

Welcome to our VLUK newsletter where we celebrate the amazing achievements of our learners and campuses for both Sport and Performing Arts. The 2024/25 academic year has continued to bring with it a multitude of fabulous success stories to share with you from our various campuses across the UK.

SUCCESS STORIES

STAVELEY & QUALITAS CAMPUSES

The VLUK Qualitas and Staveley BTEC learners visited St George's Park to enjoy a coaching experience day with England coaches. These coaching sessions were developed to support the learners in their delivery of unit C1 where they will have to deliver their own coaching programmes. During the day, the learners even managed to bump into England Men's first team manager, Thomas Tuchel, and he took some time to chat with the learners. The learners thoroughly enjoyed their day away from campus and especially meeting the England manager!



MK DONS CAMPUS

Will Dunnill, Year 12 learner at our MK Dons campus, was invited to officiate in Portugal in the last week of the December term. Will said "It was such a great experience and it has also helped to support my unit 11 work providing evidence of officiating".

CLIQUE CAMPUS

BTEC learners at our VLUK Clique campus, were invited to showcase at a Dance Competition Finals - Supreme Dance. Clique performed three numbers in total and all of the learners thoroughly enjoyed their experience. The audience was close to 600 people and the learners received a standing ovation! One of their dances was Camarilla which was choreographed by tutors, Tanya and Aimee, shown in this photo.



JOE GALLAGHER CAMPUS

Our Year 13 Joe Gallagher campus learner, Sid Williams, has recently won the prestigious WAKO World Championships in Italy! This incredible achievement is a testament to Sid's dedication, hard work, and the high-level training he's received. The WAKO World Championships is one of the biggest competitions on the circuit and Sid entered and won three divisions, two junior divisions and one senior division. He also signed a sponsorship contract with Top Ten GB and he is now one of only 4 athletes in the UK to be sponsored by Top Ten.



STAGEDOOR LEARNING CAMPUS

As part of our learners' development and research for Unit 5 - Individual Performance Commission, the Stagedoor Year 13s visited Cheltenham's Wilson Museum and Gallery. This year, Unit 5 asks learners to create a solo performance based on a memorable moment in history, considering positive change which occurred as a result of their chosen moment. As inspiration, we visited the museum, where learners were able to find out about all sorts of things including the adventures of Polar Explorer Edward Wilson, after whom the museum is named, as well as the history of GCHQ, Cheltenham's links to the abolitionist movement, and the impact of enclosure on the local agricultural economy. It was a really interesting visit, and the learners had a great time finding out about local history and about the key techniques of storytelling which they will be able to use in their own work.





D2 & CLIQUE CAMPUS

Two of our performing arts campuses recently attended the world's biggest dance event - Move It! Our CEO, Rob Johnson, visited ExCel to support the campuses and was exceptionally impressed by their presence at the event as well as their performances. He said "I was so proud to see the learners in action at the Move It show!".

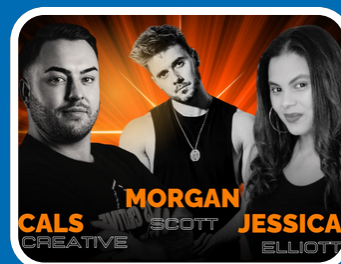


STAVELEY CAMPUS

Learners from our Staveley campus took a trip to the University of Derby for a performance analysis taster day session with James Mitchell, course lead for the programme at the university. The learners got 'hands on' with elite software used by premier league clubs and were able to implement editorial techniques to different areas of player performance. The learning gained will be used for upcoming practical units including where they plan their own coaching programme to support a Head Coach in the delivery of three sessions. This will help them analyse the performance of their players.

JDF CAMPUS

Our learners were incredibly lucky to get hands-on experience on their recent industry day! They welcomed top industry professionals, Cals Creative, Morgan Scott and Jessica Elliott along to help the learners to gain valuable insight, inspiration, and industry knowledge from experienced creative professionals. They had the chance to experience mock auditions, participate in practical workshops, listen to our guests speak about their professions and also got the chance to interview industry professionals. It was amazing to see them engaging so enthusiastically, asking thoughtful questions and pushing themselves outside their comfort zones.

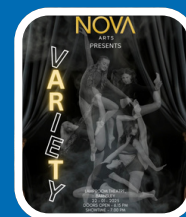


FSD CAMPUS

A former BTEC learner, Matty Longdon, returned from the USA to speak and train with the current learners. He talked to them about his last two years in USA where he played for Meridian Community College captaining the side in the final year and is now in connection with NCAA Division One teams who are all trying to secure his signature for his final two years of study. This gave our learners a vital insight into life in the USA, for those wanting to take their football and education to the next level. He gave the learners vital information and answers to what it takes to get there, experience life there and to thrive.

NOVA CAMPUS

The NOVA performers excelled in their first show of the year in January at the Lamp Room Theatre in Barnsley. The show featured a combination of enrichment work in styles such as ballet jazz and hip-hop, as well as BTEC performance pieces often offering a variety of singing dancing and acting. This performance was a collaboration of the NOVA tutors and learners as there will also be a range of numbers choreographed by the learners themselves.



LEON BARNETT CAMPUS

VLUK Leon Barnett learner, Kwesi Sackey, has been called up to Cranfield United (Step 6 of the non league pyramid) 1st team squad that competes in Spartan South Midlands Division 1. Kwesi has excelled in campus fixtures showing emerging leader qualities from his centre back position, along with his ability to read the game and handle the football. Kwesi's debut happened on Boxing Day with a clash against local rivals Amptill Town FC - resulting in 2-0 win in front of 300 supporters. Our Leon Barnett campus has a close link with Cranfield United and have, this year, seen the learners compete as CUFC's Under 18 in the Southern Counties Floodlit youth league. This allows a clear pathway for learners to move into mens football.

We wish you all a very Happy Easter and a relaxing break.

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