

Welcome to the first edition of the VLUK Newsletter for this academic year, celebrating the outstanding achievements and memorable moments from our learners and campuses across the UK! As we embark on the 2025/26 academic year, the energy, creativity, and dedication of our learners continue to shine. From captivating performances to impressive sporting successes, they're setting new standards of excellence in both Sport, Performing Arts and Creative Media. We're delighted to share just a few of their inspiring stories with you.

CAMPUS STORIES

VISIONARY CAMPUS

Learners at our VLUK Visionary Campus welcomed a guest speaker from Body Health Gatwick for an engaging session on nutrition and recovery in sports performance. She explored what athletes should eat before, during and after fixtures, along with effective recovery strategies.

Year 13 learners found strong curriculum links to their Unit E research on nutritional supplementation and Unit 4: Nutrition in Sports Performance. The session offered valuable, real-world insight into how nutrition and recovery drive sporting success.



STAGEDOOR LEARNING CAMPUS

Our Year 13 learners stepped up as leaders, designing and delivering creative activities for Year 12s during a British Values tutorial. This peer-led session allowed Year 13s to revisit prior learning while giving Year 12s an engaging introduction to the five key values.

From a courtroom role-play on the rule of law to an original song about mutual respect and forum theatre on tolerance, the activities were both imaginative and impactful. Learners also explored democracy through suffragette discussions and mock debates on individual liberty, reflecting on how these freedoms differ globally.

The session was a resounding success, fostering teamwork, confidence, and leadership across both year groups, and showcasing the power of peer learning in action.



ASA THEATRE ARTS CAMPUS

Learners from our ASA campus proudly took part in the Elevate Dance Competition, where they delivered a captivating group performance that highlighted their exceptional skill, creativity, and teamwork.

The event was a fantastic opportunity for our dancers to gain valuable performance experience and connect with the wider dance community, while also helping to raise awareness of the campus's programmes and creative excellence.

Our learners showed dedication and professionalism at the competition proving a true reflection of the talent and passion within the ASA campus.



TOOTING & MITCHAM CAMPUS

Our Tooting & Mitcham learners are back on the pitch and diving straight into action! Both year groups have been pushed to their limits, developing teamwork, accountability and a strong sense of togetherness through intensive training and match play. The term started on a high note with a thrilling FA Youth Cup match against Broadbridge Heath. In a closely contested game, our learners shone, helping the team secure a 3-2 victory. Their skill, determination and teamwork on the pitch highlighted the talent and dedication that defines our Tooting & Mitcham cohort.



CRE8 CAMPUS

Our CRE8 learners have been putting their skills to the test, getting hands-on with professional filming equipment while producing learner testimonial videos as part of their Progression in the Industry unit. Working with real clients on real productions, learners gained invaluable experience in the fast-paced world of media production.



They have also been working on their interview techniques and, as part of the process, have developed and applied a wide range of professional interview techniques from body language and tone to question design and delivery honing the communication skills that will make them industry-ready.

These practical experiences not only builds confidence but also gives learners a taste of the real-world demands of the creative media industry.

ADORE DANCE CAMPUS

The learners at our Adore campus have settled in beautifully at their brand-new studios in Hackney Wick. The fresh space has provided the perfect environment for creativity, collaboration, and high-energy training.

Since moving in, learners have been fully embracing the new facilities, exploring a wide range of dance styles, refining their technique and developing their performance skills. The vibrant, purpose-built studios are already helping the learners reach new heights in their training and fostering a strong sense of community on campus.

We're excited to see all the progress, passion, and performances that this inspiring new space will continue to nurture throughout the year.



JDF CAMPUS

The new term has kicked off with energy and excitement for our JDF campus learners! From the very start, they've dived straight into rehearsals for Superweekender, taken to the stage at Walsall MakerFest and fully embraced training, classes, and performances.



Already, learners have demonstrated incredible drive, passion and team spirit, showing exactly what makes the JDF campus experience so special. And this is just the beginning - we can't wait to see how their creativity and dedication continue to flourish throughout the term.

