

North East Institute of Technology

Newsletter – August 2025



LAYING STRONG FOUNDATIONS AND DEVELOPING FUTURES WITH ROBERTSON HOMES PARTNERSHIP

East Durham College is proud to celebrate the success of the first year of our exciting partnership with Robertson Homes - the Developing Futures Programme. The collaboration is already delivering real results and creating meaningful opportunities for our students.

The first year has seen some fantastic achievements, including:

- **Apprenticeships secured** by students
- **New job roles** created and filled within the business
- **Significant investment** in developing the future workforce
- **Inspiring masterclasses** that have made a real impact on learners

Looking to the new academic year, the partnership promises even more:

- Specialist workshops led by industry experts
- On-site visits to active housing developments
- Student awards recognising talent and achievement
- Work experience placements that bring learning to life
- A collaborative, hands-on environment that prepared students for successful careers

Robertson Homes, a family-run business with strong values at its core, is helping shape the next generation of skilled professionals. Through this partnership, our students gain first-hand industry experience, develop key professional relationships, and learn the importance of collaboration - all crucial ingredients for long-term success in construction and beyond.

We're excited for what the future holds and proud to be working with a partner that's as committed to developing talent as we are!



DEVELOPING FUTURES

CELEBRATING SUCCESS OF OUR INAUGURAL WELDING BOOTCAMP

We're excited to share the success of our very first Welding Bootcamp, delivered in partnership with a major local employer.

This intensive 8-week programme covers all aspects of the welding process, equipping students with vital skills that will set them up for future careers in a high-demand industry.

One standout participant, 19-year-old Ian Williams from Easington, is already reaping the benefits:

"I know these skills will equip me to forge a real career in welding. This industry is desperate for skilled workers, and I'm confident there are great opportunities ahead. Who knows - I might even inspire the next generation of welders someday."

The hands-on approach is a key part of the Bootcamp's success. Ian adds, *"Our instructor, Stephen, explains everything clearly, and we get to put what we learn straight into practice. It's all very well timed and really effective."*

Stephen Russell, the Bootcamp instructor, shared his thoughts on the current cohort:

"This group is fantastic - they're eager to learn and determined to succeed, which is inspiring to see. Their progress is even faster than we expected. They're driven, enthusiastic, and above all, have the right attitude to thrive in this field."

With such promising results, East Durham College looks forward to continuing to develop skilled welders who can meet the needs of the local industry, and build rewarding careers.



Fynn Walker's Journey from T Level to Industry



Fynn Walker

Meet Fynn Walker, a proud Middlesbrough College alumnus who's transformed his passion for engineering into a rewarding, hands-on career, thanks to the College's NEIoT-accredited programmes.

Fynn started his journey on the Electrical Engineering T Level, a programme which sees students spend 80% of their time learning skills in the classroom and the remaining 20% completing an industry placement, where they work with local employers and put their skills into action.

Fast-forward to today, Fynn is now a full-time Electrical Wireman at HC Controls, and he credits Middlesbrough College for giving him the skills, confidence, and support to get there.

"I was instantly impressed with the engineering department, especially compared to other colleges I looked at. It's a huge facility, and the TTE building is fantastic.

"The amount of space and access to real equipment dedicated to physical, hands-on learning made it stand out straight away."

During his T Level, Fynn completed his industry placement at HC Controls, a company who design and manufacture control panels.

The team at HC Controls were so impressed with Fynn's performance that he was offered an apprenticeship through Northern Skills, the College's apprenticeship and training arm.

During this time, he also completed an HNC in Mechanical Engineering at University Centre Middlesbrough – an NEIoT-accredited qualification at the College's Higher Education facility.

In his current role as an Electrical Wireman, no two days are the same.

"Everything we build is custom. We manufacture

and wire different control panels for clients locally and across the country, fabricate back plates, and sometimes go on-site to fit or maintain systems. It's really creative and varied. It's also very customer-facing, which I love.

"One of the most valuable things I learnt at Middlesbrough College is communication. I've learned how to communicate with customers a lot better and explain technical things clearly.

"My course taught me everything, from understanding wiring diagrams to fault finding, and how different components work. Having that understanding has really helped me in my new job role.

"At University Centre Middlesbrough, we had really small class sizes, which meant we got more one-to-one support. I also liked having our own space to learn in. It felt professional and has really helped me transition into a hands-on career."

