

# BBC RADIO LEICESTER PRESENTER CUTS RIBBON TO LAUNCH COLLEGE FLORISTS



A new florist service run by students at Hinckley Campus has been officially launched by BBC Radio Leicester's morning show presenter Summaya Mughal. Summaya visited the college to meet the floristry team as they opened retail outlet Creative Blooms for the first time. The service, which is open to the public, will enable students to develop customer service and commercial skills as part of their training to achieve floristry qualifications and prepare to enter the industry.

Summaya talked to tutors Megan Lomas and Alex Slater about their journeys from industry into teaching, and to students Emily Trivett and Kelly Bickle who are both studying floristry full-time as part of life-changing career moves.

Emily has a background in farming and agriculture and has set up her own floristry business on the farm where she is based. Kelly previously worked in food manufacturing and settled on her change of direction during lockdown.

Creative Blooms takes delivery of grade A flowers from Holland each week enabling it to offer a range of bouquets, sprays and wreaths that can be ordered online and collected on the same day if required.



Summaya Mughal

Creative Blooms shop opening times:

**Mondays** ..... 10am-2pm

**Tuesdays** ..... 10am-2pm

**Wednesdays** ..... 10am-12pm  
and 1pm-3pm  
(Click & Collect only)

**Friday** ..... 10am-2pm

For more details on the products and services that Creative Blooms can offer visit [www.creativeblooms.uk](http://www.creativeblooms.uk)

# NWSLC

NORTH WARWICKSHIRE & SOUTH LEICESTERSHIRE COLLEGE

# EXPRESS

MARCH 2022



Congratulations to our WorldSkills UK national medallists!

## COLLEGE LEADS ENGLAND IN WORLDSKILLS UK MEDAL TABLE AND SECURES TOP SPOT FOR FOUNDATION SKILLS COMPETITIONS

Students and alumni from NWSLC have been celebrating after they collected 16 medals at the national WorldSkills UK finals putting the college at the top of the medal table in England, and fourth in the UK. NWSLC was the highest performing college overall in the foundation skills category. Medal-winning competitors picked up five Gold, three Silver and eight Bronze medals in total.

Gold medal winners included NWSLC alumni Maddie Lock, who earned the top position in the visual merchandising skills competition. Maddie is currently studying for a degree in graphic design at the University of Brighton and is heading for a career in the creative sector.

Apprentice Samuel Abbott, who works for E. Brook Joinery Ltd in Coventry, won the Gold medal for his joinery skills. Sam will now go forward for a chance to compete for a place in Squad UK as it prepares for WorldSkills in Lyon in 2024.



Samuel Abbott



Kelys Ramsay

In the foundation skills categories, Kelys Ramsay who is studying at the college's Nuneaton Campus, picked up the Gold medal for hairdressing skills. The catering skills competition saw professional cookery student Georgina Price take the Gold medal, and Samuel Barnes from Leicester, who is working to qualify as an autocare technician, won his Gold medal for motor vehicle skills.

The Silver medals were won by Abbie Simpson for visual merchandising, Sinead Hitchman for foundation hairdressing and Callum Hearne in the foundation health and social care category. Bronze medallists included Jake Benson, Reece Todd, Ryan Maguire, and Frankie McCarthy in the digital media production skills competition. Meghan Shields won Bronze for visual merchandising and Grace Elliott picked up the Bronze medal for creative make-up skills. Casey McFarlane won a Bronze medal in the foundation catering category, and Lewis Smith collected Bronze for foundation health and social care.

Marion Plant, OBE FCGI, Principal and Chief Executive of NWSLC, who is also deputy chair and trustee of WorldSkills, said, "We're absolutely thrilled with the outcome of the competition and so proud of all our students who worked so hard to achieve such fantastic results."

"We are delighted that our students excelled in the foundation skills competitions, placing our college at the top of the league table for the whole of the UK. Foundation skills competitions, designed for those with special educational needs and disabilities, were originally conceived and first started by NWSLC, so we are particularly proud of our success in this area."

# STUDENT STARS AND GRADUATES HONOURED AT ONLINE AWARDS CELEBRATION

Students and graduates have been praised for their 'dogged determination to succeed against all odds' at a celebration event to recognise their achievements. The event, attended by over 200 guests, which was held on Friday 22 January, included an inspirational keynote address from Marion Plant, OBE FCGI, Principal and Chief Executive of NWSLC who highlighted how students from across the college had become much more agile and resilient as they tackled the issues presented by studying during the pandemic.

The celebrations recognised representatives of the 14,000 students and apprentices aged from 14-78 who studied with NWSLC last year completing qualifications from foundation to degree level across the college's six campuses.



Marion Plant said, "I have been impressed with the pace at which our students embraced remote learning and assessment and there is no doubt that the level of digital capability and confidence they achieved will serve them very well in future employment as all industry sectors become more and more digitised."

The event included a performing arts showcase and a presentation from former media student Lily-Ann Bedder from Burbage who now works as a creative consultant for Hinckley-based experiential design company Holovis. Lily-Ann is responsible for designing themed entertainment experiences for businesses including Merlin Entertainments which owns Alton Towers and LEGOLAND® Parks.



