

April 2025

COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

BASINGSTOKE
COLLEGE of
TECHNOLOGY



Welcome to our Spring 2025 Newsletter. It's been a vibrant term at BCoT. We've focussed on progression with apprenticeship and career events, while also fostering community spirit. Students enjoyed visits from Village Gym and creative charity fundraising projects as part of their Personal Development. We celebrated STEM success at the Rotary Tournament, showcasing our students' talent.

Final reports will be available on the Dashboard from Monday, April 28th. We hope you enjoy reading about our students' achievements and activities.

We look forward to welcoming students back on Tuesday 22nd April for summer term.



THE IMPORTANCE OF ATTENDANCE

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.



GCSE DATES

GCSE Maths and English Exams: Make sure to mark your calendars for the important dates coming up for GCSE Maths and English exams.

Thursday 15 May, morning

Maths non-calculator exam

Friday 23 May, morning

English exam

Wednesday 4 June, morning

Maths calculator exam

Friday 6 June, morning

English exam

Share this video with your young person so they can see what to expect on the exam day, helping them feel well-prepared.

English and Maths drop-in revision sessions in F012.

English

10 AM - 12 PM, Monday 7 April

10 AM - 12 PM, Tuesday 8 April

Maths

1 PM - 3PM, Monday 7 April

1 PM - 3PM, Tuesday 8 April

INDUSTRY PLACEMENT SUPPORT

If your young person requires any support with industry placement (IP) hours or if you have any questions, please see **our FAQs here**.

Students can also come along to our daily IP Drop-In Sessions in the Learning Hub from Monday to Friday between 10am and 1pm and can email industry.placements@bcot.ac.uk.

Please also get in touch if you work for a company that may be able to offer industry placement hours to our students. **For more information please click here.**



INTERVIEW WORKSHOPS

The wonderful team from Mears Group PLC returned to host two Interview Workshops for some of our students earlier this week. We are thankful to Lara A, Leanne Cox and Jenny Rowell for their ongoing support, which is invaluable for our learners. We're excited to continue growing our collaboration together.

TURING IN BALI

This Easter break, students are preparing for extraordinary learning experiences abroad, showcasing the practical application of their skills on a global stage. Our construction students are in Bali, participating in a sustainable housing project, contributing directly to community development while learning about eco-friendly building practices. Meanwhile, our engineering students will be heading to Italy, where they will delve into the world of electric bikes, learning about their design, construction, and the broader e-mobility industry, all made possible through the prestigious Turing Scheme.

The Turing Scheme, the UK government's global programme, offers students the invaluable opportunity to study and work abroad, enhancing their academic and personal development. These trips represent a fantastic opportunity for our students to not only apply their classroom learning to real-world projects but also to gain invaluable cultural experiences. We look forward to hearing about their experiences and the positive impact they will make.



LECTURER RACES TO MCLAREN SKILLS DRIVE FINAL

Shane Munford, BCoT's Faculty Head for Engineering and Automotive, has been named a finalist in the prestigious Department for Education and McLaren's Skills Drive competition, a testament to his exceptional teaching.

He will lead a team of BCoT students in demanding challenges at the McLaren Technology Centre (MTC) in Woking. This highlights BCoT's high-caliber education and Shane's dedication to inspiring future engineers. The competition celebrates FE teacher expertise, showcasing Shane's innovative teaching, blending traditional methods with modern techniques. Students will face exciting challenges at McLaren, and BCoT has secured a McLaren engineering masterclass. The winning team gets a McLaren e-sports experience.

"I am honoured to have been selected as a finalist and to have the opportunity to take a team of our talented students to McLaren. Teaching in FE has been incredibly rewarding, and I hope this experience will inspire our students to pursue their dreams in the industry," said Shane Munford.



BASINGSTOKE COMMUNITY RADIO

From learning studio tech to crafting compelling scripts, PSD and Employability students experienced the thrill of radio production with Basingstoke Community Radio. The six-week course saw them plan, record, and edit their own shows, boosting vital skills. Celebrating their achievements, students received certificates and show recordings. One learner will return for an on-air interview.

