



St Helens College



# NEWS

Spring 2024



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# COLLEGE HOSTS REGIONAL TRADE COMPETITIONS, RECOGNISING TOP EMERGING TALENT IN CONSTRUCTION

St Helens College proudly served as the host for the North West Regional HIP and SPARKS competition heats, held at our very own Green Energy Skills Centre.



The competitions search for the best up-and-coming industry talent from level 2 and 3 Plumbing and Heating and Electrical courses nationwide.

Five students, Kian, Hari, Owen, Louis and Keigan, proudly represented the



College, displaying an excellent standard of work, which was highly commended by all judges!

Out of 11 participants from eight other colleges, Kian secured the title of SPARKS Winner, followed by Hari, achieving runner-up position and Owen securing runner-up for HIP Learner of the Year!

Take a look at the full gallery from the events here.



SCAN ME!



**Kian**  
MGH Electrical  
SPARKS Winner



**Hari**  
ACS Electrics Limited  
SPARKS Runner-Up



**Owen**  
SLM Plumbing and Heating Ltd  
HIP Runner-Up

# TRIO OF FEMALE APPRENTICES CELEBRATE TRIUMPH

Three of our female apprentices wowed the judges at this year's Female HIP and SPARKS Magazine Learner of The Year regional competitions.

Proudly representing Knowsley Community College, Electrical Apprentice, Chelsie, secured the runner-up position in the SPARKS Magazine competition, all within just five months of starting her apprenticeship!

St Helens College apprentices, Maizie, a second-year Plumbing and Gas Engineering apprentice, and Mia, a third-year Electrical Installation apprentice, both clinched first place in their respective competitions.

A huge shout out to these trailblazing women, who are inspiring more women to enter the construction industry.



**Maizie**  
PH Jones  
HIP Winner



**Mia**  
HMS  
SPARKS Winner



**Chelsie**  
Tyrell Electrical Contactors Ltd  
SPARKS Runner-Up



# ART AND DESIGN STUDENTS EXHIBIT TALENT AT LOCAL LIBRARY SHOWCASE

In an inspiring display of creativity and talent, Level 3 Extended Art and Design students showcased their artwork at Huyton Library.

The week-long exhibition, which was open to the public, showcased diverse pieces from our young artists, in both print and paint form using a variety of artistic styles in response to the projects 'See' and 'Magic Gardens' they have been working on.

Check out some of their impressive work!



# TEAM GB WRESTLER LEADS STUDENTS IN GRIT-BUILDING OUTDOOR TRAINING SESSION

50 Public and Uniformed students ventured to the Farmer Strong Outdoor Training Facility in Bolton's countryside, owned and ran by Team GB Wrestler, Charlie Bowling.

The unique workout session tested their grit, determination, and teamwork, embodying Farmer Strong's mission to instil a sense of accomplishment and to drive individuals to exceed their potential.

The session concluded with a team BBQ providing the perfect opportunity for staff and students to bond and reflect on the day!



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Former Student, Adam, completed his Level 3 Public and Uniformed Services course with us last year and is now training with Merseyside Police, as he works towards his goal of becoming a Police Officer!

Adam took advantage of every opportunity during his time at College, from serving as a Student Governor and becoming a formal voice for his peers, to making valuable connections with Merseyside Police during their various careers talks.



# STUDENTS DISCOVER LATEST TRENDS AT UK'S LEADING BEAUTY EVENT

Beauty, Media Makeup and Hairdressing students enjoyed an exciting day exploring the latest industry trends at ExCel London, for the UK's leading beauty event, Professional Beauty.

Brands showcasing their fabulous products at the event included Helen É Cosmetics, Eve Taylor London, Glitterbels, Dermalogica and Crazy Angel.

Our students also watched live demonstrations showcasing the latest cutting-edge machines and techniques that are set to revolutionise the industry.

After an inspiring day at the exhibition, the students took some time to soak in the sights of London!



# JOHNNY VEGAS JOINS COLLEGE FOR NEURODIVERSITY WEEK CELEBRATIONS

Johnny Vegas joined us as part of #NeurodiversityCelebrationWeek!

Johnny paid a visit to our art studios to chat with our students about his own experience of being neurodivergent, and his own ADHD diagnosis.

He also got the chance to take a look at our BA (Hons) Graphic Design students work which celebrates the history and architecture of St Helens, before ending his day with our Inclusive Learning students, who were excited to show him their Neurodiversity Umbrella Project.



# CHESTER ZOO TRANSFORMS INTO CLASSROOM FOR ANIMAL MANAGEMENT STUDENTS

Animal Management students enjoyed a fantastic day out, seeing Chester Zoo become their classroom for the day!

During their visit, the students evaluated and explored the zoo's unique enclosures, studying their suitability for the animals, how they provided enrichment and how they helped to promote the animal's natural behaviours, all of which the students will use as part of their studies.



