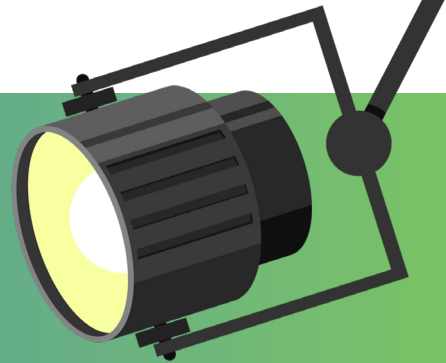


# Spotlight



The **Spring 2026** Newsletter for **Chelmsford College**

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## Work Ready

As part of Work Experience Week, our Painting and Decorating learners gained valuable employability skills at Essex Cricket, helping restore the main stand. Despite the cold, they showed great effort. Thank you to Essex County Cricket Club for the opportunity!



## Museum Pride

We marked LGBTQ+ History Month with a student display at the Museum of Chelmsford, celebrating the diversity of our College community. The display highlights the importance of inclusion and embracing difference. Well done to the staff and learners involved.



## Tub2Pub Success

Some of the INSPIRE department collected plastic tubs for the Greene King Tub2Pub campaign, helping divert waste from landfill while raising funds for Macmillan Cancer Support through recycling.

## Live on Air With the BBC

BBC Essex journalist Elliot Deady visited to hear our learners' views on the proposed social media ban for under 16s. Learners Dylan, Naomi, Antony, Abi and Mia shared their opinions live on air, discussing both risks and benefits of social media, confidently representing the College and learner voice as ChangeMakers.



# Another Year Back to the Floor

Back to the Floor Day returned for its fourth year on the 26th March. Now a much-anticipated annual event, staff stepped away from normal duties to volunteer or visit organisations, helping them stay up to date with industry practice. Staff visited a range of settings, including other education providers, community organisations and their original industries, making the day both valuable and inspiring.



Many visited other colleges to share knowledge, including the Learner Safeguarding and Wellbeing Team at ARU Writtle. Principal and CEO, David Warnes, spent the day at Construction Training Partnership Ltd supporting NEET young people, while USP College welcomed several staff from different departments for collaboration and shared learning. Lecturers also returned to industry, including engineering staff at Ilford Greater Anglia Depot, helping them bring current practice back into teaching. Other highlights included the business department visiting Chelmsford Crown Court and observing live cases in action and various other hands-on community projects across the area such as, Brentwood Greyhound Trust and Sanctus Café. The day strengthened industry links, supported staff development and will help enhance the learner experience.



## Social Action Day

Wednesday the 18th March marked Social Action Day where we brought staff and learners together to give back to the community and raise money for charity through a wide range of activities. Despite a grey start to the year, the sun made a welcome appearance, setting the tone for a busy and positive day across both campuses. Departments worked creatively to support causes close to their hearts, with activities running throughout the day. The beauty department raised funds for Haven House Children's Hospice by offering treatments, while IT raised over £150 for Great Ormond Street Hospital through washing both staff and learners cars. INSPIRE and Animation also supported the day with bake and print sales. Beyond fundraising, learners contributed through gardening, card making and improving the Secret Garden. Offsite, Extended Learning learners supported St John's Church, while HR visited the Wilderness Foundation UK to take part in environmental work. The day was a clear success, highlighting the impact of coming together for a shared cause.



**Read more of  
our latest news  
by scanning the  
QR code!**



# Colleges Compete

We were proud to take part in the FEDEC Inter-College Skills Competition, hosted across five Essex colleges and endorsed by WorldSkills UK in January 2026. The week saw learners compete in industry-standard challenges across ten skill areas, showcasing technical ability, creativity and professionalism under timed conditions. The competition forms part of FEDEC's commitment to developing high-level technical and employability skills, helping learners prepare for future careers and raising aspirations across Essex. At our Princes Road campus, we hosted the Hair and Beauty competition where learners competed alongside peers from across the region, demonstrating outstanding talent, teamwork and confidence throughout the challenge. Staff praised the high standards and positive attitude shown by competitors. The week concluded with a joint awards event, kindly hosted by USP College. Congratulations to our learners who achieved Bronze and Gold in Hair, Bronze and Gold in Beauty and Silver in Engineering, reflecting their hard work and dedication. We are proud of all learners who took part, representing the College brilliantly and contributing to a week celebrating excellence in skills education across Essex, with lasting impact for all those involved.



