

Welcome to the latest edition of the VLUK newsletter - giving you an update on the incredible achievements and standout moments from our learners and campuses across the UK! From unforgettable performances to sporting triumphs, the 2024/25 academic year has been bursting with energy, creativity, and success. Whether in Sport or Performing Arts, our learners have continued to raise the bar, and we're thrilled to share just a few of their inspiring stories with you.

CAMPUS STORIES

WOKING CAMPUS

Learners from our VLUK Woking campus recently experienced an unforgettable day at Kick X, a cutting-edge, world-class football facility right in the heart of Surrey. As part of this exclusive opportunity, they also spent the evening with none other than football icon Theo Walcott. From high-energy challenges to expert insights, our learners were pushed to perform at their best, gaining invaluable experience in an elite-level environment.



STAGEDOOR LEARNING CAMPUS

Our first-year Performing Arts learners took their talents into the local community, delivering uplifting performances at four retirement homes in Cheltenham as part of their Performing Arts in the Community unit. In response to a real commission brief, they created a 45-minute show featuring hits from ABBA, Fleetwood Mac, the Beatles, the Spice Girls, and musical theatre favourites from Hairspray, The Sound of Music, and Les Misérables. Adapting to a range of performance spaces from lounges to outdoor gardens they impressed audiences of all sizes with professionalism and heart. The experience was a true highlight, with glowing feedback from both residents and staff, and meaningful conversations shared after each show.



CHATHAM TOWN AND DORKING WANDERERS FC CAMPUSES

Under the blazing sun at the stunning Bauvill Stadium in Chatham, two outstanding teams — Dorking Wanderers FC and Chatham Town FC Campuses went head-to-head in the annual VLUK Women's Football Final. It was a high-energy, fiercely contested match that showcased the incredible skill, dedication, and teamwork of both sides. On the day, it was Chatham Town FC Campus who came out on top, sealing the win with confidence and composure in front of an enthusiastic crowd.

But this event was about more than just football. During Pride Month, both teams stood proudly in solidarity with players wearing rainbow wristbands and captains sporting rainbow armbands in support of inclusivity and equality in sport. The day captured everything VLUK stands for: opportunity, inclusivity, and excellence on and off the pitch.



FOREST SPORTS EDUCATION CAMPUS

Our talented learners have been showcasing their entrepreneurial flair as they delivered their Business Plans for Unit 2: Self-Employment. This dynamic unit challenges learners to think like real-world business owners developing, refining and pitching their own business concepts from the ground up.

From innovative product ideas to service-based start-ups, the creativity on display has been truly impressive. Learners not only demonstrated a deep understanding of business fundamentals, but also presented their plans with professionalism, confidence, and passion mirroring the standards expected in industry. This unit is a standout example of how our curriculum equips learners with practical, career-ready skills, while empowering them to think independently and ambitiously about their future.





JDF CAMPUS

Our JDF Performing Arts campus pride themselves on providing learners with incredible performance opportunities, preparing them for the real world of dance through unforgettable, professional experiences. In the last month, our talented dancers have performed at Flexus Dance Collective's Educate platform at the Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, showcased their skills at Can You Dance? Worcester, taken centre stage in their end-of-year show DEBUT at The Artrix, Bromsgrove as well as lighting up the stage at the Black Country Dance Hub's Dance Festival at Walsall Arena!



REDDITCH CAMPUS

We were delighted to welcome Christian Edwards, Neil Howarth, and Mike Harris from the University of Worcester for an inspiring visit focused on football and higher education opportunities. The session gave our learners a unique insight into what it's like to study and play sport at university level. In addition to an engaging talk about pathways into higher education and careers in sport, the team delivered a high-energy, practical football session. This hands-on experience offered learners a valuable glimpse into the demands and expectations of university-level training and coaching.

The visit not only motivated our learners to consider their next steps beyond VLUK, but also demonstrated the strong connections we maintain with top universities to support our learners' progression. Opportunities like this are what set the VLUK experience apart blending real-world insights with elite-level sport and education.



D2 CAMPUS

D2 was proud to welcome Natalie Pullen from EmpowHer for a dynamic workshop on dancer wellbeing and performance sustainability. As an experienced physiotherapist, Natalie delivered tailored, hands-on guidance to help learners better understand self-care, injury prevention, and long-term career health.

Covering key areas like nutrition, fatigue management, and strength training, the session empowered learners with practical tools to support both physical and mental wellbeing vital for anyone pursuing a future in the performing arts. Tutor Amie summed it up perfectly: "Workshops like this are vital for preparing our learners for long-term success." D2 remains committed to bringing in industry experts to enrich the learner experience and bridge the gap between training and the professional world.



F2 CAMPUS

Our talented F2 learners have been hands-on, showcasing their massage techniques in action! As part of their Sports Injuries assessment, they've been applying practical skills in real-time injury treatment and recovery - building confidence, competence and career-ready experience.

WEALDSTONE CAMPUS

Huge congratulations to Year 12 learner Ethan, who made history as one of the youngest goalkeepers to help secure a cup final victory with a men's team earning himself a well-deserved medal and a moment to remember!



PSA CAMPUS

PSA learner, Fran Oliver, proudly represented the British Heart Foundation by taking on the iconic London Marathon crossing the finish line with an impressive time of 4 hours and 5 minutes. A true display of determination, heart, and community spirit!

We wish you all a very restful summer break.

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