October 2026

COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

BASINGSTOKE COLLEGE of TECHNOLOGY

Welcome to our Autumn 2026 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.



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.

PARENTS/CARERS EVENING FOLLOW UP

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

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.

95%	9 days, 2 weeeks 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

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.

November Resits

3 November 2026 - English paper

4 November 2026 - Maths paper

Summer Exam Dates

14 May 2027 - Maths paper 1 (non-calculator)

24 May 2027 - English paper 1

8 June 2027 - English paper 2

27 June 2027 - Maths paper 2 (calculator)

CONSTRUCTION STUDENTS STAR ON BBC ONE'S DIY SOS



Our Level 2 Construction students recently took centre stage on BBC One's DIY SOS, helping transform the Bitterne, Southampton home of a local family in need.

The project supported Ahmed and Rifat Ali - a deaf couple who communicate using British Sign Language - and their three children, including a son with autism. After an unfinished extension left their ground floor hazardous and uninhabitable, the family was confined upstairs.

Working alongside presenter Nick Knowles, professional tradespeople and volunteers, BCoT students applied their carpentry, electrical and plumbing skills to help complete the build in just ten days.

Course Director Craig McLaren and Head of Construction Steve Gilder praised the experience for giving students invaluable, real-world insight into site coordination, teamwork and the power of community spirit.

If you missed the episode on Tuesday, October 6, catch up anytime on BBC iPlayer to see our students in action!

INSTAVOLT FUNDS STUDENT GREENPOWER CAR PROJECT

We were delighted to receive a £3,500 donation from InstaVolt to empower our students to build a zero-emission "greenpower car" through a college green enrichment club.

The donation provides the student team with the funding to design, assemble and test an electric kit car from scratch. Through hands-on experience with battery dynamics, aerodynamics and lightweight engineering, participating students will gain direct insight into renewable transport technologies and practical STEM skills.

"We are thrilled to have InstaVolt's support for our young engineers as they take their ideas from the workshop to the track, proving that clean energy is the future of motorsport and everyday mobility," said Shane Munford, Faculty Head of Engineering.



FIRST DAY ON SITE FOR OUR YEAR 2 T LEVEL ENGINEERING STUDENTS!

Six of our brilliant second-year T Level Engineering students took their classroom theory directly into the field as they began their Industry Placements with Graham Construction. Over the coming months, they'll be shadowing and working alongside seasoned industry professionals, gaining invaluable hands-on experience on live site projects.

Day one was all about hitting the ground running:

- Comprehensive Health & Safety briefings, site protocols and PPE sign-offs.
- Individual goal-setting discussions so the team can tailor placement packages to each student's career ambitions.
- Meeting their mentors and getting stuck into site life!

A massive thank you to Ibbie Omideyi, Andrew Gardner and the entire team at Graham Construction for hosting our students, making them feel so welcome and investing in the next generation of engineering talent. The students were enthusiastic and eager to get to work.

We're looking forward to watching their growth, skills and confidence develop over the course of this exciting placement!

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.

For our students considering higher education for their next steps, this week was jam-packed with talks, workshops and a UCAS fair. At our fair we welcomed over 20 universities and higher education providers who spoke to hundreds of students about their options.

We had the following talks take place throughout the week:

- Thinking about Uni & Choosing a Course - University of Brighton
- Transition to Uni & Support Available - Southampton Solent University
- Student Finance Talk - University of Portsmouth
- Personal Statement Advice - University of Winchester

Alix from the University of Winchester also ran one-to-one drop-in sessions for students who wanted help with their personal statements, providing our university applicants with invaluable guidance to fine-tune and enhance their UCAS statements.

We've had some great student feedback:

"The personal statement day helped me to understand what information was necessary and to be more confident when writing about my abilities".

"I was able to talk to different universities and gather more knowledge on where I wanted to go and what course I wanted to study".

"It was great to have feedback on my draft UCAS statement and ways to re-write it to be more persuasive".

Thank you so much to all the universities and higher education providers who made this week so fruitful for our students! It was all about UCAS this week!

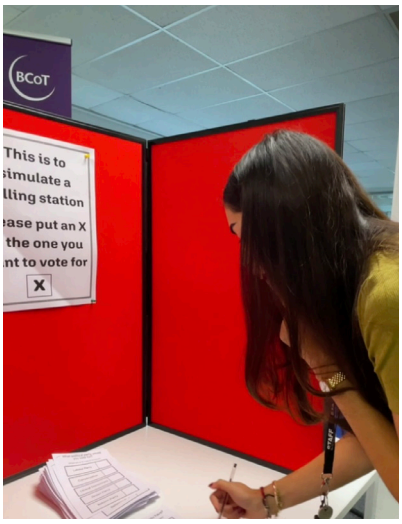
If your young person is applying for university starting 2027, then please encourage them to join our UCAS Google classroom with code: bfldgtx2 for lots of useful university application tips and guidance and general university information.

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**.



OUR 16 AND 17-YEAR-OLDS GOT READY TO VOTE

This term our 16 and 17-year-old students learned that their voices matter now more than ever! Because entering the voting booth for the first time can feel a little unfamiliar, we stepped in to help them feel confident and prepared for the process.

During their Personal Development (PD) sessions, students explored how voting works, from understanding the UK's main political parties to learning about the electoral system.

To bring the lessons to life, students had the chance to cast a real ballot at our mock polling station in the Learning Hub! They voted for a political party alongside a lighter topic: which animal they would most like to have as a pet.

Thank you to everyone who participated - we will be announcing the official election results very soon!

COLLEGE CO-HOSTS BASINGSTOKE BUSINESS WEEK THIS NOVEMBER!



We're proud to co-found Basingstoke Business Week, running from 9 to 13 November 2026 under the theme Skills for the Future.

BCoT is delivering the event alongside key partners, including Basingstoke MP Luke Murphy, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Hampshire Chamber of Commerce, M3 Job Club, Stronger Together Forum and Destination Basingstoke.

For our students, this event sits right at the heart of their career preparation. The week will showcase emerging technologies like AI, green innovation and digital skill sets, giving our learners direct insight into the rapid shifts happening across modern industries.

CHARLIE'S PROMISE

On Wednesday 4 November, we will host a guest speaker representing a charity founded by a father who tragically lost his 17-year-old son to knife crime at a house party. The organisation's mission is to raise awareness among young people about the dangers of knife violence. The presentation will take place from 5:30pm to 6:30pm in the lecture theatre.

If you are interested in attending, please complete the **registration form here**.

USEFUL RESOURCES

- Supporting Young People with Careers
- UCAS
- National Careers Service
- Career Pilot