

# North East Institute of Technology

Newsletter – May 2025







## CELEBRATING WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION

This past March, we celebrated Women in Construction Week, highlighting the incredible contributions of women in a predominantly male-dominated industry.

At EDC, we caught up with several of our female students who are currently studying construction-related trade courses. We showcased their talents through a photoshoot, which was proudly shared across our social media platforms.

The campaign also aimed to shine a light on the relatively small number of women pursuing a career in construction-related trades, highlights key facts such as:

- Women make up only 15% of the UK's force of construction workers.
- Only 9.2% of the highest-paid roles in construction are held by women, with 29% in the lowest-paid quartile.
- Nearly 60% of employers don't provide suitable PPE for females at work - making their working conditions uncomfortable and potentially unsafe.
- Lack of flexible working arrangements and support for balancing work/family means many women leave the sector before reaching senior roles.



## 1ST PLACE FOR CRAIG AT INTER-COLLEGE COMPETITION

A huge congratulations to our Level 3 Electrical Installation student Craig Spence on his recent win at the Intercollege Skills Competition!

His task involved installing and wiring a lighting and power system to an industry standard within a set time frame - he was successful and managed to secure a first-place win!



## ROBERTSON HOMES OFFERS APPRENTICESHIPS TO EDC LEARNERS

As part of their Developing Futures Project, in partnership with East Durham College, housebuilder Robertson Homes has officially offered apprenticeships ahead of schedule to selected EDC learners.

The team from Robertson Homes, who have been working with our students this term through masterclasses in their trade, were so impressed with several learners that they offered them the positions before the scheduled opportunities which will open up at the end of the academic year. The students have now already started work on-site!

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## Building Futures: School Students Get a Taste of the Construction Industry at Middlesbrough College

60 secondary school students from across the Tees Valley visited Middlesbrough College to explore the exciting world of STEM, in collaboration with the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC). The schools, which included Sacred Heart, Laurence Jackson, Trinity Catholic College,

Acklam Grange and Outwood Academy Riverside, got a taste of the construction industry when they were tasked with building a college entirely out of LEGO, with the NEIoT Team on hand to show students the ropes.

This activity was designed to simulate a real-life construction

project, with students taking on various roles such as builders, project managers, planners, and quantity surveyors. They managed the project from start to finish, gaining valuable insights into the construction industry and the importance of teamwork and planning.

**NORTHERN  
SKILLS**

**MC** Middlesbrough College Group

**TTE**

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## National Battery Training and Skills Academy Opens at New College Durham

The North East has officially welcomed the launch of the National Battery Training and Skills Academy (NB TSA) – a groundbreaking facility supporting the development of skills for the UK's growing battery industry. The academy is a collaboration between New College Durham and Newcastle University, and was formally opened by North East Mayor Kim McGuinness in February 2025.

Situated at New College Durham, the NB TSA is one of the first dedicated battery training centres in the UK. It has been established with support from the Faraday Battery Challenge, a programme led by Innovate UK, and is already playing a pivotal role in developing the next generation of battery specialists.

The initiative aligns with the North East's strategic focus on green technology, electrification, and advanced manufacturing, ensuring that the region remains at the forefront of innovation and workforce development. This cross-sector collaboration between academia, industry and policymakers is setting a national benchmark in future skills training.



## WOOTZANO ENGAGES NEW COLLEGE DURHAM STUDENTS IN FUTURE TECHNOLOGIES

New College Durham recently welcomed Newcastle-based electronics company Wootzano to campus for an inspiring session exploring emerging trends in digital technologies. The event was attended by students from both Further Education (FE) and Higher Education (HE) programmes, including learners enrolled on T Level pathways.

The session focused on the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI), machine learning, and deep learning, examining their growing influence on industries, the workforce, and wider society. Students gained insights into how these technologies are shaping business innovation and societal change.

The visit sparked strong interest among T Level students, several of whom expressed a desire to pursue work placements with Wootzano. Their enthusiasm reflects a wider commitment to gaining real-world, hands-on experience in one of the UK's most dynamic and future-facing sectors.



## NEW COLLEGE DURHAM STUDENT WINS HIP LEARNER OF THE YEAR 2025

Jackson Gill, a plumbing student at New College Durham, has been crowned HIP Learner of the Year 2025, triumphing in a national competition that celebrates technical excellence in the plumbing and heating sector.

Following a series of regional heats, Jackson competed against six other finalists in a demanding two-day Grand Final held at Bostik Academy in Stafford. The competition tested participants on installation skills, problem-solving, and technical knowledge under industry-standard conditions.

This prestigious achievement reflects the high calibre of training delivered at New College Durham and reinforces the college's commitment to developing the next generation of skilled professionals.

## PAVING THE WAY FORWARD: PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THE FUTURE OF AUTOMOTIVE CAREERS WITH GREEN SKILLS AND INDUSTRY-STANDARD TRAINING

At Tyne Coast College, we're proud to be at the forefront of preparing students for the future of the automotive industry. With the continued rise of electric and hybrid vehicles (EV/Hybrid), the demand for highly skilled professionals to maintain and service these advanced technologies has never been greater. We're not only keeping pace with these developments - we're helping to set the standard.



**Industry-Standard Motor Vehicle Workshops** Our motor vehicle workshops are equipped to the highest industry specifications, offering students hands-on experience with state-of-the-art tools and technologies. Recent investments include cutting-edge EV/Hybrid vehicle rigs, ensuring our students train on the latest models and systems.

### Closing the Skills Gap

We are actively supporting the national drive to promote green skills and sustainability within the workforce. By focusing on EV/Hybrid technology, our programmes directly address the skills gap in the automotive sector, ensuring that our students are job-ready, with the expertise to meet current demands and adapt to future trends.

