

October 2025

COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

BASINGSTOKE
COLLEGE of
TECHNOLOGY



Welcome to our Autumn 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.



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.

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

CHECK THE PARENT PORTAL

Just a quick reminder to keep checking the Parent Portal regularly to ensure you have the latest information about your young person's progress. This is where you'll find important updates, reports, and target-setting details. For students attending full-time, their individual learning targets are available now on their dashboard. You can expect their full reports to be uploaded at the end of December.

PARENT EVENING FOLLOW-UP

It was great to see so many of you at our recent Parents' Evenings. For your convenience, you can find the slides presented during the evenings available here.



GCSE DATES

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

Assessment Dates

Week of 20 October 2025

Progress test 1

Week of 8 December 2025

Progress test 2

Week of 19 January 2026

Mock paper 1 (non-calculator & non-fiction texts)

Week of 9 February 2026

Mock paper 2 (calculator & contemporary texts)

Summer Exam Dates

14 May 2026 - Maths paper 1 (non-calculator)

21 May 2026 - English paper 1

3 June 2026 - Maths paper 2 (calculator)

5 June 2026 - English paper 2

COLLEGE NEWS

A YEAR OF SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP

We are thrilled to celebrate the one-year anniversary of our successful partnership with PAH Building & Construction. This collaboration is instrumental in delivering our mission to provide real-world pathways into a wide range of industry careers for our 325+ construction students.

To deepen the learning opportunities, PAH Building & Construction is launching a dedicated on-site learning space at their Mindenhurst site in Surrey. This unique environment - set within properties retrofitted to meet modern energy efficiency and net-zero goals - will provide our students with essential practical exposure to high-demand construction specialisms.

We are incredibly proud of BCoT student Rafferty Evans, who has been hired by PAH Building & Construction as a full-time Carpentry Apprentice, putting his college learning immediately into practice on a large scale.

We are grateful for partners like PAH Building & Construction whose dedication shapes the next generation of skilled workers.





STUDENTS JOIN FORCES WITH DIY SOS!

Our dedicated Construction students recently put their skills to the ultimate test by volunteering on a local DIY SOS: The Big Build project. Working alongside Nick Knowles and the iconic 'DIY SOS' team, the students applied their college training to help transform the home of a deserving family in Southampton.

Our students assisted with the complete renovation of a house, extension, and gardens. This seven-day project wasn't just an incredible work experience - it's a demonstration of positivity and community spirit! Our students, accompanied by staff, gained invaluable, real-world experience, contributing to their Industry Placement (IP) hours and seeing firsthand how their skills can transform lives.

We're proud to have been part of helping this family get the secure, beautiful home they deserve. Look out for the show when it airs next year.

NEW THAMES WATER ENGINEERING ROOM

The College and Thames Water celebrated their five-year partnership this month by opening the new Thames Water Engineering Room.

This dedicated facility provides immersive, hands-on training for the one hundred Thames Water apprentices currently studying at the College. Equipped to teach bench fitting, hand skills and other core engineering competencies, the room is a significant investment in future talent.

Tess Fayers, Waste and Bioresources Director at Thames Water, stated, "This facility is where theory transforms into hands-on experience, giving our apprentices the critical skills they need to become the future-ready engineers who will safeguard essential water supply."

The space reinforces the strategic partnership, aiming to cultivate a highly skilled workforce ready to tackle modern infrastructure challenges.



CONNECTING STUDENTS WITH THE COMMUNITY

The BCoT Welcome Fair was a fantastic success! We were delighted to see so many students turn out in the Lower Concourse to explore the great opportunities available to them both at the College and in the local area.

The event featured a wide variety of exciting partners, including Lush, Hollywood Bowl and Village Gym. These partners provided students with valuable information, sign-ups and special offers. It was a perfect way for our students to discover local employers, community services and ways to make the most of their time here.

SUPPORTING NEXT STEPS

Once students complete their course at BCoT, a wide range of exciting progression options become available. The Careers Team is dedicated to supporting students, parents and carers through these important next-step decisions, regardless of what course your young person is studying.

Feeling unsure or confused about the future is very common! If you or your student need guidance, please contact us directly at: careers@bcot.ac.uk.

Available Resources & Support:

To help you explore all pathways, please access our essential resources:

Careers Booklet: **Download the new version here**

Careers & Progression Webpage: Find detailed information on university, apprenticeships, higher education, gap years and employment **here**.

Annual Careers Programme: View the full schedule of events and workshops running throughout the college year **here**.



UCAS SUCCESS AND UNIVERSITY APPLICATIONS

It's been a super-busy first term! We successfully hosted another UCAS Event and have been dedicated to supporting our students with their university applications.

We welcomed representatives from over 20 universities, who offered a wealth of useful information and guidance to help students consider their next steps. Students had the opportunity to attend focused talks hosted by Solent University, the University of South Wales, the University of Brighton, and the University of Portsmouth. These sessions covered everything from course options and student finance to university life.

The University of Winchester delivered intensive Personal Statement Workshops. This hands-on support was followed up with one-to-one Personal Statement

appointments, providing our university applicants with invaluable guidance to fine-tune and enhance their UCAS statements.

We've had some great student feedback:

"It helped me explore different career paths, so I no longer feel limited to just one course."

"Speaking with Alix gave me a great insight to what was needed in order for a personal statement to stand out. Her knowledge is invaluable and she gave great advice with some research to improve my statement."

"It helped me learn more about university and that money doesn't always have to be an issue."

If your young person is applying for university starting 2026, then please encourage them to join our UCAS Google classroom with code: **prw7e4c** for lots of useful university application tips and guidance and general university information.

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.**



DESTINATION BASINGSTOKE

As part of their industry placement, some of our Public Services students volunteered as marshals at this year's Basingstoke Half Marathon. We were thrilled to receive brilliant feedback from Mark Jones, Partnership Manager at Destination Basingstoke, who said:

"I just wanted to say how impressed I was with your public service students at the Half/10k. Most of them were a real credit to the College and themselves. Hard as it is to single out individuals, I was particularly impressed with Grace and Rosie. They were really can-do when it came to tackling tasks. I am sure both will go far in their career journeys."

BOMBAY SAPPHIRE DISTILLERY

Following the huge success of last year's pilot, we're absolutely thrilled to partner with Bombay Sapphire again!

This November, we'll be offering an exclusive two-day "Building Your Future" experience. A select group of students aged 18+ will have the fantastic opportunity to learn about the business, explore the variety of roles within the company, and access valuable employability skills sessions.



SPRINGPOD

We are delighted to have won an award from Springpod in recognition of our amazing students who completed their Summer IT & Digital Skills challenge! All students can access Springpod for virtual work experience relevant to their vocational area of study and gain a recognised certificate to add to their CV, apprenticeship or university applications. Find out more here: springpod.com.

USEFUL RESOURCES

SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE WITH CAREERS

bit.ly/472HEar

UCAS

ucas.com

NATIONAL CAREERS SERVICE

nationalcareers.service.gov.uk

CAREER PILOT

careerpilot.org.uk