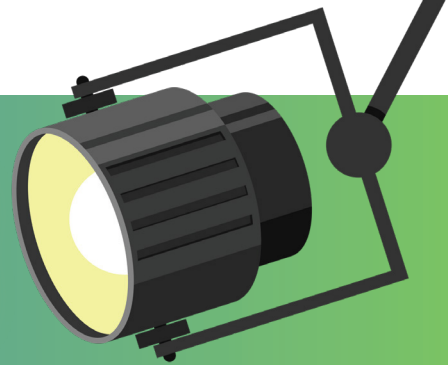


Spotlight



The **Summer 2026** Newsletter for **Chelmsford College**

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First Place

We won first place in the 2026 Planet Earth Games, a competition that challenges colleges to complete eco-friendly activities. Chair Chris Broadbent visited to present the award, recognising our learners and staff whose efforts helped us achieve 26,020 points!



New Facilities

We've secured almost £2 million from the Department for Education to expand our construction facilities! New brickwork and trades workshops will create more training opportunities and help build Essex's workforce. The facilities are planned to open in September 2027.



Back on the Pitch

Training is back underway for our Billericay Town Football Skills Academy. The boys started with a 2-2 draw against Aveley, with plenty more games ahead for both the boys' and girls' teams. We wish them the best of luck!



Teacher of the Year Winner

A huge congratulations to Claire Wood FSET, our Head of Teaching and Learning Development, who won Teacher of the Year at the 2026 Essex Teaching Awards. We're so proud of Claire and all the hard work, dedication and passion she brings to supporting both our learners and staff.



Off to Italy for the CombiGuru Comp!

We were so proud to see one of our Level 2 Catering learners, Daniel Cave, reach the final of CombiGuru; an exciting competition for catering learners where the finalists travelled all the way to Italy to compete at Unox HQ on the 22nd April.

Daniel's journey started with the App Challenge, where competitors answered a series of culinary questions. After finishing top in the first round, Daniel was surprised by a visit from a CombiGuru representative who came to College to share the exciting news that he had made the final.



Daniel then travelled to Italy with his lecturer Hilary Hicks and his dad to take part in the Oven Challenge, where he had just three hours to prepare a first course and dessert. Then came the finalist assembly where it was announced that Daniel had come second, earning him a fantastic place on the podium a professional Maglionero knife!

The trip also included a free visit to Venice, where Daniel, Hilary and his dad explored the city, tasted local food and experienced Italian culture.

With over 5,000 learners and 200 colleges involved in the App Challenge, reaching the final was amazing for Daniel!



Future Entrepreneurs

Our learners had a busy few months exploring what it takes to start and run a business. At our annual Youth Business Event, learners from across College met local businesses and former learners, took part in workshops and heard real stories about setting up a company.

This was followed by ENTFFEST, where our Business learners pitched their own ideas and products to employers, staff and peers. From sustainable products and fashion brands to retail concepts, they showed creativity and confidence.

The Youth Business Event saw Bespoke Provision learner Heidi receive an offer of support to help take her card game to market, while ENTFFEST saw four learners recognised for their entrepreneurial ideas and achievements.

Both events gave learners the chance to meet industry professionals and explore self-employment while showing the range of opportunities available to develop their ideas and turn them into something real.



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our latest news
by scanning the
QR code!**



AI Competition

Three of our IT learners, Daniel, Tyler and Angeline, took part in the annual Sharp Competition at Sharp UK's new London office on the 4th June, putting their AI ideas to the test.

The learners were tasked with developing and presenting an agentic AI idea, before demonstrating their applications and answering questions from the judging panel. Angeline presented SkillSync, an AI solution featuring quizzes to help learners identify their strengths and weaknesses. Daniel presented College Buddy, designed to help learners manage deadlines and tasks, while Tyler showcased a front of house assistant to support busy hospitality teams and improve customer service. Alongside the competition, the learners heard about the development of AI, enjoyed lunch and explored Sharp's new office.

The judges were impressed by all three presentations, with Daniel taking first place and winning an Apple MacBook. Tyler came second, winning a £150 Amazon voucher, while Angeline took third place and a £100 voucher.

It was an amazing opportunity to gain experience and showcase their creativity and technical skills to a reputable company like Sharp. Well done all!



Dates for the Diary

- **Showcase Open Evening:** 07/10/26
- **Student Governor 26/27 Results:** 09/10/26
- **Half Term:** 26/10/26 - 30/10/26
- **Showcase Open Evening:** 04/11/26

Jack Petchey Awards

We were delighted to celebrate 17 of our learners at the Jack Petchey Achievement Awards at Chelmsford Theatre on the 13th July. The annual event recognises young people for their dedication and determination in their studies and personal lives. Our award winners joined fellow winners from across Essex for a special evening featuring live performances, special guests and an inspiring keynote speech from Nick Alston, Deputy Lieutenant representative of Essex. A huge congratulations to all 17 learners on this fantastic achievement. We look forward to celebrating more success at next year's event!



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Learner Reaches WorldSkills UK Finals!

We're incredibly proud of our T Level Engineering learner Mathew Brunza, who has been selected as a 2026 WorldSkills UK National Finalist in Additive Manufacturing.

Mathew is one of just eight finalists nationally in his category, with around 400 apprentices and learners qualifying for the National Finals across more than 40 areas. Reaching this stage is a fantastic achievement and reflects the hard work and dedication Mathew has shown throughout his studies.

Mathew was thrilled to hear the news and is now preparing for the finals, which take place in South Wales in November. He'll be representing us on the national stage and competing alongside some of the UK's top-performing apprentices and learners.

A huge thank you to Engineering Lecturer Lince Thomas and our wider staff community who encourage learners to take part in competitions and enrichment opportunities.



Student Award Finals



Previous Student Governor, Daniel Holland, has another award nomination to celebrate, after being named a finalist for the AoC Young Student of the Year Award. The Level 3 IT learner was nominated for his contribution to College life and commitment to representing the learner voice.

Daniel has also represented us at national conferences and community events, and previously won the Principal's Award at our 2026 Awards Event. We're very lucky to have him as learner and wish him the best of luck for November when the AoC winners will be announced!

Chosen Charities

We're pleased to announce British Heart Foundation and Kids Inspire as our charity partners for 2026/27. The charities were chosen by our ChangeMakers group, who considered a range of causes before making their final decision. Throughout the year, staff and learners will take part in fundraising activities and events, helping raise money and awareness for both worthy organisations.

