

December 2025

COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

BASINGSTOKE
COLLEGE of
TECHNOLOGY



Welcome to our Winter 2025 Newsletter. It's been a super-busy first term hosting another successful UCAS Event and supporting our students with their university applications and industry placements.

As we wrap up the term, we encourage everyone to rest, recharge and enjoy a well-deserved holiday. We can't wait to see everyone back on 5th January, refreshed and ready to kick off the new academic year!



A MESSAGE FROM CAREERS

Dear Parents and Carers

It's been a busy first term, which included hosting another successful UCAS Event and supporting students with university applications and industry placements.

Students have engaged in numerous enriching and career-focused activities this term. Public Services students proudly supported the Royal British Legion (RBL) Poppy Appeal in Basingstoke, raising funds for the Armed Forces. Students have also benefited from university visits and we've also been developing strong employer partnerships, including a new one with McDonald's. Enrichment activities like park cleans, boxing, football and the Duke of Edinburgh Award are well underway, helping students to enhance their CV.

We look forward to seeing our learners back and ready to excel in the new year.



A QUICK NOTE ABOUT COMMUNICATION/ REPORTS

Just a quick reminder to keep checking the Parent Portal for updates, target-setting information and reports. For our full-time students, reports are available from 19th December 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

INDUSTRY PLACEMENT SUPPORT

Compulsory Industry Placement (IP) hours are a core, non-optional requirement for completing your young person's course and achieving their qualification.

This placement offers invaluable real-world experience, enabling students to:

- Apply the skills learned in the workplace
- Acclimatise to the pace of professional work
- Network with potential future employers

We strongly encourage you to discuss this with your young person and support them in proactively seeking out placement opportunities as soon as possible. While the College is here to offer guidance and support, securing a suitable, safe placement is a shared responsibility.

Support and contact

- If you or your young person requires support with the Industry Placement hours or has questions, please refer to our FAQs [here](#).
- Students can attend daily drop-in sessions in the Learning Hub, Monday to Friday, between 10am and 1pm.
- Contact the team at industry.placements@bcot.ac.uk.

Opportunity for employers

If you work for a company that may be able to offer industry placement hours to our students, please get in touch. For more information, [please click here](#).

CAREERS AND PROGRESSION

There are many progression options available to students once they have completed their course at BCoT. The Careers Team is here to support students, parents and carers to make decisions on next steps. For more information on progression options, please access our **Careers & Progression** webpages for detailed information on university, apprenticeships, gap years and employment.



AOC BEACON AWARDS

BCoT is delighted to be named as a commended college in the AoC Beacon Awards this year for Excellence in Careers and Enterprise.

ONLINE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

To ensure our learners are fully prepared for a modern career, their course includes 70 hours of Online Professional Development. This timetabled learning goes beyond the workshop, focusing on critical professional skills.

This component covers areas like:

- Life Skills including cost of living
- Instilling British Values and DEI
- Employability skills, such as CV writing and interview techniques

It is important that they treat these online hours with the same focus and dedication as their practical skills. Learners can access their online modules in Google Classroom.

ENRICHMENT

Enrichment is a compulsory study programme designed to support student progression by offering a wide range of clubs and community action activities. Your young person can participate in activities such as park cleans, boxing, arts and crafts, football, and the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Participation in these extra-curricular activities is highly beneficial, as they enhance their CV and are valued by employers.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

At BCoT, we are committed to ensuring every learner has the support they need to succeed. Please let your young person know that help is always available:

- RAP Tutors and Course Directors: Our teaching staff are the first port of call for any course-related or pastoral concerns.
- Student Support Services: For welfare advice, counselling, help with financial concerns and confidential pastoral care.
- Learning Support: Tailored assistance for learners with specific learning needs or those requiring extra help with their English and maths GCSE components.

If you have any concerns regarding your child's progress, please do not hesitate to contact the team.

POPPY APPEAL

We are immensely proud of our Public Services students for their dedicated support of this year's Royal British Legion (RBL) Poppy Appeal at Festival Place Basingstoke and The Malls. This was a truly meaningful placement experience that provided a practical application of their academic studies in civic responsibility and public service. Their efforts were vital in raising funds for the Armed Forces community, while simultaneously building crucial professional skills and meaningful placement experience.



STUDENT UNIVERSITY TRIPS

Our students have had the opportunity to visit some great universities this term – the CGFX Event at Solent University and a Taster Day at University of Portsmouth to learn more about engineering degree courses.



TRIANGLE TRAVEL

The lovely team from Triangle Travel visited BCoT to conduct mock interviews with some of our Travel and Tourism students this term, giving them a chance to explore placement opportunities at various branches. The IP Team continues to build strong partnerships like this, which is crucial for the success of our college placements and supporting student growth, confidence and guiding them toward future careers.

MCDONALD'S

An exciting new employer partnership with McDonald's, who we welcomed to BCoT for the first time to present to various groups of learners about employability, different progression routes and careers within their organisation – we can't wait to have to progress this relationship further and invite them back again in March for our Employer Job Fair.



UNLOC BUSINESS ENTERPRISE COURSE

Our T Level Business students were buzzing after attending Unloc's Business Enterprise at the end of this term. From a brilliant Traitors-style challenge to developing and pitching a business idea, each segment of the course helped them to improve their confidence, teamworking, public speaking and leadership skills. Incredible feedback from all students and a brilliant acknowledgement from Nicole Pharoah, one of the Unloc team, who said "This was an absolute highlight of my year. These young changemakers were engaged, receptive and incredibly tuned in to what makes a great entrepreneur. I feel very privileged to have been part of this programme!"

MIDDLESEX AEROSPACE

Middlesex Aerospace are just one of the incredible employers who support us with T Level Engineering placements and we were thrilled to receive this outstanding feedback from Michael Clarkson, their Product Quality and Apprentice Manager - "We currently have two BCoT students at Middlesex Aerospace - they have been with us for just over a year and are now in the second stage of their course. It has been a pleasure supporting them in their qualification journey and observing how well they've engaged with the various departments they've worked in. I've received only positive feedback about both students, and it's been great to see their confidence grow during their time with us. They've also expressed interest in pursuing apprenticeships, which is very encouraging."