FREE online Sustainability course now available check [nwslc.ac.uk](http://nwslc.ac.uk) for details

FREE Coding bootcamps available – find out more at [digital-skillsacademy.co.uk](http://digital-skillsacademy.co.uk)

# NEWS ROUND-UP

## TREAT FOR HND SPORT STUDENTS

HND Sport students enjoyed a rewarding visit to ME Sports head office in Leicester when they had the opportunity to interview co-directors, former Leicester City Football Club players Matt Elliott and Richard Hill. They interviewed the pair as part of a module on entrepreneurship in sport for an assignment.



## A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

Art and design students, Alexandra Owen and Marie Springthorpe, have helped bring to life the story of Nuneaton Abbey which played a significant part in the town's history as part of an interactive exhibition at Nuneaton Museum & Art Gallery. During their work placement students created educational interactive displays as part of a new exhibition entitled 'Nuneaton Abbey and the Birth of a Town' supported with funding from Arts Council National Lottery Project Grants.



# BEDWORTH JUNIOR SCHOOL GETS MAKEOVER FROM COLLEGE STUDENTS

The headteacher of a Bedworth school has praised the work of students from NWSLC who have given the school a makeover as part of a project to help improve the environment in its local community. Foundation learning students based at the college's Nuneaton Campus worked tirelessly to overhaul the grounds at Exhall Junior School in Bedworth, weed the garden, redecorate the IT room, and refresh the staffroom kitchen. They also refurbished an outdoor shelter in the grounds and provided a fresh and colourful coat of paint for the fence and benches.

Student Kevin Clamp said,

"Working in the community helps with my confidence and I have enjoyed learning new skills. Working outside has helped with my mental health too."

Kevin has progressed well and has secured a supported internship working for Nuneaton Signs.

Tutor Ian Lee added,

"The Respect campaign enables all our students to focus on building transferable, social and employability skills, and helps them to access a rich set of experiences that teach them why it is important to contribute to society and sustainability within their local communities."



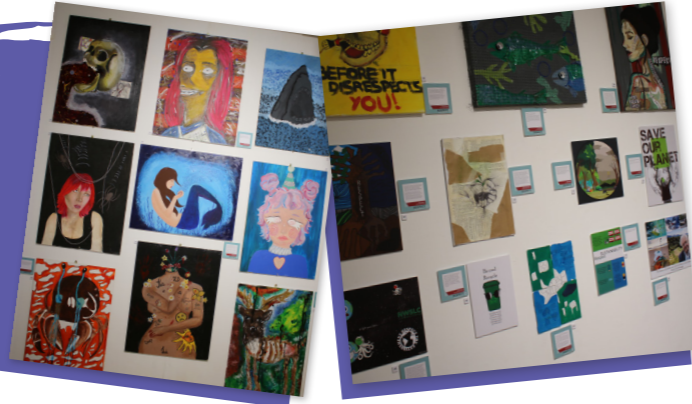
NWSLC is actively seeking any requests for help as part of this scheme. Services include:

- Painting, decorating and maintenance
- Music and dance performances in care homes
- Pamper treatments such as hand massage, hair styles, or nail painting
- Gym or exercise classes
- Photography and filming
- Stewarding
- Care work
- Tech support and IT
- Artwork
- Litter picking.

Organisations or groups that would like to nominate a project can do so via the college's website.

## RESPECT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT ON SHOW

Creative arts students at NWSLC's Hinckley Campus have mounted an exhibition at the Atkins Building based on the theme of 'Respect for the Environment' designed to help them practice competition skills.

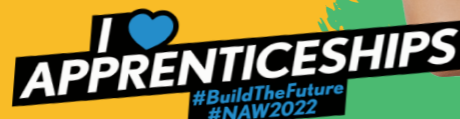


# FULL STEAM AHEAD AT CAREERS SHOWCASE

National Apprenticeships Week 2022 saw the launch of the college's first ever STEAM event (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths) designed to showcase exciting career opportunities in these high demand skill areas.

We worked with the Leicester & Leicestershire LEP, Coventry & Warwickshire LEP, Warwickshire Skills Hub, our local borough councils, and the MIRA Technology Institute to organise a high-profile online showcase that helped to highlight careers in STEAM sectors. Participants heard about opportunities from employers such as Sky, National Grid, Wincanton, Nuneaton Signs, Cotswold Finance and Severn Trent. The annual week-long celebration of apprenticeships, which took place across England in February, highlights how apprenticeships have helped employers of all sizes and sectors, and people of all ages and backgrounds.

To start an apprenticeship, you will need to be employed or identify an employer who is looking for an apprentice. You can view our current vacancies on our website [nwslc.ac.uk](http://nwslc.ac.uk). If you can't find the apprenticeship vacancy you are looking for, you can register to join our talent pool and we will keep you up to date with new vacancies and help you to match your skills to the right opportunity.



Sample a degree-level course before you commit with bite-sized 12-week CPD options. [nwslc.ac.uk/hn-flex](http://nwslc.ac.uk/hn-flex)

Fast-track to Access to HE online for Sept 2022. Sign up by 31 March.