Find out more and apply to study in September 2025:

mbro.ac.uk/institute-of-technology



DeWalt Day

New College Durham hosted the DeWalt Day on Friday 23rd May, with DeWalt gifting the college £15,000 of tools.

The Dewalt team delivered the new equipment and ran a training day with staff to ensure that the tools are used correctly and maintained to a high standard.



It was a great session, staff really enjoyed the CPD, and NCD are looking forward to the launch of the 'DeWalt Academy' in September 2025 which will see the company sponsoring cohorts of learners with PPE, safety footwear and tools related to their specific trades. The Dewalt Academy is part of a £35 million global project from DeWalt to support construction students in colleges across America, Canada, England, France and Poland.

Regional Skillbuild Competition - Carpentry & Joinery Apprentice Success



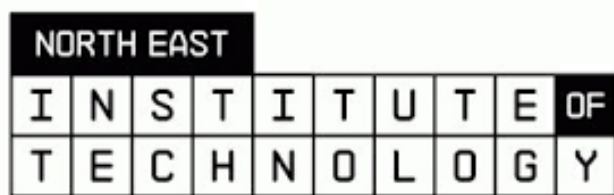
Well done to Jake Bowman winning the regional Skillbuild competition, with all fingers crossed at NCD that he gained enough points to qualify for the national final.

Jake, a Level 3 apprentice with Focus Joinery, has demonstrated remarkable dedication and skill throughout his journey at New College Durham. Primarily working independently on new build homes, Jake has consistently shown a strong work ethic and a passion for site carpentry. To prepare Jake for the WorldSkills Regional Finals, he was supported by his tutor and mentor at NCD which saw him commit to additional training sessions where he honed his abilities using Skillbuild drawings, allowing for refining both his precision and technique. Hard work and focus has certainly paid off for Jake with his well-deserved win, highlighting both his talent and the support provided throughout his apprenticeship.

Work Placement at Catterick Garrison

As part of the T-Level programme, the Year 2 T –Level students completed a 2-week industry placement at Catterick Garrison with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME). As part of the placement learners worked on a range of military vehicles and weapon systems. They were able to apply the theory they have covered on the programme to an industry setting.





NEIoT Strategic Planning Day

Strategic Vision, Shared Future!

On 14th July 2025, the North East Institute of Technology (NEIoT) brought together leaders, educators, and innovators for our Strategic Planning Day at the South Causey Inn, Stanley— setting a bold course for the next three years of skills development and regional impact.

It was an absolute pleasure to welcome three new partner colleges into the NEIoT partnership, strengthening the IoT's collaborative network and deepening the reach across the North East:

Bishop Auckland College
Derwentside College
Hartlepool College of Further Education

A huge thank you to our partners from Newcastle University, Tyne Coast College, East Durham College and New College Durham, and some of our employer partners Nissan Motor Corporation, AESC, Vantec Europe Limited, Esh Group, and Tridonic whose support, insights and commitment to excellence are helping shape a future-ready North East.

We were also pleased to host colleagues from the Department for Education, The North East Combined Authority and The Tees Valley Combined Authority whose support and vision are instrumental in helping the NEIoT collaboration to build a stronger, more connected skills landscape.

Together, we're driving innovation, opportunity, and prosperity across the North East and Tees Valley.



DIGITAL AMBASSADORS 2025/26

An Industry Education Collaboration

Calling all Construction and Built Environment businesses of the North East and Tees Valley - your local college needs your support to bring software to life through the delivery of timetabled guest lectures, and the provision of lecturer CPD.

Join Digital Ambassadors to help:

- Update perceptions of our industry by showcasing digital construction.
- Improve the quality and relevance of teaching materials through the delivery of guest lectures.
- Ensure students have experience of software applications used in industry before leaving college.
- Increase student interaction with inspiring industry professionals.
- Support our colleges to deliver the best quality education to our future workforce.
- Support lecturers who have opted into a 'Digital Swap' by inviting them to your workplace to learn more about the software's daily application, your business, and the wider C&BE industry.

[Click HERE to register your interest](#)

Following registration you will be invited to attend an online onboarding session in August or September ahead of guest lectures commencing in October.



HOW THE 2025/26 DIGITAL AMBASSADOR'S PROGRAMME IS SHAPING UP...



