity to interact with the alpacas and Bear the skunk.

# OUR APPRENTICES

## CASE STUDIES



ROSIE COWELL

Rosie chose to study an apprenticeship as a Level 3 Teaching Assistant as the learning whilst working model helped Rosie to be able to be a mum to her three children. The workload was easy to fit around her other commitments as it was all in working hours and has allowed Rosie to gain a Distinction grade in her End Point Assessment.

Will has just completed a Level 3 Site Carpentry Apprenticeship and was awarded a Distinction. He works for a local building company called Total Build. He really enjoys the variety of work that he is involved in, from working on new builds and extensions to renovations and traditional oak frames buildings. As well as the exciting projects, Will enjoys the team work and camaraderie that the building industry offers.



WILL HARPER







# Parents – are you looking to further your education?

With Family Action, individuals with dependent children can access grants of up to £1,000 to achieve their goals.

Grants are available for the additional costs associated with undertaking a course of study such as laptops, smartphones, broadband or smartphone data, travel, books, equipment and exam fees.

Up to £500 is available for household needs such as food and utilities in recognition of the financial constraints put on a student as a result of undertaking a course of study.

You may be able to apply for a grant if you:

- are parent/carer with legal responsibility for a child/children aged under 18
- are in receipt of means tested benefits or have household income of £30,000 or less
- are studying on a course at Levels 2 to 3 in England, Northern Ireland and Wales, and at Levels 5 and 6 in Scotland
- have right of residency in the UK



**Please contact your Student Support/Welfare team for further information about submitting an application to this fund or contact:**



**[grants.enquiry@family-action.org.uk](mailto:grants.enquiry@family-action.org.uk)**

**SCAN HERE**



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