CLIQUE CAMPUS

Our Clique campus learners fully embraced induction week, immersing themselves in activities designed to build confidence, creativity and connections across the cohort. The week culminated in a colourful and energetic finale - a fun paint game that had everyone literally throwing themselves into the experience! Covered in vibrant colours and full of laughter, learners demonstrated the energy, camaraderie, and positivity that define the Clique spirit.



STAVELEY/QUALITAS CAMPUS

We're incredibly proud of BTEC learner Zachary, who has been selected as a brand ambassador for BW1GK Goalkeeping Gloves. Zachary shared his excitement about this fantastic opportunity: "I'm excited to be a brand ambassador for BW1GK and I look forward to what the future holds." This achievement highlights Zachary's talent, dedication and passion for football and we can't wait to see him thrive in this new role.

EDUCATION OVERVIEW

SPORTS COACHING

VLUK Level 3 sport learners have been making progress and building on their initial knowledge base in a number of units within their main learning aim.

Year 12 learners began the academic year by taking a deep dive into careers in sport and active leisure. This not only allowed the learners to develop their knowledge of the sports industry and a variety of careers within it but it allowed learners to consider their own personal career preferences and interests and gain an understanding of how the current study programme can support them to achieve their goals. Through their work on the units learners also developed their knowledge of safeguarding and gained a deeper insight into VLUK safeguarding processes and the team that can support.

A busy start to the term with Year 13 learners getting to grips with the research project theme and topic for this academic year. Once learners had expanded their knowledge on the topic they began to explore and create their own hypothesis for their individual research projects reviewing current literature and detailing an appropriate methodology to conduct their research.

Tutorial

Since the start of the academic year, learners have been exploring a range of tutorial topics designed to broaden their understanding of the wider world and society. Engagement has been excellent, with learners taking part in activities that promote British Values, Equality and Diversity, and raise awareness of extremism and radicalisation.

In October, learners also celebrated Black History Month by taking part in quizzes and discussions that highlighted inspirational British role models. Many of our campuses supported the Restart a Heart Day campaign, run by the British Heart Foundation, helping to upskill young people in life-saving CPR techniques.

Careers

Our Year 13 learners have been busy completing their UCAS applications and exploring employment and apprenticeship opportunities through our Xello careers platform. Many campuses have also benefited from visits by guest speakers and professionals from the creative and sports industries, offering valuable insights into potential career paths.

Meanwhile, our new Year 12 cohort has made an excellent start, making full use of our online careers tools to record experiences and achievements. These updates not only help them reflect on their progress but also strengthen their digital portfolios, supporting future university, apprenticeship, and job applications.



EDUCATION OVERVIEW

PERFORMING ARTS

Across all Performing Arts campuses, learners have been focusing on developing their core technical skills across a range of dance genres, acting techniques, and vocal skills.

Year 12 learners are building strong foundations, refining their technical abilities and applying these to their first performance projects. These include a range of variety performances and stylistic choreography pieces, allowing learners to explore creativity and stage presence. Alongside their practical work, they are also developing essential academic and professional skills, such as effective research, Harvard referencing, and the ability to critically evaluate and reflect on their own progress.

Year 13 learners are now focused on advancing their technical and performance skills in preparation for upcoming assessments. These projects connect directly to industry practice, including audition techniques, portfolio creation, and personal development plans aimed at refining the quality of their work across all performing arts disciplines. Learners are also receiving guidance and support with UCAS applications, audition preparation, and progression planning to help them take confident next steps towards higher education or careers in the industry.



CREATIVE MEDIA

Across both Year 12 and Year 13, learners have made an exciting start to the year exploring key aspects of creative practice and industry progression.

Year 12 learners have been developing core skills in Content Creation & Social Media and Creative Thinking & Development Techniques, learning the fundamentals of photography, video, graphics and editing while exploring how social media can be used to promote creative work safely and effectively. Assessments have included branded social posts, short video edits, and imaginative campaigns such as designing new clothing, kits, boots, houses, stadiums, or sustainable architecture — encouraging learners to think creatively and with purpose.

Year 13 learners have focused on Understanding & Navigating the Creative Industry and Preparing for Industry Progression, investigating job roles, pathways and professional behaviours, while developing their own CVs, portfolios and LinkedIn profiles. Their work has centred on researching exploring career opportunities, producing personal progression plans, and curating portfolio content that showcases their individual skills, creativity and ambition.

