

TERM 3/4

MARCH 25

KITE NEWS

Official Newsletter of KITE College



Quote of the term

“You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think.” – A.A Milne



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Careers

The last two terms have been a busy and exciting time for the Careers department at KITE College, with a variety of guest speakers and events designed to inspire and inform our learners about their future career options.

We kicked off with the fantastic Kamal Ellis-Hyman from 'Aim a Little Higher', who delivered engaging assemblies and workshops aimed at helping our learners improve their academic attainment, understand potential career paths, and motivate them to aspire for more - no matter their circumstances. The impactful discussions made a significant difference, and it was wonderful to witness how motivated and inspired our learners felt as Kamal spoke about changing mindsets and genuinely believing in their abilities. The assemblies were thought-provoking and uplifting, leaving learners feeling empowered and excited about their future endeavours.

Next, Liz Nevitt from Dedicate Recruitment ran a CV writing workshop with our learners. She provided valuable tips and advice on how to stand out when applying for jobs, offering practical insights that will undoubtedly help our learners as they begin their job search.

During Apprenticeship Week, we were fortunate to host Michelle Clarke from CXK, who delivered informative assemblies and workshops about apprenticeships, focusing on the Apprenticeship Support and Knowledge for Schools and Colleges (ASK) programme. Michelle also ran a practical workshop, giving learners the chance to participate in mock interviews with each other and staff, helping them build confidence for future job applications.

We also welcomed Sergeant Paul Garvie from the British Army, who delivered an insightful assembly detailing the various career pathways and job opportunities available within the Army, as well as how to apply. His session sparked interest in some learners who may not have previously considered a career in the Armed Forces.

Lastly, Christine Murrells our regular Careers Advisor from CXK visited to provide group and 1-1 careers advice workshops, helping our learners explore their options and decide what they might like to do once they leave KITE College. Christine's guidance is invaluable in helping learners think about their next steps and make more informed decisions about their future.

Alongside all our guests Rachael Cretten the Careers Leader delivered careers workshops to all learners particularly focusing on apprenticeships and busting all the myths surrounding them! We are incredibly grateful to all of our guest speakers for sharing their expertise and offering such a wealth of knowledge and inspiration to our learners. The Careers department looks forward to continuing to support our learners in their journey towards successful and fulfilling careers.



Preparation for Learning

Preparation for Learning Year 1 learners celebrated Chinese New Year as part of their cultural diversity curriculum. It is the year of the wood snake.

They celebrated by making their own dumplings (wontons) with authentic Chinese ingredients and sharing a traditional Chinese Hotpot.

They were also given their own traditional Chinese red envelope which contained money wishing them good fortune, an orange for good luck and a fortune cookie.

They looked at the Chinese Lunar new year, family customs and the Chinese zodiac, identifying which animal they were born under and what characteristics they have, similar to the English horoscope.



Preparation for Employment

Our Preparation for Employment learners have been working on units centered around customer service, teamwork, and interview preparation. This term, we've also introduced units on catering and work experience. Consequently, learners have:

- Enhanced their customer service skills through role-playing, showcasing their problem-solving and communication abilities, ready to apply these in real-world scenarios.
- Improved their teamwork skills by participating in gardening maintenance at the Hub in Murston.
- Refined their interview techniques.
- Gained catering knowledge, including knife skills and working with pastry to make quiche.
- Acquired valuable work experience both within the College and at Heather House café.

These accomplishments have collectively boosted their readiness for employment.

Personal Development workshops

It's been an exciting time at KITE College, with numerous visitors coming in to educate and engage our learners.

James from the Metro charity has been offering valuable advice on contraception and sexual health matters, including consent, STI testing, and other related topics. He also provides a selection of contraception options for everyone. Additionally, Marie Sacre and Sally Reed are available at the College to offer contraception, support, and advice.

As part of our Personal Development curriculum, we have been focusing on Alcohol Awareness. To enhance this, we welcomed speakers from Alcoholics Anonymous to share their personal experiences with alcohol. Four AA members visited KITE College to recount their journeys with alcohol addiction and the support they received to overcome it. They discussed the dangers and impacts of alcohol misuse and how we can support ourselves and others who may be struggling. These talks were incredibly emotive and genuine, raising awareness about alcohol issues and the importance of seeking help.

