

TERM 1/2

DECEMBER 24

KITE NEWS

Official Newsletter of KITE College



Quote of the term

“Though we may not have reached the heights we anticipated yesterday, today is a brand-new day to begin a new climb.” – Chinonye J. Chidolue



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Careers

Unusual Careers Unveiled

Our learners have been diving into the world of various careers, distinguishing between real and fake jobs. This fun activity has sparked curiosity and encouraged critical thinking about the diverse opportunities available in today's job market.

Labour Market Insight

In addition to exploring career options, learners have been analysing labour market information. They've gained valuable insights into job demand, potential career paths, and the skills needed to succeed in various fields. This knowledge empowers them to make informed choices about their futures.

Understanding Earnings

An important aspect of our discussions has been about what different careers can earn. By understanding potential salaries, learners are better equipped to consider their options and set realistic goals.

Crafting CVs - We have also dedicated time to creating CVs. Learners are beginning to build their own resumes, learning how to highlight their skills, experiences, and achievements. This practical skill will serve them well as they enter the workforce or pursue further education.



Personal Development

In Term 1, every learner has taken part in Cybersecurity lessons and understanding our British Values. This includes the following:

- Cybersecurity lessons have equipped our learners with the knowledge and skills to protect themselves and their digital footprint online, foster ethical behaviour and become digitally resilient.
- Democracy and the freedom to express our opinions, how we can share our concerns with our local MPs, and how to vote in an election, linking to sharing opinions and being heard within KITE College through the Learner Council.
- The Rule of Law – why we need rules/laws and the consequences of not having rules/laws.
- Mutual Respect/ Individual Liberty & Tolerance of those of different faiths

Every learner has also taken part in understanding Prevent;

- What is meant by the terms; extremism, terrorism, radicalisation and misogyny.
- Looking at factors which contribute to the formation of extremist ideologies.
- Identifying ways people can reduce the risks associated with extremism in their communities.
- Understanding the importance of equality.



Preparation for Learning

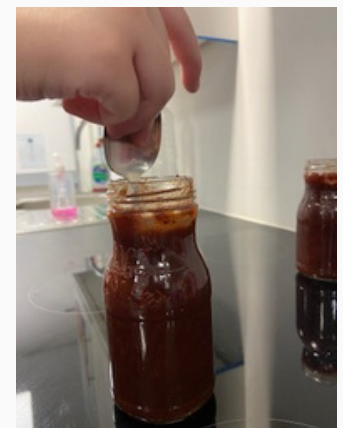
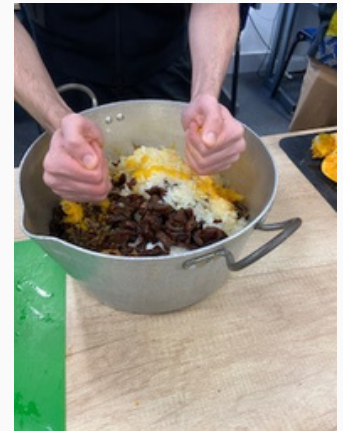
Preparation for Learning have been working looking at issues around the homeless in our communities.

To link to our curriculum, we are launching our CRISIS AT CHRISTMAS 2024 project to highlight the ever-increasing homelessness issues that are in every area that we all live.

The learners are recycling jars, collecting vegetables to turn into chutney to sell to our friends and families, raising money to help the homeless over the Christmas period. Chutney will be sold for £3.50 per jar.

Your donation can offer a homeless person support and advice for safe living, employment and training, a doctor, dentist, hairdresser, as well as a Christmas dinner and good company over the festive season.

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY.



Preparation for Employment



Over the past two terms our Preparation for Employment learners have been focusing on these essential skills: communication, teamwork, customer service and interview skills.

Our learners have engaged in several activities designed to build their confidence and competence in relation to communication skills, including looking at and redesigning an outdoor space for KITE College as well as researching and agreeing on additional activities for our enrichment programme. Our learners also visited the Sheppey Little Theatre and asked questions regarding the lighting technology used for productions.

Learners have been looking at the different types of interviews that they may experience, what will be expected from each interview process and why each part of their CV information is important to the employer.

The learners have been learning about teamwork by identifying their own strengths, skills, and experiences.

We set a team goal that was to complete a charity bake sale to raise money for Young Minds. Each learner took on a recipe and created some fantastic cakes and biscuits, priced them up and marketed the bakes by creating posters and menus. The goods were then sold raising over £55 for the young people's mental health charity.