Colleges Enrolled:

- Newcastle College
- Tyne Coast College
- Gateshead College
- Derwentside College
- East Durham College
- New College Durham
- Bishop Auckland College
- Hartlepool College of Further Education
- Middlesbrough College

Guest Lectures Requested:

- BIM, AutoCAD & Revit
- Software in Construction Planning
- Digital Technology in Health & Safety
- Digital Technology in Retrofit
- Use of Artificial Intelligence
- Digital Etiquette & Job Search
- 3D Modelling / Virtual Reality
- Software in Estimating

Support the Digital Ambassadors Programme by:

Delivering up to 4 workshops in colleges of your choosing. There will also be an option to host college lecturers at your workplace to support their understanding of software in practice, learn more about your business and the wider industry.

Click [HERE](#)
to register
your interest

Full information including guest lecture availability, best practice guidance and CPD support will be provided at the onboarding sessions.

INSTITUTES OF TECHNOLOGY

On 3 July, the National Network of Institutes of Technology were proud to welcome Yewande Akinola MBE FIET HON FREng to host the National Conference 2025, bringing together over 170 delegates and more than 25 influential speakers from across government, industry, and education — including Siemens, IBM, Laing O'Rourke, the Met Office, Heathrow, and many more.

The network were honoured to have a video address from Jacqui Smith, Minister for Skills, highlighting the vital importance of partnerships that deliver real impact for learners, employers, and local economies. Phil Smith, Chair of Skills England, opened the day with thoughtful, challenging questions about how we collaborate across sectors and regions to achieve lasting change.

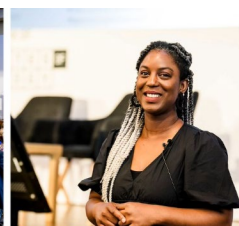
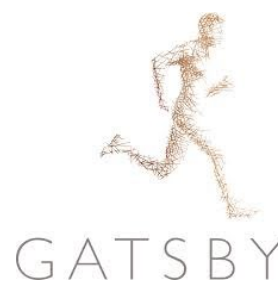
The day demonstrated the strength, energy, and growing impact of the National Network of Institutes of Technology (IoTs) in delivering on the UK's Industrial Strategy and supporting Skills England's mission.

The latest Impact Brochure was also launched, showcasing how IoTs are creating real value for learners, employers, and communities - <https://lnkd.in/eCzWdGYC> or https://www.institutesoftechnology.org.uk/assets/_/2025/07/02/6de79c26-7e57-44f6-80e7-42ec2b5b503e/iot-impact-report.pdf?v=1



Technical. Skills. Work.

And thank you to all members of the NEIoT network who were able to attend and the National IoT Network – your support is invaluable.




NORTH EAST INSTITUTES OF TECHNOLOGY



Join us for National Manufacturing Day 2025 at Pragmatic Semiconductor

 **Pragmatic Park, Durham**

 **Thursday, 25 September 2025**

 **10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

Discover the future of UK advanced manufacturing

In support of National Manufacturing Day 2025, Pragmatic Semiconductor is opening its doors to deliver an exciting range of activities and provide a glimpse of what goes on behind the scenes at a pioneering, sustainable technology manufacturer.

Suitable for primary school age children, this interactive event will inspire the next generation of engineers, scientists, and inventors by showing how we bring innovative flexible semiconductor technology to life – right here in the North East!

What's happening on the day?

- **Hands-on STEM activities**
Experiment, build, and problem-solve with our team during engaging, STEM-based challenges.
- **Guided site tours**
Step inside our world-class flexible semiconductor fabrication site and experience deep tech manufacturing in action.
- **Meet our people**
Hear from our team members across engineering, production, R&D, and business support – discover what it's really like to work at Pragmatic.
- **Spotlights on tech and innovation**
Learn about the innovative technologies helping to power the digital world sustainably.

Register your interest

Spaces are limited so secure your place early:

Email: kmurray@pragmaticsemi.com

For more information, visit our website: [Pragmatic Semiconductor | Flexible integrated circuits manufacturer](#)





**DOGGER BANK
WIND FARM**

**Little
Inventors**


South Tyneside Council

DOGGER BANK WIND FARM NEEDS YOUR EXPERTISE

Dogger Bank Wind Farm has teamed up with Little Inventors and South Tyneside Council for a special competition for local young people.

We have challenged students to submit ocean themed inventions for the chance of their ideas being brought to life by an expert maker (as prototypes, models, designs, animations etc.).

