

Spotlight

The Spring 2025 newsletter for **Chelmsford College**

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Ready, Respectful and Safe!

We kicked off the beginning of 2025 by reinforcing the importance of being ready, respectful, and safe through themed alternating weeks. Safe Week, ending on the 24th January, featured workshops, talks, and activities on safety. Highlights included powerful presentations on knife crime and hands-on road safety exercises in reception. These events equipped learners with the knowledge and confidence to handle challenges both in and beyond college. In light of recent devastating news surrounding knife crime, this week felt particularly poignant.



Recycling Heroes

Learn more on **page 2** about how we've claimed the title of The UK's Only 2025 Recycling Hero, as awarded by The Global Recycling Foundation this March.

Are You Looking to Apply?

Scan the QR code to explore our variety of courses.



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

www.chelmsford.ac.uk

The UK's Only 2025 Recycling Hero!

During College's National Green Week, The Global Recycling Foundation announced the winners of its Recycling Heroes 2025 Competition. Entrants submitted 60-90 second videos showcasing innovative ideas on recycling, sustainability, educational awareness, or waste reduction. Among 19 global winners, we are officially the only UK winner! Judged on creativity and clarity, winners receive \$500 and global press coverage across 12 months. This exciting award highlights our commitment to a greener future and net zero by 2040. Our nomination video showcases our sustainability efforts which you can watch now on YouTube @chelmsfordcollege! Our initiatives include the Pringles Tube Recycling Programme, plastic tub and newspaper collection, wood offcut recycling, and our Nexus app promoting sustainability. We also provide recycling bins and an on-site Renewable Sustainable Shop, free for staff and learners. By championing these initiatives, we continue to drive positive environmental change for our community. Thank you to Halli Allen for the idea to enter and to Lucy Kelly and our learners Amber House and George Wilson for their hard work in bringing the nomination to life.



Young Entrepreneurs

Our Professionals Week (24th-28th March 2025) provided incredible learning opportunities for creative industry, business, and digital students.  A key highlight was the Youth Business Event on 26th March, which was part-funded by the UK government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Guest speakers, including Chilsola from BBC's The Apprentice, HSBC Bank, and award-winning entrepreneur Luke from The Juice Bar, shared valuable insights. Emy from Rebel Business School also shared ideas on how learners can make money doing what they love and how to find the right customers. Learners engaged in talks, explored exhibitor stalls, and received expert advice on launching their own businesses or freelance careers. Rebecca Leech, Head of Department, called the event "absolutely inspiring." The event left students motivated, proving they too can achieve entrepreneurial success with hard work.



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



Progression Fair

It was that time again... we hosted our annual Progression Fair on the 3rd March, making the start of National Careers Week 2025 a great one! We opened our doors to a variety of exhibitors including HSBC Bank, Waitrose, Central Film School and Morgan Sindall Construction, to name only a few. The companies kindly manned stalls and spoke with learners regarding prospects for their future careers and next steps, beyond college life. The day was a success with learners unlocking opportunities by connecting with the variety of exhibitors. In what was a first for this event, this year's Progression Fair also featured exciting workshops, in which learners could engage and partake in. An example of this is one focused on our apprenticeships, which allowed learners to see that if they wish to do so, they can also progress after their studies by staying with us and undertaking an apprenticeship! 2025's Progression Fair had a vibrant atmosphere with exceptional behaviour showcased from learners.

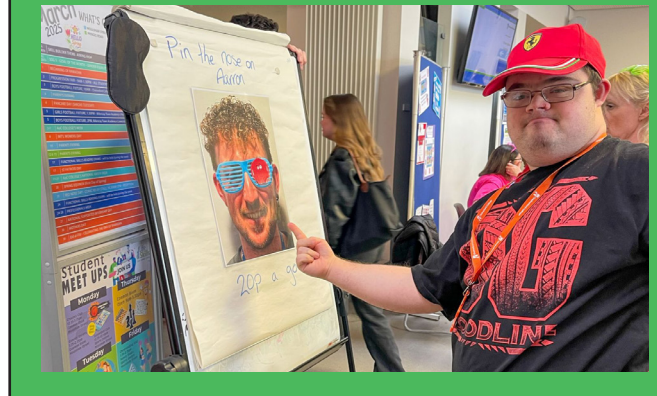


Dates for the Diary

- **INSPIRE Stakeholder Event:** 02/04/25
- **Youth Social Action Day:** 03/04/25
- **Back to the Floor Day:** 04/04/25
- **Showcase:** 21/05/25

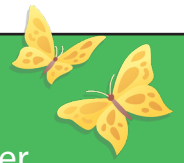
Red Nose Day Fun

We proudly supported Red Nose Day with fun activities like Pin the Nose, Flip the Bottle, and Beat the Buzz! Our creative industry learners also crafted and decorated boards, which were displayed around Moulsham Street reception as part of the celebrations, helping further fundraise for this worthy cause. With staff and learners help, this day was a memorable one!



A special shout out is owed to our Careers Advice Zone, Estates Team and various other staff members who helped ensure the event ran smoothly by helping organise and set the event up. We remain committed to offering valuable opportunities and look forward to 2026's Progression Fair.





Award-Winning Inclusive Initiative!

On 16th January 2025, HMP and YOI Chelmsford hosted an exciting Employer Celebration event at Hylands House. Our Steps2 Inclusive Employment initiative was nominated in two categories: the Employment Ready Award and Through the Gate Champion. The nomination alone was an honour, but we were overjoyed to win the Employment Ready Award! This recognition was for delivering vital employability workshops, such as CV writing, job searching, and interview techniques, helping returning citizens prepare for the workforce. Representing Steps2 was Andy Vaccari, Sarah Hamilton, Jon Edwards, and Maddie Hamilton. The event had a packed itinerary with the team enjoying inspiring speeches, a lived experience talk, the awards ceremony, and a meal. Andy, Head of Business Development, said "This achievement is testament to my passionate team and partners in helping individuals rebuild their lives and reintegrate into society." With gratitude all around, David Warnes, Principal and CEO, also expressed that this award is "a great vindication of the impact Steps2 has on the lives of many."



Making a Difference



Some of our learners recently visited Bluebird Care in Chelmsford to donate plastic tubs for recycling into eco-friendly items like benches. These tubs also support Macmillan Cancer Support, with funds raised through the donation. This highlights the learners' commitment to sustainability and charity, demonstrating small actions can make meaningful differences for both the environment and charity!



AoC Collaborations

We're proud to have contributed to the AoC's Five Missions project, highlighting the role of colleges in supporting government priorities. We featured in a video which focused on how we break down barriers to opportunity by offering inclusive education for diverse learners, reducing NEET rates, and improving employability. We also hosted the AoC Equity Exchange event, bringing professionals together to share best practices for fairness. Through these efforts, we support both local communities and industries.