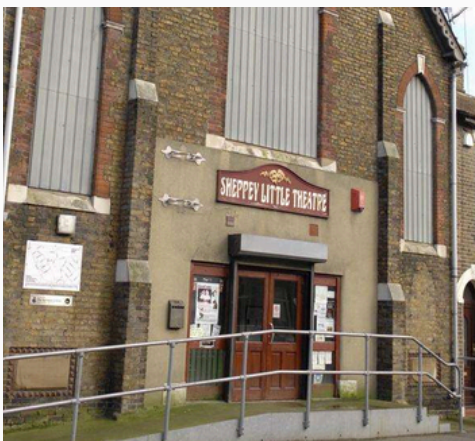
The group have also started a garden and maintenance project with Murston Heart to further enhance their communication, problem solving and collaboration skills.

Our learners have been developing their ability to interact positively with one another, how to listen actively, respond empathetically, and resolve conflicts effectively through visiting local shops and cafes to review real-world interactions. From this, our learners have witnessed first-hand how employees handle various customer needs and challenges.



HEATHER HOUSE

COMMUNITY CAFE



Functional Skills

Maths

The focus last term was 'Number'. Learner's practised essential arithmetic skills in addition, subtraction, multiplication & division with whole & decimal values without the aid of a calculator. Identification and application of skills needed for tackling worded problems was incorporated throughout.

The focus this term is 'Units of Measurement and Ratio & Proportion.' Learner's will practise skills in managing & calculating money (change, cashback, taxes, etc.), as well as using tools to measure and convert lengths, weights & capacities.

Monthly Payslip

Hourly rate		Hours per day		Days per week		Cost per hour		Monthly Salary	
	X		X		X				
								3166	

Monthly Personal Allowance	£3047.50
Monthly Pension Allowance	£520

Taxable Income	2119	Income Tax	
Applicable Income	2119	X 0.20	423.80
Applicable Income		X 0.40	
Applicable Income		X 0.45	
Applicable Income		X 0.45	
Total			423.8

Taxable Income	2119	National Insurance	
Applicable NI at 12%	2119	X 0.12	254.28
Applicable NI at 2%		X 0.02	
Total			254.28

Taxable Income	2646	Pension Contribution	
Applicable P.C. at 5%	2646	X 0.05	132.30
Total			132.30

Monthly Take Home Pay	2355.62
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ICT

The IT learners have spent a very busy term. We have completed 3 assessments on varying subjects including editing multimedia, personal information management, IT security and setting up a new IT system. We have supported the college by repairing and servicing the photocopiers and printers and have replaced a laptop screen. Our 3D printer has been very busy creating items to go on our Christmas tree and articulated dinosaurs! We have also made sure all of the college laptops have had all the security updates installed - a very frustrating job, every time one is completed it finds another 3!



Hair and Beauty

This term the learners in hair have been working on several projects, where a theme is chosen and the learners will then make a mood board to help inspire them for their final look.

Each learner came up with very different ideas from Pumpkins to a Medusa hair theme.

Next term the learners will be focusing on gaining their assessments with Year 1 learners starting shampooing and conditioning and Year 2 styling women's hair.



Construction

In this term, Year 1 Brick and Year 2 Carpentry have been building an extension to the classroom to expand the working area (some have discovered a dislike for heights). So far, they have completed uprights, cross struts and braces and will eventually fix a roof to protect from everything from the weather.

Well done to the Brick team, fantastic work.

The Year 1 Multi Skills group have spent the term practicing their skills at plumbing, electrical, painting and carpentry skills. This was a great taster for them before moving onto individual skills.



Motor Vehicle

This term in Motor Vehicle we have been concentrating on health and safety with our new cohort of learners and refreshing with our returning learners.

We have also been supporting the new cohort in the workshop tasks. Giving them the opportunity to work first hand on real life scenarios, which include basic brake changing along with fault finding by using diagnostic equipment on the college and staff cars. This has given them the opportunity to approach and discuss with the customer, to create a more mature interaction with the public. This all adds to their IMI portfolio work, whilst building confidence.

The returning learners are now building more on the fine skills to gain more knowledge in the motor vehicle trade. This ranges from how the management of the workshop is conducted, the environment and how the trade impacts on wildlife and the real world. We have also covered the wellbeing of all staff in the motor vehicle trade.