# Dates for the Diary

- **Clean Energy Jobs & Careers Fair:** 22/04/26
- **Engagement Event:** 29/04/26
- **Youth Business Event:** 20/04/26
- **Showcase Open Evening:** 20/05/26

# Dovedale Reopened

Dovedale Leisure Centre officially reopened in February following major refurbishments. In partnership with Chelmsford City Council, the Mayor of Chelmsford, Councillor Jannetta Sosin, joined staff, partners and guests to mark the occasion, cutting the ribbon alongside our Principal, David Warnes. Once an outdated facility, the centre now features a modern gym, restored sports hall, fitness studios, upgraded squash courts and improved changing areas. Guests toured the new space and heard from speakers. The Centre supports learners and the wider community, with new performing arts courses also set to benefit!



# Are You Looking to Apply?

Scan the QR code to explore our variety of courses.



To learn more about our facilities, courses and more, please visit:

[www.chelmsford.ac.uk](http://www.chelmsford.ac.uk)

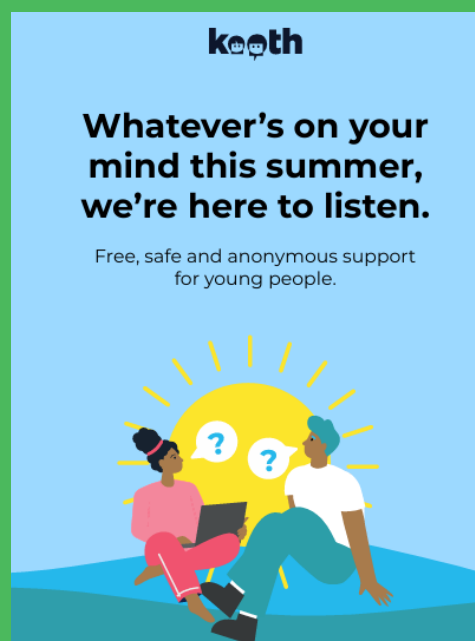
# Spotlight on Health and Wellbeing

Supporting learner wellbeing is a key priority and there are a range of services available for those who may need it, both onsite and through trusted external support. Learners can access support from Youth Mental Health First Aiders onsite, easily recognised by their green MHFA lanyards. They are trained to listen without judgement, offer guidance and help signpost next steps. Whether it's a difficult day or simply a need to talk, support is always available.

Learners are also welcome to visit the Support and Wellbeing offices at Moulsham Street in M004 or at Princes Road in P126, where staff can provide advice or direct them to further help.

In addition, learners can access free, confidential online support through Kooth. This includes anonymous counselling, live chats with trained professionals and a range of helpful resources. You can access Kooth at [www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com)

Creating a safe, supportive environment remains essential and reaching out is always a positive first step. If you feel you need support, please reach out to someone.



## Helping Shape Essex



A select group of staff and learners attended the Shaping Essex Assembly at Chelmsford Cathedral on the 24th March 2026. They joined over 140 Citizens Essex leaders to discuss key issues including transport, mental health and housing. Our Principal, David Warnes, and Student Governor, Daniel Holland, both spoke at the event, sharing lived experiences and insights. With over 700 conversations taking place, the Assembly brought communities together, strengthened collaboration and will help shape future campaigns ahead of the 2028 Mayoral elections for a fairer Essex, marking a proud moment for us. 🦋

## Staff AI Conference

We held a Digital and AI Conference for all staff on the 27th March to help build confidence and understanding of rapidly evolving technology. Through talks and breakout sessions, staff explored how AI can support teaching, learning and collaboration. The day also helped shape the College's Digital Transformation Strategy and future approach to responsible AI use as Senior Leadership discussed this.