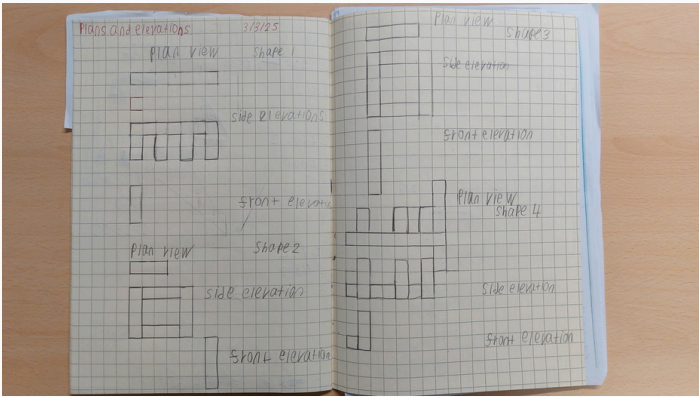
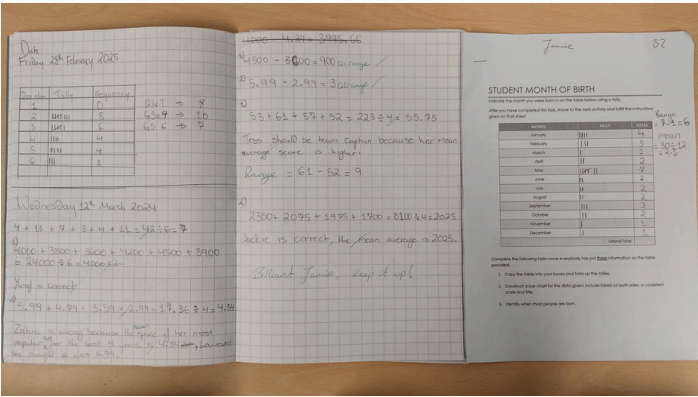
PC Matt Ongley from the Child Centred Policing Team hosted a lunchtime drop-in clinic on first aid. Many learners had the opportunity to practice CPR and treat injuries. This ongoing project aims to foster a friendly relationship between local police and our learners, breaking down barriers and ensuring mutual safety.



Functional Skills

Maths

Over the past 2 terms, we have had 6 learners achieve their target qualifications in maths.
All learners who resat exams, scored higher than they did previously, and end of term assessment results are improved over their start of term scores.
Subjects covered Measurements and Geometry.



English

This term the main focus within our English lessons has been Speaking and Listening. The learners have been creating a PowerPoint presentation on a topic they know very well and researching an academic topic. We have had a myriad of topics in the presentations from gaming to socialism and fishing. We have also had another set of very positive exam results for our learners which we look forward to telling all the exam takers when we see them next in college.

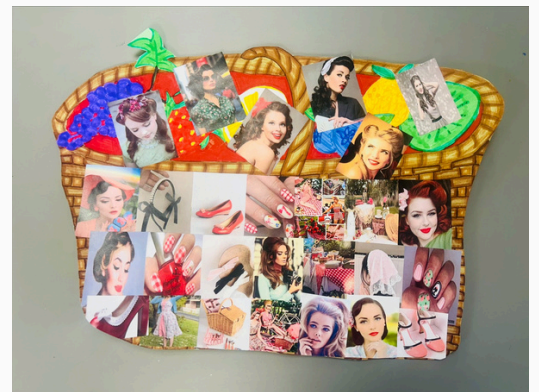


ICT

Our computing learners have been busy applying their skills in real-world scenarios! They've been using the 3D printer to bring their creative designs to life, working from detailed design briefs to produce functional and innovative models. Along the way, they've honed their problem-solving abilities by troubleshooting non-working computers, diagnosing hardware and software issues, and finding effective solutions. This hands-on experience has strengthened their technical knowledge and critical thinking, preparing them for future challenges in the tech world. We're proud of their dedication and look forward to seeing more exciting projects!