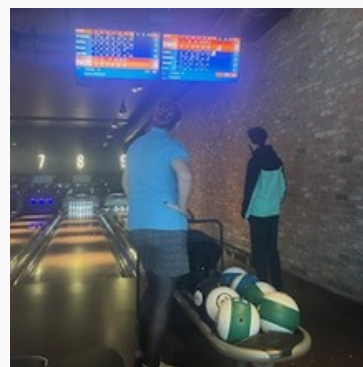
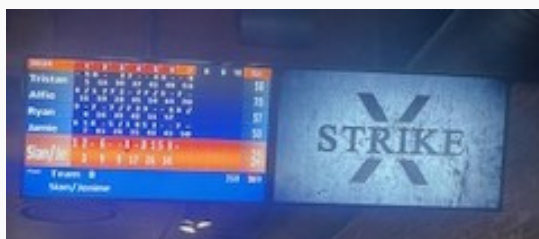


Learner Council

We would just like to say a massive welcome to our new and returning learners to this year's Learner Council. We have recently had our first meetings of the year, and we are feeling very positive about what this year's cohort will be up to. As part of their new responsibility, some of the learners took part in a Q&A session with members from the Safeguarding Audit which was taking place, and they were well mannered and answered the questions politely and with passion.

At the end of every term, a learner from each curriculum area is chosen from the positive behaviour points, to attend an award trip. This term we were very lucky to be able to take them bowling, which was a huge success.

We are also now the very proud owners of a bike rack, thanks to the Learner Council, which helps to keep their bikes secure and tidy.



Mental Health Day

As a College, we work with our learners and our staff in many ways to encourage good mental health. This is important to us as a community and we feel the need to make sure that we help wherever we can.

To do this, for our second year running, we have been raising money for the Young Minds charity, by taking part in their Hello Yellow fundraising day.

We would just like to say a massive well done to our Preparation for Employment learners, who baked cakes and cheese straws, ready to sell on the day.

Thank you to those members of staff and learners who embraced the day and helped to raise awareness by wearing yellow.

We have currently raised over £93. Please find the link below to the Go Fund page if you would like to donate to this great cause.

[Kite College is fundraising for Young Minds Trust \(justgiving.com\)](https://www.justgiving.com/Kite-College)



Enrichment

We are delighted to share with you the exciting enrichment activities that have taken place this term. Our goal is to provide a well-rounded education that goes beyond the classroom and we believe these activities have greatly contributed to our learners' personal and academic growth:

- Arts and Crafts - Our learners have had the opportunity to explore their creative sides which encourages self-expression and fine motor skill development. Activities offered included 3D model printing and painting, Dungeons and Dragons terrain and set construction, model village refurbishment for The Sittingbourne and Kemsley Light Railway and painting.
- Table Tennis/Chess and other board/card games - Physical, mental and social health are key areas of development and our learners have been given the option to develop their table tennis skills and/or play chess and other board games, promoting teamwork, communication and problem-solving skills.
- Basic car maintenance was offered as an enrichment activity for non-motor vehicle pathway learners. This has provided hands-on learning experiences that have been both engaging and educational.
- Cooking is an essential life skill that can also reduce stress and boost mental well-being. It can enhance various skills such as time management, organisation and multitasking and can provide a sense of achievement. Learners have had the opportunity to make pizzas and pasta.
- Animal Interaction - Creepy Claws brought a range of animals into college for our learners to experience, which included snakes, spiders, millipedes and lizards, to name but a few. These encounters enabled our learners to gain in confidence, and demonstrate responsibility, empathy and patience. Overall, the animal encounters provided an enriching experience that enhanced emotional well-being, educational growth, social connections, and personal development.
- Football – At KITE College we are fortunate to have a member of staff who is a qualified football coach and he is leading coaching sessions with our learners in order to prepare them for some friendly matches against other local provisions. Learners have had great fun playing and were able to enhance their physical fitness, develop strategic thinking and learn the value of collaboration.
- Self-Defence: We are also fortunate to have two members of staff at KITE College who are trained martial arts instructors who offered to take a group of learners to their Dojo in Teynham to teach some self-defence skills. These sessions have empowered our learners with the knowledge and skills to protect themselves, have developed their self-confidence and ability to stay calm and focused under pressure, whilst also providing a full-body workout.