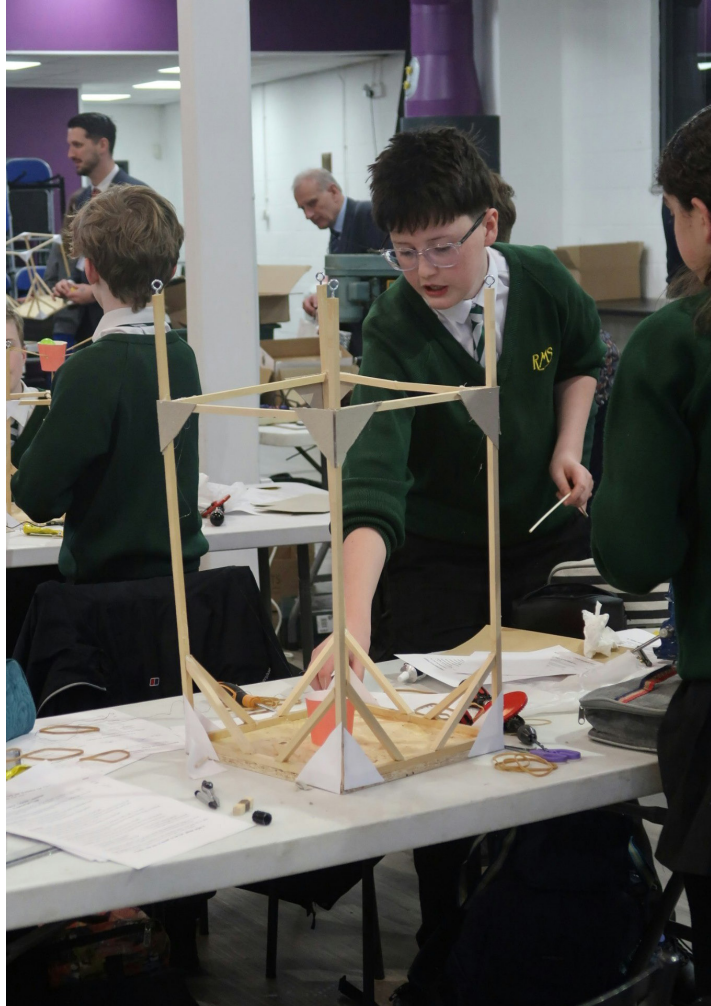


STUDENTS TRIUMPH AT TECHNOLOGY TOURNAMENT

Students emerged victorious, showcasing exceptional engineering skills at the Rotary Loddon Technology Tournament. The College hosted the event, which drew talented students from various local schools, spanning Key Stage 3 and beyond, to engage in challenging STEM-based activities.

The competition tasked participants with designing and constructing a device capable of launching a ball three metres into the air in a perfectly straight line, all while operating the mechanism from a distance of one metre. This demanding challenge required a blend of ingenuity, precision, and practical engineering skills, putting the students' problem-solving abilities to the test.

BCoT students rose to the occasion, demonstrating their exceptional talent and dedication. The college is thrilled to announce that two of our own teams swept the competition, taking home both awards in their respective category. This outstanding achievement underscores the high caliber of STEM education at BCoT.



UNLOC

Following last year's impactful session, UNLOC Business Enterprise returned to deliver two dynamic employability skills days. Level 1 learners engaged in highly interactive activities, fostering crucial practical abilities and boosting their confidence. The workshops provided a fun, engaging environment, leaving students better prepared for future careers.

EMPLOYER FAIR

Students engaged with a wide range of employers at our annual jobs fair last week. The event, held in the College's lower concourse, successfully connected students with diverse industries, offering a glimpse into potential career paths.

Students had the unique opportunity to speak directly with representatives from the local Police force, the Royal Air Force, and the Army, gaining insight into public service careers. Engineering and technology enthusiasts explored opportunities with AWE, while those interested in hospitality and care connected with representatives from various hotel chains and local nurseries. The fair provided a platform for students to explore diverse career paths and network, empowering students to make informed career decisions.