### Investing in Staff and Student Success

Great teaching drives great outcomes. That's why we continue to invest in our teaching staff, including recruiting former students who bring both academic knowledge and real-world industry experience to their new roles as educators.

We also offer specialised EV/Hybrid training for apprentices and a range of industry-focused short courses. These programmes provide targeted skills development for professionals seeking to upskill or transition into green automotive technologies.

### Supporting Businesses and the Green Economy

In addition to our student-focused programmes, we provide training and consultancy services for businesses. Organisations looking to enhance their workforce's green skills or implement sustainability-focused initiatives can get in touch with our Head of STEM/Green Initiatives, Neil Bowen, at [neil.bowen@tynecoast.ac.uk](mailto:neil.bowen@tynecoast.ac.uk)

As the automotive industry evolves, so too does our commitment to innovation, sustainability, and excellence in training. Tyne Coast College remains dedicated to equipping the next generation with the knowledge and tools to succeed in a greener, more technologically advanced future.



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# NEAA Awards 2025

## SME of the Year Award

An outstanding small or medium-sized enterprise that has demonstrated excellence in the automotive sector.

Sponsored by



The NEIoT FE partners were proud to sponsor SME of the Year award 2025 at the NEAA Awards 2025 in March.

Huge congratulations to AR Power on receiving their award, presented by Ben Robinson, Deputy Principal and Deputy CEO at Middlesbrough College on behalf of the NEIoT partnership.

AR Power have donated their £2000 award to Our Lady Queen of Peace Primary School to help promote and engage their pupils STEM.



# MTIC/NECA Mathematics Conference, July 3rd

MTIC (Maths Teaching Innovation Collaborative) and NECA (North East Combined Authority) are together inviting you to a regional day conference about improving Maths outcomes in the North East region. **This will take place in Newcastle on July 3rd, 2025.**

It is an opportunity for anyone interested in raising the profile and importance of Maths and helping all learners in the North East progress along their chosen pathway and into the workforce. Maths leaders and teachers from across primary, secondary, further and higher education are invited to join with employers for a day of enquiry, debate, learning - and planning together what we are going to do about the current situation.

The gaps in attainment at GCSE and A Level Maths between our region and others are significant and growing; and the proportion of NEET young people in our region is amongst the highest in the country.

We know that mathematics and numerical skills are of fundamental importance across all industries. In today's world it is rapidly becoming even more important that we improve young people's mathematical confidence, skills and attainment. They will need these to unlock opportunities in any sector - not only in engineering, science, technology and finance but in healthcare, consultancy, voluntary services, the arts or the foundational economy, as well as to become entrepreneurs in their own right.

Together, we can shift the dial. If you are interested, would like to find out more or would like to receive an invitation contact [Neil.Willis@northeast-ca.gov.uk](mailto:Neil.Willis@northeast-ca.gov.uk)



## Upcoming Online Event with Jisc "Embracing AI and Immersive Technologies: Transforming SEN Education for 2025 and Beyond"



Date: Monday, May 15th, 2025



Time: 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM



Book your place here

Embracing AI and immersive technologies: transforming SEN education for 2025 and beyond - Jisc

We're excited to welcome an inspirational line-up of speakers:

- **Jason Holt CBE**, CEO, Metaverse Learning
- **Laura Lavender**, Director of Inclusion, Heart of Yorkshire College
- **Andrea Quantrill**, Director of Quality, Heart of Yorkshire College
- **Sophie Moore**, Learning Support Team Leader, Support Connect
- **Hannah Ward**, Digital Instructor, Lincoln University







## South Tyneside Council

### Climate Summit: Sustainable South Tyneside 2025 & Beyond 13th May 2025, South Shields Football Club (Marquee) NE32 3UP

South Tyneside Council is hosting a climate summit to bring together key stakeholders from across the borough (and beyond) to help inform and shape our next Sustainable South Tyneside Strategy.

Our business sustainability day provides an opportunity to network with businesses and other organisations and to understand what they are doing around sustainability. This is a chance for young people to discover the expanding green economy in the North East and consider how sustainability and net zero will shape their careers.

If anyone wishes to join us, the link to sign up is here: [Love South Tyneside](#) | [Protect](#) | [South Tyneside Climate Summit](#)

Please welcome any of your students to our event, and pass this link on to your networks.





The North East Space Conference will be held on June 25, 2025, at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Durham, under the theme "The New Frontier of Space and Manufacturing."

This event will focus on launch and manufacturing, aiming to engage local businesses that could pivot into the space sector. The conference will feature a diverse range of speakers, including representatives from launch companies, in-orbit service manufacturing firms, space regulation experts, and many more.

If you are interested in attending or exhibiting, let's connect to discuss how we can create a larger, unified presence for the North East.

Book your place: [Events](#) | [Space North East Eng](#)

## Creating Real Opportunity

### The Interim North East Local Growth Plan

Consultation Questions: [Have Your Say Today - North East Local Growth Plan - Commonplace](#)



#### Overview of Growth Plan

#### Creating strong foundations and transforming communities

#### Maximising our unique economic opportunities



Home to a growing and vibrant economy for all

- Innovation and business dynamism
- Digital North East

- Creative industries and content
- Tech, digital and AI
- Knowledge intensive professional services
- Life sciences, pharmaceuticals and process industries



Home of the green energy revolution

- Net Zero

- Offshore wind and energy transition



A welcoming home to global trade

- Investment and trade
- Infrastructure and key sites

- Advanced manufacturing including electric vehicles
- Defence, security and space



Home of real opportunity

- Skills & qualifications
- Economic activity, health and wellbeing
- Tackling child poverty

- Foundational economy including hospitality, health and social care



A North East we are proud to call home

- Better housing
- Green Transport which works for all

- Visitor economy
- Rural and coastal businesses





# Contact us

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