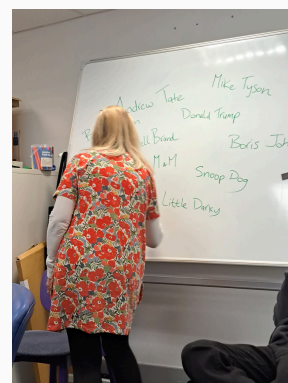
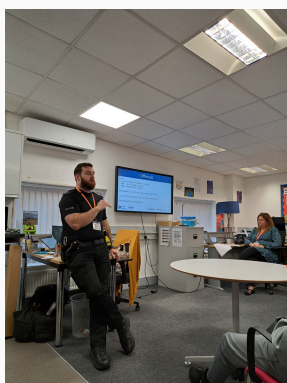


Special Events

Guest speaker

Sateda

KITE College were very pleased to welcome Sateda, a charity which supports people suffering domestic violence and the newly formed child centred police department, who came into college and delivered some fantastic workshops to all our learners. Topics covered included positive relationships, keeping safe online, personal wellbeing and how to seek help and support when experiencing any difficulties. The workshops tied in with our PD lessons that taught learners how to maintain a positive, safe and professional online digital footprint.



Guest speaker

Get It

KITE is pleased to be working with Metro health sexual health, a free contraception service offering condoms, lubricant and STI tests. James and the team will be here on a regular basis at lunch times offering help support and advice and demonstrations to all learners.

Learners can also sign up with Sally Reed and Marie Sacre to register for a Get It card. You can see them at break and lunch times to get help, advice and contraception.



Special Events

Trip to Knauf

On Monday 23rd of September, 8 learners and 3 members of staff were invited to Knauf for a visit to their workshop.

Knauf Group is a multinational, family-owned company based in Iphofen, Germany. Well known for drywall gypsum boards, founded in 1932. The company is a producer of building materials and construction systems comprising construction materials for drywall construction, plasterboard, cement boards, mineral fibre acoustic boards, dry mortars with gypsum for internal plaster and cement-based external plaster and insulating materials. Also glass wool, stone wool and other insulation materials under the company Knauf Insulation.

The learners started off being shown a PowerPoint show on the history of Knauf, what they made and built. This was very interesting and the learners had lots of questions at the end of the PowerPoint presentation. After a tea break it was then into the work shop to build a metal stud wall. James from Knauf helped the learners to erect a metal stud wall ready to be plaster boarded. The learners were then shown how to measure and cut plaster board to size and fix to the metal stud wall. James was very pleased with the ease that the learners did this and their timing.

After an amazing lunch, provided by James and Knauf, it was back into the workshop. This time the learners were shown how to fill and tape the joints of the plaster board. This was certainly a skill that most of the learners found hard but managed to fulfil the task with the guidance of James. The next part was certainly an eye opener for us all. It was time to use the spray machine to plaster the walls. This was certainly a skill that will take a bit of time to master. The learners and staff each took a turn using the spray machine and everyone loved it. It is certainly the future on how plaster is now applied to the walls.

Each learner was given a baseball cap, book, pen and a multi phone charger. The whole day was definitely an amazing educational experience of the workplace that learners and staff will not forget. We will be taking more groups to Knauf and James is also coming into KITE College to run a work shop for our construction learners this year.



Special Events

Fantastic visit to Wirebelt 17th September

On September 17th, a group of our learners had an incredible opportunity to visit Wirebelt, the world leader in stainless steel conveyor belt manufacturing, right here in Sittingbourne. The visit provided a fantastic insight into the operations of a global company with additional manufacturing sites in the USA and Germany.

The day began in the boardroom, where learners were introduced to Wirebelt's product range and the scale of the company. Following the presentation, we embarked on an informative tour of the facility, stopping at various departments to learn about their unique functions.

One highlight was the IT department, where learners discovered how conveyor belts are meticulously designed before moving to production. The tour then led us to the factory floor, where the learners were amazed to see cutting-edge technology in action, including 3D printers and even a robot!

A particularly inspiring moment was when they learnt about one of their apprentices and showcased her creative project—a beautifully designed pencil case. The learners were impressed by the planning and design process involved in bringing such products to life.

Throughout the tour, learners were engaged in an activity to track the countries that Wirebelt distributes to. We were thrilled to learn that Wirebelt Sittingbourne exports to an impressive 66 countries around the globe!

To conclude our visit, we returned to the boardroom for a debrief, where each learner received one of the fabulously designed pencil cases as a memento of their experience.

A big thank you to Wirebelt for hosting us and providing such an enriching experience! We look forward to future visits and continued collaboration.

Following the visit, the CEO of Wirebelt sent the following email:

"Just a short note to say thank you for bringing in your students to Wire Belt, they were a credit to you all, they were all very engaged and it was great to get some really good questions from them, even I learnt something from the visit (number of Countries in the world)"!