We need companies with expertise in manufacturing, fabricating, engineering, digital design and animation to help bring the dreams of these young people to life.

WHY SHOULD YOU HELP?

We are determined to give our local students the curiosity and resilience they need to believe they have the creativity and imagination to make South Tyneside and the world a better place.

We can do that, but only with the help of local businesses like yours. Let's do this. Together.

Email kado@equinor.com for more information.



Scan to
watch a video
about this
programme!





Event Date: 25th September 2025

Event Time: 9:00 am

Event Location: Beacon of Light

[North East Automotive Expo 2025 – North East Automotive Alliance \(NEAA\)](#)



[Advanced manufacturing careers – North East Automotive Alliance \(NEAA\)](#)



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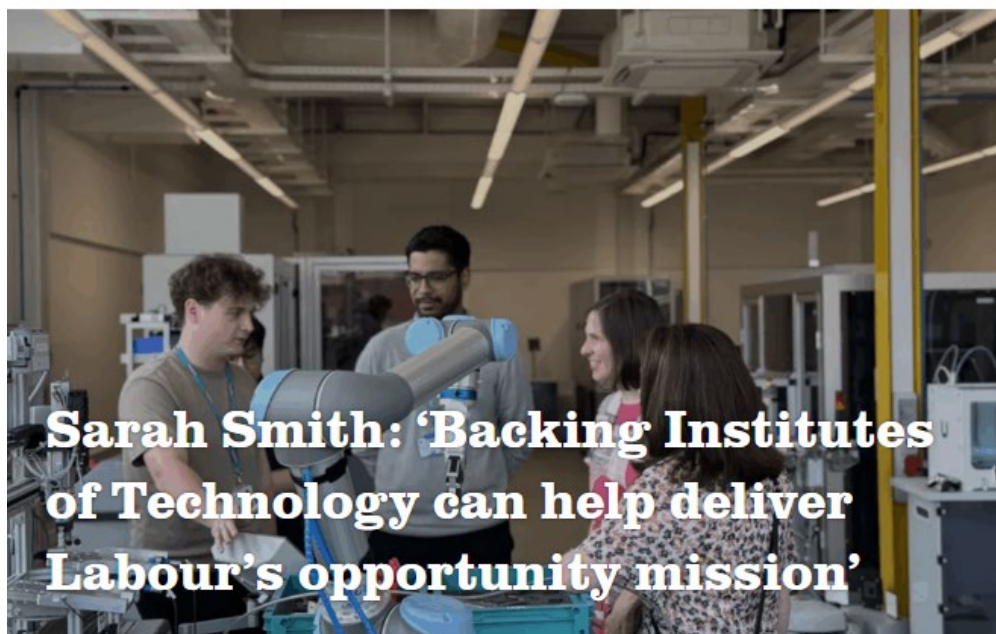
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NORTH EAST
INSTITUTE OF
TECHNOLOGY

MP Comment



By [Sarah Smith](#)
Labour MP for Hyndburn
and opportunity mission
champion



After being appointed as Labour's opportunity mission champion last year, I made it clear my role was to get out and learn from the education institutions that are making a real difference.

It is of course important to know the national numbers on how many students are studying which qualifications and what they progress to. But it is just as important to me to visit education providers and speak to the people there about how they are managing to increase opportunity in their communities as well as support economic growth. As this is a core mission for Institutes of Technology (IoTs), I was delighted to be invited to visit the Greater Birmingham and Solihull IoT hub recently.

An IoT is a strategic collaboration between further education colleges, universities, and employers designed to deliver high-quality technical training in growth sectors. These institutes offer highly-regarded, inclusive education and training designed to equip learners with higher-level skills aligned with local industry needs and national economic priorities. IoTs are spread across England, from Exeter in the Southwest to Durham in the Northeast, providing opportunities for learners to develop careers in areas like advanced manufacturing, clean energy and digital technologies.

I want to champion these institutions, because a coherent place-based approach is important to ensure our young people end up in fulfilling careers whilst boosting economic growth locally. No matter where you are in the country, you deserve good quality, local, technical education, and after that, access to fulfilling careers in the place you grew up. And if you live somewhere with a lot of choice, it should be easy to find the best course for you, not a minefield.

Full article:

[Backing Institutes of Technology can help deliver Labour's opportunity mission](#)

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