

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



NOVEMBER 2025

NEWSLETTER

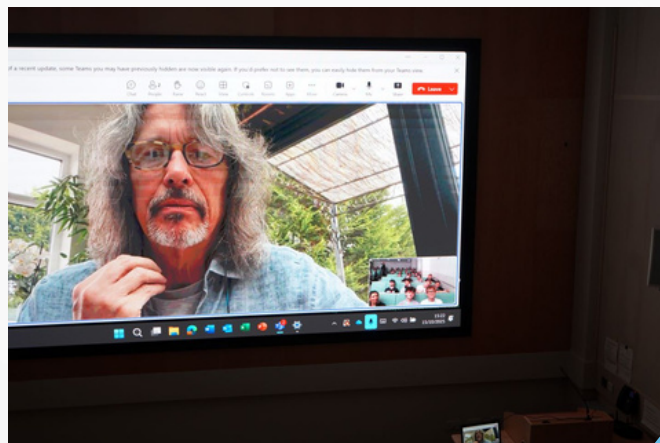
World famous rock star delivers York College music lesson!

Kelly Hansen, the lead singer of the iconic rock band Foreigner, recently provided a music lesson to York College students through a live link from Los Angeles. This event took place just days after his final performance with the band, which is renowned for hits like "I Want to Know What Love Is." During the hour-long session, organized by A Level Music tutor Cat Wright, Hansen discussed his early passion for music, recalling his ability to memorize over 400 songs as a child.

Students engaged with him in a question-and-answer format, during which he offered insights into performing on stage, including advice on achieving a balance between being a technically proficient singer and an engaging performer. Hansen shared personal tips, such as his unique vocal warm-up routine and dietary choices to maintain vocal health, like avoiding spicy food before performances to prevent acid reflux.

He reflected on memorable moments from his career, such as the unique experience of hearing a crowd of 9,000 in Bulgaria sing "I Want to Know What Love Is" back to him. Hansen emphasised the joy of performing in Europe during spring and discussed the challenge of choosing a favorite venue among the many prestigious locations he has played, including the Sydney Opera House and Carnegie Hall. When queried about ideal collaborations with music legends, he expressed admiration for Aretha Franklin and Ray Charles.

Read the full story: <https://www.yorkcollege.ac.uk/events-and-news/news-blogs/world-famous-rock-star-delivers-york-college-music-lesson>





National Business College Apprentices Support Local Families with Harvest Donation

Apprentices from National Business College have once again demonstrated the power of community spirit by delivering a generous Harvest collection to The Welcome Centre, a vital food bank and support hub in Huddersfield.

The donation, handed over to Charlie at The Welcome Centre, was made possible thanks to the kindness and generosity of the college's apprentices, their families, and staff members. The initiative was part of the college's ongoing commitment to supporting local causes and fostering a culture of giving.

The Welcome Centre plays a crucial role in the Kirklees community, offering food, toiletries, and practical support to individuals and families facing hardship. Over the past year alone, the charity has provided an astonishing 317,000 meals to people in crisis across Huddersfield and surrounding areas.

NBC are proud to play a small part in supporting the incredible work The Welcome Centre does.

The college's Harvest collection is a reminder of how collective efforts, no matter how small, can make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.



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UNIVERSITY

CDDP Leaflet Final Stages

York St John University is in the last stages of developing their CDDP leaflet.

The Creative Digital Design Degree Apprenticeship from York St John University blends academic study with hands-on experience in the workplace.

Designed for aspiring digital creatives, this programme equips apprentices with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to thrive in roles such as:

- Digital Designer
- UX/UI Specialist
- Creative Technologist
- Multimedia Producer

Delivered by industry experts, the programme covers visual communication, digital media production, UX research, emerging technologies (AR, VR, AI), and creative strategy.

Apprentices build a professional portfolio and complete a final End-Point Assessment (EPA) to demonstrate their competence.





CATCH Recognised Nationally for Leading the way in Clean Energy Skills

CATCH has been recognised in the UK Government's Clean Energy Jobs Plan as a leading example of how industry and education can work together to create the skilled workforce needed for the clean energy future.

Based in Grimsby, CATCH already operates as the new "Technical Excellence College" model, training people for real industrial careers. The triple-award winning organisation delivers apprenticeships and training in 11 of the identified priority occupations, students are supported by tutors who bring years of experience from working in industry. Its facilities are designed to feel like real industrial workplaces, giving learners hands-on experience that prepares them for their future careers. The organisation also leads the way in inclusion, running Women in Engineering initiatives, Equality Diversity, Inclusivity and Belonging network, and a dedicated outreach team connecting schools and communities with opportunities in the industrial sectors.