Hair and Beauty

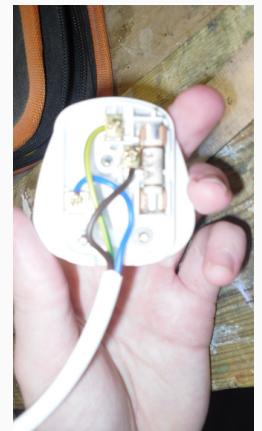
This term, the Hair and Beauty learners have showcased their creativity and skills through a variety of exciting projects. They successfully completed their spring hairstyles, bringing vibrant and fresh looks to life. As part of Unit 112, "Create a Hair and Beauty Image," learners had the opportunity to choose between a photoshoot, competition, or presentation. Many opted for a photoshoot, with one standout creation inspired by the theme of a springtime picnic. The learners expertly styled their models, capturing the essence of the season with soft, natural looks that perfectly complemented the picnic atmosphere.



Construction

This term, the Multiskills learners have been learning about electrical installations. We have practiced wiring a 13amp plug and a ceiling rose and are now moving on to how a ring main works. The carpentry group have been working on more complex assignments with different depth cuts, plane angles and mortices needed on each part. The brick learners are now working with blocks as well as bricks and are adjusting to how the materials interact with each other and the mortar mix.

All of the learners have been using recycled materials to make a range of things including some birdboxes for Murston Heart, using scrap copper pipe to make lamps and candelabras and the scrap wood for gifts.



Motor Vehicle

The automotive pathway has enjoyed a great start to the year. Our new learners have settled in well and are building their practical skills, gaining familiarity with different tools and working on a range of vehicles. They have all removed, inspected and replaced cylinder heads, suspension struts, exhaust systems and brake pads and discs.

The returning cohort have come back ready to learn and have been challenged with tasks including inspecting, testing and evaluating components, using diagnostic equipment, installing and repairing the wiring looms, bleeding the brake system, and completing pre-MOT inspections on our 2 new vehicles. We are always looking for end of life cars to give the learners a more realistic learning experience.

Our new member of the team Mark, who has over 35-year experience in the motor trade, working as a manager at Halfords and having his own garage, has made a massive positive contribution bringing an extra perspective and experiences to our learners.

We have just been given the opportunity for our learners to gain a Halfords trade card which will help them on the journey into work and these will be available in the next few weeks.

Planned trips and visits- We are preparing to offer a visit to the Science Museum which displays the history of the Motor Car and links to modern Electric Vehicle, Hybrid and future technologies. We hope all our cohort will sign up to this and enjoy the day visiting London, more information to follow!



Learner Council

Our Learner Council have been busy taking part in professional meetings lately. They have taken part in the interview process for our new members of staff, in which they got to ask questions about their experiences. The learners came up with some fantastic questions and their confidence shone through. They also welcomed a couple of Trustee members to one of their meetings, who were very impressed with how enthusiastic the learners are about their college life. We would also like to say how proud we are of our learners who took part in a Q&A session with members from our recent Ofsted new centre monitoring visit.

Our previous end of term trips included a visit to the ski slopes in Chatham and Ninja Warrior In Chatham.

We are very excited to say that we now have a pool table, which members of the Learner Council asked for.



Wear Red in Feb

We would like to say a massive thank you to our learners and staff for helping to raise money for the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance Service.

A huge shout out to our learner Shannen, who made some delicious cookies to sell to the staff as part of raising money. Shannen raised a whopping £100 to contribute to the total. On the 13th February 2025, we held a 'Wear Red in Feb Day' to help raise awareness for the Ambulance charity. In total, KITE raised £130. Every penny of this will go to directly supporting this life saving service.



Enrichment

Terms 3 & 4 have seen a significant expansion in the range of enrichment activities available to learners. Last term introduced darts and gym sessions, led by a member of KITE staff who is a qualified PT, providing learners with diverse options to engage in physical and recreational activities, promoting both physical health and personal development. Furthermore, creative activities such as making bath bombs, crafting cards and gifts from recycled materials for Christmas and Valentine's Day were introduced. These activities not only encourage creativity and sustainability but also provide learners with the joy of creating something unique and meaningful. Finally, mindfulness and relaxation sessions have also been added to the enrichment programme, offering learners a valuable opportunity to enhance their mental well-being and develop stress management techniques.



Special Events

Mindfulness and relaxation sessions with Sarah Stephen

A group of learners are currently participating in mindfulness and relaxation sessions led by Sarah Stephen. During these sessions, learners are introduced to fundamental relaxation and breathing techniques derived from Tibetan Yoga, aimed at fostering a sense of calm and mental clarity.