# BRAND NEW T LEVEL FACILITIES INSPIRE STUDENTS

T Level students are enjoying learning in practical, immersive environments at the College, especially having the opportunity to undertake work placements with big employers and local businesses such as the NHS, Groundworks and TJM Projects.

Current T Level Early Years student, Emma, who hopes to become a Nursery Teacher in the future, said: "The T Level course has fuelled my passion for early childhood education, providing me with so much knowledge and valuable work experience that contributes towards my career goals."



Construction Drawing Rooms



Hospital Simulation Ward



## Early Years Nursery



## Green Energy Skills Centre



# LEADING UK GAMES DEVELOPER COLLABORATES WITH STUDENTS



One thing we love at College is bringing the industry into the classroom, and that's exactly what we did for our Games, Animation and VFX students, who enjoyed an afternoon with the experts!

We welcomed UK games developer and publisher, Ripstone Games and our course partners NextGen Skills Academy, who were blown away by the impressive work and passion of our talented students, comparing their work to those working at graduate level.

During their visit, the students worked closely with industry professionals to develop and receive feedback and guidance

on their final-year projects, which they'll have the opportunity to present later in the year, at the prestigious AIM Qualifications and Assessment Group Awards in London!



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

### Games Student Wins Challenge With Innovative Animation Video

Level 3 Games, Animation and VFX student, Gabriel, showcased his talent in the 'Move your Elf' challenge, organised by NextGen Skills Academy and multi-BAFTA winning, Blue Zoo Animation Studio.

Tasked with creating a 10-second animated video, Gabriel's creative and well-executed entry won this year's competition, marking his first step into the animation industry and demonstrating he has the skills to meet the standards of industry!

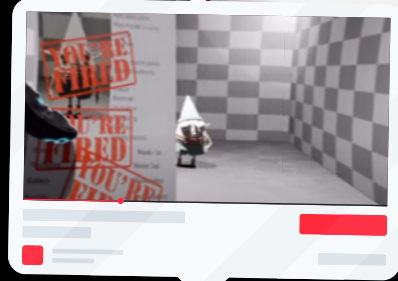
Check out his entry and read what Blue Zoo had to say about his work.



Watch the video here



SCAN ME!



# STUDENTS COLLABORATE WITH MICHELIN-STARRED CHEFS

Catering and Hospitality students headed to the home of the reds, Anfield Stadium, to work alongside six renowned Michelin-starred Chefs, preparing and serving dishes for guests at the Royal Academy of Culinary Arts Fundraising Dinner.

The evening featured a canapé reception, followed by a five-course menu, prepared by high profile Chefs James Holden, Ruth Hansom, Leigh Myers, Paul Askew, Gary Jones, and Paul Heathcote.



# STUDENTS DIVE INTO COMMERCIAL RADIO AT RADIO CITY TOWER

Bauer Media hosted Creative Media students for a 'Creation Station' event in Liverpool's Radio City Tower. The visit included a tour of the station, a presentation on UK commercial radio broadcasting, and an interactive workshop on radio commercial creation. Students were tasked with creating a 40-second radio commercial for Credit Unions, mentored by Bauer Media's professionals.

This real-world experience offered students the opportunity to see their work in a professional setting, with the potential for their commercials to be chosen for a real campaign on Hits Radio Liverpool!





# BEST COLLEGE IN THE NORTHWEST AT REGIONAL HAIR AND BEAUTY COMPETITION

Hair and Beauty students clinched the title of 'Best College in the Northwest' at the Association of Hairdressers and Therapists (AHT) Northwest Competition in Blackpool.

25 students from our Hairdressing, Beauty and Nails courses proudly represented the College, competing across 22 categories including, Fantasy Hairdressing, Editorial Style Makeup, Full Face Painting, Bridal Makeup, and more!

The students brought their A-game, impressing the expert judges with their creativity, and securing themselves a place in the national finals, riding on the wave of last year's success where they secured second place for 'Best Overall College in the Northwest'.

Check out some of their amazing entries!





