

March 2026

COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

BASINGSTOKE
COLLEGE of
TECHNOLOGY



Welcome to our Spring 2026 Newsletter. It has been another incredibly busy and productive term at BCoT. As we enter the final stretch of the academic year, our focus is firmly on supporting every student with their September progression plans.



A MESSAGE FROM THE COLLEGE

Dear Parents and Carers,

To secure a place for next year, students must successfully complete their current studies, including all Industry Placement and Enrichment hours. We also look for consistent attendance and a positive commitment to college expectations.

If you or your young person have any questions about moving up to the next level, please contact their RAP Tutor or reach out to our dedicated team at careers@bcot.ac.uk.

We look forward to a strong finish to the year and helping our students take their next big step!



A QUICK NOTE ABOUT REPORTS

Just a quick reminder to keep checking the Parent Portal for updates, target-setting information and reports. For our full-time students, reports will be available from 17 April on the Dashboard.

THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

We can't stress enough how important attendance is for academic success. Regular college attendance gives students the chance to learn, connect with their peers and build essential skills. Punctuality is also vital. Being on time for all sessions is an important habit that prepares students for the world of work.

95%	9 days, 2 weeks missed
90%	18 days, 4 weeks missed
85%	27 days, 5 weeks missed
80%	36 days, 7 weeks missed
75%	45 days, 9 weeks missed
70%	54 days, 11 weeks missed



THAI ADVENTURES: A LIFE-CHANGING JOURNEY

Fifty students recently returned from an unforgettable two-and-a-half-week immersion in Thailand as part of the Turing Scheme. This unique trip blended cultural sightseeing - including floating markets and temples - with hands-on industry experience.

From Construction students building sustainable greenhouses to Hospitality students cooking with local chefs, everyone gained a global perspective on their future careers. Students also volunteered at an orphanage and bonded through kayaking and elephant care.

Beyond the technical skills, they returned with newfound compassion and gratitude. As one student shared: "It was a life-changing experience... I wouldn't change a thing."

We are so proud of their growth!

ROTARY EVENT - TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS

We were proud to host the Rotary Technology Tournament for another year and take home a trophy for BCoT!

The tournament spanned a range of school and college groups with a foundation, intermediate, and advanced division. The students had to make cars that completed tasks set out by the Rotarians, based on the level they competed in. One of our amazing teams won the award for Overall Winner in the Advanced Class - we couldn't be prouder!

The Technology Tournament is a great opportunity for our students to fuel their competitive spirit, build teamwork skills and put their hard work to the test - well done to all teams for getting involved.

A special thank you to Rotary International in Great Britain & Ireland for putting together this wonderful event - we can't wait for the next one.





COLLEGE JOINS WALK FOR WOMEN'S SAFETY

On 19 March, thirty BCoT students and staff joined police officers for a walk dedicated to tackling violence against women and girls. Starting from campus, the group navigated local routes, including the Flaxfield Road underpass, to discuss personal safety and identify areas where students feel vulnerable.

The walk concluded at Festival Place, where students accessed self-defence tips, safety apps like Hollie Guard, and free gadgets. Neighbourhood officers highlighted increased town centre patrols, while BCoT's Fi Freeman emphasised the importance of knowing where to reach out for support. It was a vital step in empowering our students to feel safe and heard.



CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF COLLEGE EXCELLENCE

BCoT recently welcomed back generations of alumni to celebrate our 75th anniversary. Former students, ranging from 1960s graduates to recent success stories, returned to campus to reconnect and see how our facilities have evolved.

Attendees shared inspiring journeys: brothers Roger and Peter Baulch recalled how their 1962 technical course launched 40-year careers, while Karen Hodgson highlighted how BCoT supported her pivot from IT to professional baking. We also met Lauren and David, who turned their Creative Media studies into roles with Xbox and GTA5. Their stories prove that a BCoT education is the foundation for a lifetime of success!

If you'd like to get involved, all you need to do to get involved is [sign up here](#).

COLLEGE JOB FAIR

Last week, our campus was buzzing with energy as we hosted our annual Job Fair, connecting students with a brighter future. We were thrilled to welcome over twenty leading employers from across the region including the Royal Air Force, South Western Railway and McDonalds, offering our students a unique chance to network and explore diverse career pathways.

From conversations about industry expectations to discovering what life really looks like after college, our students took a pro-active step toward considering their future options. A massive thank you to all the participating employers for their time and to our students for their impressive engagement.





DONATION FROM INSTAVOLT

Big news for our Engineering department. We are thrilled to receive a £5,000 donation from the team at Instavolt! Emily Hawkins and Amy Fuller stopped by to present the cheque to Shane Munford (Faculty Head) and our students.

This funding allows us to purchase 15 Google Chromebooks for students who need tech support at home, as well as essential PPE, boots, and overalls for those who need a helping hand with kit costs.

COLLEGE HOSTS APPRENTICESHIP FAIR

Our recent Apprenticeship Recruitment Fair was a success. We hosted over twenty employers from ASK Technology Limited, AWE and The Royal Navy. We welcomed hundreds of students, who got to talk to people in industry about future careers and apprenticeship opportunities.



GCSE DATES

<u>MATHS</u>	<u>ENGLISH</u>
Paper 1 (Non-Calc) - 14 May 2026	Paper 1 - 21 May 2026
Paper 2 (Calc) - 03 June 2026	Paper 2 - 05 June 2026

EASTER GCSE REVISION SESSIONS

<u>MATHS ROOM F012</u>	<u>ENGLISH ROOM F012</u>
Monday 30 March, 9am to 12pm	Tuesday 7 April, 1pm to 4pm
Tuesday 31 March, 9am to 12pm	Wednesday 8 April, 1pm to 4pm