David Talbot, CATCH CEO, said, "Our strength lies in our deep rooted industrial connections, with investors, local councils, government, and employers across the region. Our offer spans the full talent pipeline, from pre-apprenticeships and Skills Bootcamps through to Level 4 HNC programmes which will be delivered from September 2026, ensuring opportunities for learners at every stage. It also supports the existing and transitioning workforce through short courses for upskilling and reskilling, aligned with the region's industrial needs including, Local Skills Improvement Plans and working with the Office for Clean Energy Jobs Training Guarantee, and the national clean energy skills pilot".

The Government's report describes CATCH as "an employer-led training provider, co-funded by industry and government, supporting reskilling in hydrogen, carbon capture, utilisation and storage, and process operation."





Engineering The Future

HETA Secures Skills Bootcamp Funding to Help Employers Upskill Their Workforce

HETA has secured funding from the Government's Skills Bootcamp programme to assist employers in Hull and the East Riding in enhancing their workforce's skills in key engineering fields.

The initiative includes four fully funded training programmes: Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Multi-skilled Engineering, and Fabrication and Welding.

Local employers can enhance their teams' technical capabilities while addressing skills gaps and improving productivity, contributing only 10% to 30% of total training costs based on business size, with the remainder funded by the Government.

The funding must be utilized by March 2026, and registration is limited, emphasising the need for early sign-up. Iain Elliott, Chief Executive of HETA, highlighted the importance of skilled workers in maintaining competitiveness in the engineering and manufacturing sectors.

The courses will be short and modular, designed according to employer feedback, allowing businesses to focus on specific skills relevant to their operations with minimal disruption.

Read the full article today: <https://heta.co.uk/news/skills-bootcamp-funding-secured>





Heart of Yorkshire
Education Group

College Students Visit Japan for Beauty Training Programme

Hair & Beauty students from Castleford College and Selby College participated in a specialised training program in Tokyo, Japan, aimed at deepening their understanding of East Asia's beauty industry.

Over two weeks, students engaged in hands-on training at notable Japanese salons such as Panasonic Beauty Salon and Hair Taya Salon, learning skills in hair care, coloring, counseling, and Japanese-style makeup techniques. The experience not only allowed them to enhance their existing skills but also included cultural immersion through visits to iconic sites like Shibuya Sky Tower and the teamLab art museum.

Richard Burgess, Deputy Head of Curriculum for Hair & Beauty, expressed that the trip was a memorable opportunity for students to gain insights into professional standards in the beauty industry, enhancing their employability. Students reported feeling inspired by the professionalism they observed from Japanese salon staff, which aligned with their aspirations, including starting their own salons.

The colleges, part of the Heart of Yorkshire Education Group, also operate student-run salons open to the public, enabling practical experience with real clients. Applications for the Hair & Beauty programs at these colleges for the 2026/2027 academic year are now open.

Read the full news article here: <https://www.heartofyorkshire.ac.uk/news-events/news/college-students-visit-japan-for-beauty-training-programme>



Celebrating Success at our Annual Student Awards Ceremony

This year's annual Student Awards Ceremony was held on Saturday, 8 November 2025, celebrating the achievements of students, mentors, and staff.

The event fostered a spirit of pride, laughter, and inspiration, reflecting on a successful year of learning and community engagement. Awards were given to students for their dedication and contributions, with applause from family, friends, and staff acknowledging their hard work.

A highlight was the introduction of the 'Inclusive Practice Award,' won by Andrew Tunley, which allowed students to honor exceptional staff contributions. Additionally, Georgeanna Stephenson received the 2025 Laura Turnbull bursary.

The ceremony emphasised community and teamwork, illustrating that success manifests in various ways beyond academics, including kindness, leadership, and perseverance.

Congratulations were extended to all award winners, alongside gratitude to those who helped make the event memorable. A list of all award winners was provided, and best wishes were given to students transitioning to further studies, training, or employment.

You can read the full news story now: <https://www.caw.ac.uk/caw-news/celebrating-success-at-our-annual-student-awards-ceremony/>



Gateway Qualifications trustees affirm commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) are fundamental to Gateway Qualifications' mission, as emphasised by the Board of Trustees in their governance and strategic oversight.

The Trustees affirm their commitment to EDI as essential for operating effectively as a high-quality organisation that provides equitable opportunities for all learners, apprentices, staff, and stakeholders.