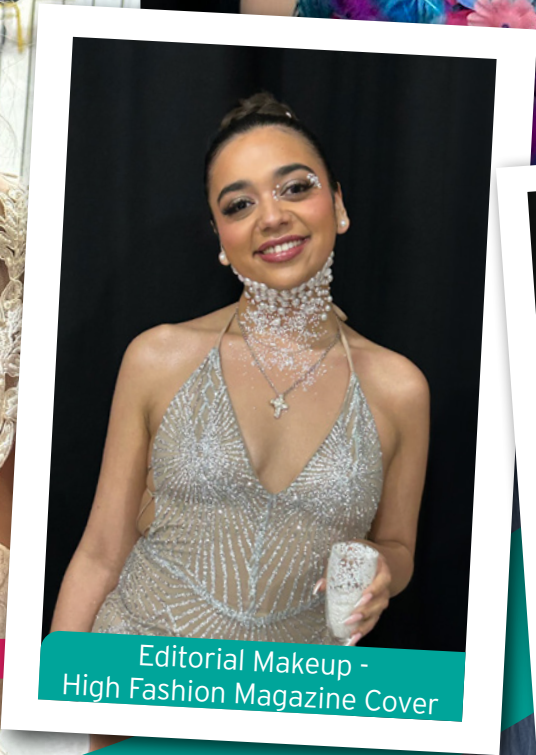
Glamorous Drag Makeup



Create an Image - Caribbean Carnival



Bridal Makeup



Editorial Makeup - High Fashion Magazine Cover



Bridal Hair Styling

# APPRENTICES WIN BIG AT KNOWSLEY BUSINESS AWARDS



**Mark** Pressure Hydraulics & Controls



**Charlie** Citrus Group

It was a big night for our apprentices at the Knowsley Business Awards as they took home both 'Winner' and 'Highly Commended' awards in the Apprentice of the Year category, sponsored by the College!

Electrical Installation Apprentice, Charlie, won Apprentice of the Year with his employer Citrus Group. Citrus Group said: "Charlie's remarkable growth over the past three years at Citrus truly shines through in this well-deserved victory!"

Maintenance and Operations Engineering Technician Apprentice, Mark, won 'Highly Commended' in the same category and attended the awards with his employer, Pressure Hydraulics & Controls.

## APPRENTICE, HAYDEN, PROVES AUTISM IS NOT A BARRIER TO SUCCESS

Aspiring Computing Engineer, Hayden, made a lasting impression during his Supported Internship, securing him a Business Administration Apprenticeship.

Hayden completed the Supported Internship Programme, which supports young people, aged 16-18 with an Educational Healthcare Plan to gain valuable work experience to increase their chances of securing a job.

As a young adult with autism, Hayden was eager to pave his own path, ready to take on new challenges and opportunities. Hayden's performance during his apprenticeship serves as proof that autism doesn't define him; instead, it adds a unique perspective to his work.



# UNIVERSITY CENTRE ST HELENS GRADUATION CEREMONY

We celebrated the incredible academic achievements of over 80 graduates at our annual University Centre St Helens Graduation Ceremony.

Graduates were joined by family, friends, academic staff and this year's Honoured Guest, St Helens RLFC and England Women's Rugby League Team Captain, Jodie Cunningham.



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

### *Health and Social Care Student Plays Key Role in £75,000 Playground Development*

We are immensely proud of our Health and Social Care student, Elliot, who has played a key role in the development of a brand-new children's playground in the local community.

As a member of the Stockbridge Action Youth (SAY) group, Elliot, along with other young members, produced plans and secured funding with the support of community feedback to open a new £75,000 playground, located in Stockbridge Village.

It is inspiring to see our students making such a positive influence within our local community.



# ENCHANTING NIGHT WITH THE STARS OF WIZARD OF OZ MUSICAL

Performing Arts students had a magical night at The Liverpool Empire to watch Wizard of Oz - The Musical!

After the curtain fell, they got the chance to go backstage and meet the incredible, The Vivienne from RuPaul's Drag Race, casting her spell as the Wicked Witch and none other than Aston Merrygold from JLS, who stole their hearts as the Tin Man!



## ALUMNI VISIT COLLEGE TO INSPIRE NEXT GENERATION

Computing and IT students enjoyed a visit from former IT students, Jamie and Tom, who shared their inspiring career journeys, since studying at the College 16 years ago!

Since leaving College, the pair have both led successful careers in the digital and IT industries. Jamie works as a Senior Engineer at IT company, Shaping Cloud and Tom is a Senior Administrator at software development company, Beyond Trust.

During their visit, the pair spoke about how their early experiences at College played a pivotal role in their career success, setting them up with industry ready skills and the confidence to take the next step.





# AVIATION STUDENTS SOAR HIGH AT SKYPEOPLE TRAINING ACADEMY

From mastering the Boeing and Airbus door training to navigating smoke-filled cabins in full PPE, the experience didn't stop there - our students tackled fires in overhead lockers and ovens, and took the plunge down the 25ft+ slide, simulating a real evacuation scenario.

The students gained invaluable training outside of the classroom, so that they are prepared for real life emergency situations when they are out in the industry.



# EXPLORING BELFAST'S HISTORY AND CULTURE!

Aviation and Travel and Tourism students took a trip across the pond for a day of history and culture, exploring everything Belfast City has to offer!

The day started with a look around the aircraft cockpit, whilst studying the airport and onboarding processes during check-in.

Once they arrived, the students went on a walking tour of the city, visiting Belfast's main visitor attractions including the famous Titanic Museum.







# FUNDRAISING

CHILDREN IN NEED

MACMILLAN

WILLOWBROOK HOSPICE

SAVE THE CHILDREN

STANDING TALL FOUNDATION

CLAIRE HOUSE

RADIO CITY - CASH FOR KIDS

NATIONAL AUTISTIC SOCIETY

BIPOLAR UK

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