Special Events

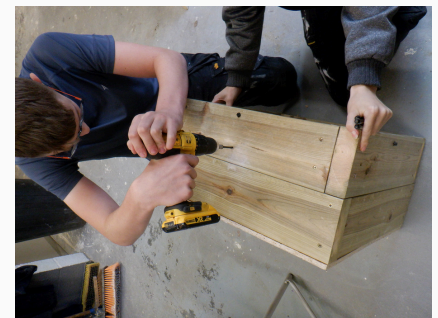
Making a Christmas Tree for the Tunstall Christmas Tree Festival

KITE College is taking part in the Tunstall Christmas Tree Festival for the first time this year.

Construction learners have made a tree using recycled materials and learning to use new tools such as a plunge router and jigsaw.

All the departments in college will be adding ornaments to our tree to display the range of courses and activities that KITE College provides.

The tree will be on display at St John the Baptist Church, Tunstall from Thursday 5th to Sunday 8th December 2024



KITE College Business Networking Event

We were thrilled to host a fantastic Business Networking event at KITE College on Friday 22nd November. It was a wonderful opportunity for local businesses to come together, showcase their work, and explore how we can collaborate for mutual benefit.

A big thank you to all the guests who joined us, including:

- Grace Seale from Bemix, an internship provider.
- Jack Allen, Head Teacher from Sunny Bank Primary School.
- Team BattleKart Sittingbourne, an electric karting company.
- Lynne Newton from Murston Heart, a creative community hub offering work experience opportunities for our learners.
- Marie Colgan, Schools Advisor from DWP.
- Liz Nevitt, KITE College's Enterprise Advisor from Direct Recruitment, who will be hosting exciting workshops with our learners in the near future.

We look forward to building these partnerships and providing our learners with valuable experiences that will help them grow and succeed.



KITE Value Awards

We are excited to announce the introduction of new KITE Value Awards to recognise and celebrate the outstanding qualities of our learners. These awards for Kindness, Integrity, Tolerance, and Excellence aim to highlight the positive impact our learners have on their peers and the school community. By acknowledging these virtues, we hope to inspire all learners to strive for personal growth and contribute to a supportive and inclusive environment.

The following learners achieved these awards in Term 1 and have each received a £10 Amazon voucher – well done!

Kindness - Dan W

Integrity - Robert B

Tolerance - Dylan B

Excellence - Daniel H & Shannen Q



Social Media

Stay connected with us on Facebook and LinkedIn to keep up with the latest updates, events, and news from KITE College!



Facebook



LinkedIn

Principals Message

We are incredibly proud of the progress our learners have made this term, particularly Year 1's who have settled into college life with maturity and enthusiasm.

With lots of new staff and young people joining the college in September, there has been lots to keep everyone busy. Bella, the therapy dog has really added value to the wellbeing team and has settled in well too, she loves her Walk and Talk sessions.

Noticeable college developments are the new mobile classrooms, the pod and the outdoor canopy built by the carpentry pathway staff and learners - they have done an amazing job!

Enrichment opportunities have developed significantly, including the inception of KITE's very own football team, they are practising, come rain or shine, in anticipation of their first game!

We have also introduced some self-defence classes to the program, learners are really excited by this opportunity and I am delighted that we are able to make use of community resources to complement our curriculum and enhance both the physical and mental health of our young people.

Links within the community have flourished this term, with associations to Heather House, Murston Hub and Sunnybank School as well as other local businesses. We welcome the opportunities afforded to our young people when volunteering and visiting local partners, this too enhances KITE's offer and develops skills and knowledge about the world of work. Huge thanks go to the Preparation for Learning pathway who have worked so hard to make vast amounts of chutney to support Crisis at Christmas. Charity work promotes the sense of otherness and self-esteem, this pathway can feel extremely rewarded for their efforts.

My sincere thanks, as always, goes to the amazing staff team for their unwavering dedication and care to our learners, their hard work pays dividends as they support the young people in all aspects of life.

The staff team and I would like to wish all of our young people and their families a peaceful and happy Christmas.
We wish you a wonderful holiday and the very best wishes for 2025.

Warm Regards

Sarah

Term Dates

TERM 3

College Opens - Monday 6th January 2025 Learners in College (as per timetables)

Thursday 13th February 2025 Parents Evening

College Closes - Friday 14th February 2025 Learners Finish

TERM 4

College Opens - Monday 24th February 2025 Learners in College (as per timetables)#

Tuesday 18th March 2025 OPEN DAY - No Learners

College Closes - Friday 4th April 2025 Learners Finish