Their commitment includes championing inclusivity by embedding inclusive practices in governance, opposing discrimination, promoting equity beyond legal compliance, driving accountability through a robust EDI action plan, celebrating diverse voices in various organisational contexts, and supporting systemic change to dismantle barriers faced by underrepresented and marginalised groups in vocational and technical education.

Additionally, they focus on creating a safe environment by taking decisive actions against inappropriate behavior to ensure the well-being of their community. This commitment is seen as a guiding principle that informs all decisions and actions of the Trustees, reinforcing their dedication to fostering an inclusive culture and achieving equitable outcomes.





Kirklees College hosts Safeguarding & Pastoral Support Conference 2025

On November 14, 2025, Kirklees College hosted the Safeguarding & Pastoral Support Conference, bringing together delegates from various educational and public sectors, including partners like Our Future Kirklees and Huddersfield New College. The conference aimed to address crucial issues impacting young people in the area, reflecting the college's commitment to a restorative, trauma-informed, and anti-racist educational environment.

The event featured keynote speeches from Lisa Eaton, Director of Safeguarding, and Principal Palvinder Singh, alongside insights from DCI Oliver Coates of West Yorkshire Police and Polly Harrow, DfE FE Student Support Champion. The agenda included workshops focused on Exploitation, Misogyny & Sexual Harassment, and Prevent, encouraging student participation with a speech from the Students' Union President.

Principal Singh emphasized the importance of collaboration among local institutions to support the Government's 'Safer Streets' initiative, advocating for unified efforts to enhance community safety. Vice Principal Pauline Hughes expressed pride in the community turnout, which included representatives from the Local Authority, educational institutions, the Youth Justice System, and the Police, all gathered to discuss safeguarding issues.

Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, with Rebecca Hunt from Salendine Nook High School noting the event's empowering nature and the importance of strengthening partnerships in safeguarding children. Overall, the conference successfully ignited discussions on crucial safeguarding topics and fostered collaborative community efforts.

Read more about this conference: <https://www.kirkleescollege.ac.uk/kirklees-college-hosts-safeguarding-pastoral-support-conference-2025/>





Apprentice of the Month: Eathan Fogg

Eathan Fogg has been recognized as the October Apprentice of the Month at EDA Apprenticeships Plus (Electric Center), following a nomination from his Line Manager Tony and LSP Tutor Damien. Since starting his Trade Supplier apprenticeship in April, Eathan has displayed impressive progress, achieving 29 out of 30 marks on his first mock test.

Damien praised Eathan's personality and potential in customer service, noting his ability to work independently and as part of a team, along with his positive attitude and customer relationship skills. Eathan has overcome past challenges with overdue tasks, getting fully updated on his coursework and portfolio.

Tony, his Line Manager, underscored Eathan's growth, stating he is now successfully managing the store's goods in and out processes, with a quick grasp of responsibilities and a keen desire to learn.

Eathan's strong rapport with customers of all ages and punctual attendance further demonstrate his dedication to the role. Eathan himself acknowledged the apprenticeship as an invaluable learning experience, highlighting the supportive team that has helped him build confidence, gain product knowledge, and integrate into the business operations.

His journey exemplifies how determination and teamwork can convert challenges into success, showcasing the effectiveness of apprenticeship programs. Congratulations to Eathan for his significant achievements and positive contributions!

Discover more: <https://www.learningskillspartnership.com/blog/apprentice-of-the-month-october25>

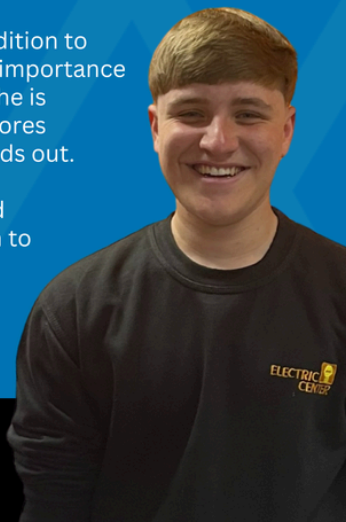
APPRENTICE OF THE MONTH

BUILDING FUTURES
THROUGH APPRENTICESHIPS



Eathan is becoming a great addition to our team and has grasped the importance of customer care and service; he is single handedly running our stores now for both goods in and goods out.

He is keen to keep learning and developing and he is very keen to work on the trade counter and doesn't shy away from trying to serve customers even with limited product knowledge.



Eathan Fogg

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Electric Center



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