These sessions provide valuable tools for learners to improve their posture, better manage their anger and emotions, and enhance the quality of their sleep. Through the integration of these practices, learners are not only developing a greater awareness of their physical and emotional states but also cultivating long-term habits that promote overall well-being.

The learners have shown a strong level of receptiveness and engagement, demonstrating a genuine interest in the techniques being taught. They actively participate in the sessions and frequently ask insightful questions, indicating their desire to deepen their understanding and apply these practices to their everyday lives. This positive response underscores the value of these sessions in helping learners develop essential coping mechanisms and improve their mental and emotional health.



Special Events

Importance of sleep workshop

Each group of learners participated in a workshop titled The Importance of Sleep. During the session, we explored their current sleeping habits, discussing the number of hours they typically sleep and how they feel when they aren't getting enough or quality rest. This conversation provided valuable insights into the challenges learners face when it comes to sleep, as well as the impact poor sleep has on their overall well-being.

We then shifted focus to explore the key factors that contribute to a good night's sleep. Learners were encouraged to reflect on how they could improve their sleep routines, incorporating habits that promote better rest. This discussion included practical strategies such as maintaining a consistent sleep schedule, creating a calming pre-bedtime routine, and optimising their sleeping environment.

Additionally, we examined the factors that can hinder sleep quality, such as excessive screen time, stress, or irregular sleep patterns. The group brainstormed ways to avoid these obstacles and develop healthier sleep habits to promote more restful nights. The workshop concluded with a comprehensive list of do's and don'ts to follow before and near bedtime. These suggestions, such as avoiding caffeine, limiting screen time, and engaging in relaxation techniques, were designed to help learners improve the quality of their sleep and foster better overall health. The interactive nature of the workshop, combined with practical advice, encouraged learners to take actionable steps toward better sleep hygiene.



KITE Value Awards

The following learners achieved these awards in Terms 2 & 3 and have each received a £10 Amazon voucher – well done!

Kindness – Herbie A & Nicholas X
Integrity – Luke S & Martin B
Tolerance – Mia G & Rocco M
Excellence – Matthew B & Riley W



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

As we reflect on another bustling term here at KITE College, I am filled with pride as I look back at all that we have achieved together. It's clear that our college community continues to grow and thrive, and it is truly an exciting time for all of us.

One of the highlights of the term has been the wealth of enrichment opportunities we've been able to offer our learners. Through various volunteering projects in the community, our learners have shown remarkable maturity and have truly embodied what it means to be superb ambassadors for KITE. Their involvement has not only contributed to the local community but has also allowed them to develop invaluable life skills.

We've been fortunate to host a wide range of visitors who have come to deliver Careers and Personal Development sessions. These experiences have enriched our curriculum, providing our learners with deeper insights and practical knowledge that will serve them well in their futures. A huge thank you to all the guest speakers and professionals who have contributed to our learners' development.

It's also been a pleasure to welcome new learners this term, who have settled in wonderfully. Their enthusiasm and positive attitudes have further enhanced the college environment. Looking ahead, we are excited to share that we've already interviewed approximately 50 new learners for September 2026. The KITE College name is becoming more and more recognised across the county and we are thrilled that so many young people want to be part of our family.

None of these successes would be possible without the dedication and hard work of our fantastic staff. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each member of our team, who continuously go above and beyond to ensure our learners feel safe, happy, and are achieving far beyond our expectations. Your commitment is the backbone of this college, and I am incredibly grateful for everything you do.

Lastly, we say goodbye to three valued members of our staff this term—Mollie Major, Rachael Cretten, and Tony Heathfield. We wish them all the best in their new endeavours and thank them for the lasting impact they've made here at KITE College.

As we move into the next term, I am confident that we will continue to build on these successes and provide even more opportunities for our learners to grow and excel.

Thank you for your continued support of KITE College. Together, we will keep making a positive difference in the lives of all those who walk through our doors.

Sarah Miller
Principal

Term Dates

TERM 5

College Opens - Tuesday 22nd April 2025 Learners in College (as per timetables)
Monday 5th May 2025 Bank Holiday
College Closes - Friday 23rd May 2025 Learners Finish

TERM 4

College Opens - Monday 2nd June 2025 Learners in College (as per timetables)
Tuesday 15th July 2025 Learners Finish
Wednesday 16th July 2025 Learner Celebration Day
Thursday 17th July 2025 New Learners only
College Closes - Friday 18th July 2025 Staff Development Day