

North East Institute of Technology

Newsletter – May 2024



NA College

M.C. Middlesbrough College

**New
College
Durham**

**Newcastle
University**

TyneCoastCollege



**ESH
GROUP**



TECHNICAL ACADEMY HOSTS INTER-COLLEGE PLUMBING COMPETITION

EDC had the honour of recently hosting an inter-college plumbing competition, where young people from our college and others in the region had the opportunity to put their skills to the test.

They were tasked with completing a pipe-board comprising all modern domestic and commercial plumbing pipework materials and jointing techniques.

The event was very well attended, with seven regional colleges attending and nine students competing. The standard of work was high and was independently judged by Jeff Nutter, a City & Guilds Moderator.

A huge well done to all who participated!



NORTH EAST

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DYLAN'S FLYING AT DURHAM UNI

Dylan Milburn, an EDC T Level Digital Support Services student, is thriving as part of his industry placement in the IT department at Durham University. We caught up with Dylan to ask how he was finding his course and his placement, and he said:

"Choosing a T Level course at East Durham College was a game-changer for me. The emphasis on work experience not only allowed me to broaden my skillset but also gave me industry insight into possible career paths. Thanks to the college's support, I secured a placement at Durham University, giving me hands on experience and confidence to apply academic understanding into real-world situations. Initially considering university, the T Level experience has convinced me that a degree apprenticeship is the perfect path for me. I'm excited to continue learning, expanding my knowledge, and earning at the same time."

Studying an NEIoT Course in Business is Moving My Career Ahead



Sharon Muzuwa

Sharon Muzuwa, is studying the BA (Hons) Business Management (Top-up) Level 6 course at the University Centre Middlesbrough, part of the NEIoT portfolio of courses and is really enjoying her studies.

Sharon said "I first started on the Access to HE in Business Studies diploma, before moving onto the Foundation degree and now I'm in my Top-up year. The NEIoT course includes finance and accounting, strategic management, marketing, and managing a team. We learn about theorists and people who have changed the way we work, for example, Henry Ford and how he changed the work week from 48 hours to 40 hours. He was the first person to introduce conveyor belts into factories, which revolutionized the way things are done.

"I first came to Middlesbrough College to do my A Levels, and after completing a business administration apprenticeship, having children and growing up, I decided to come back to start the Access to HE diploma in Business Studies. I wanted to expand on the knowledge I already had in administration and with a Business Management degree, you can go anywhere and work in different industries.

"I have received a lot of support throughout my time at Middlesbrough College. When I had my twins during the Access to HE diploma, my tutors were fully supportive and encouraging, helping me to get my assignments in time. There was a time when I had been looking after four children alone and my husband was returning home after 3 months deployed; my tutors understood I needed to work from home that day to be with my family. They are very understanding of personal lives and don't put so much pressure on you that you struggle with the work.

"I've enjoyed learning about finances and accounting. The course is interesting and has been a challenge, which is why I enjoyed it.

"I'm interested in working in accounting, payroll or an HR-based role. From personal

experience, my husband and I have faced issues with not being paid correctly because the payroll system in place wasn't adequate. It's important for people to be paid on time and at the right rate for their work so they can pay their bills and feed their families. If someone is worrying about not being able to afford essentials, they aren't going to give their job 100%. It's a factor that can be managed by the payroll team, and I would like to be that person who can help people and create a nicer workplace.

"I would definitely recommend studying at the NEIoT HE Centre at Middlesbrough College. Nick Tanner, my Business Management tutor, is very knowledgeable. Even though I still don't know how exactly inflation works, he's happy enough to remind me.

"If anyone is considering applying for a Business Management degree; just do it! Don't worry about what you think might be stopping you – just apply and see how it goes."



Find out more and apply to study in September 2024:

mbro.ac.uk/institute-of-technology



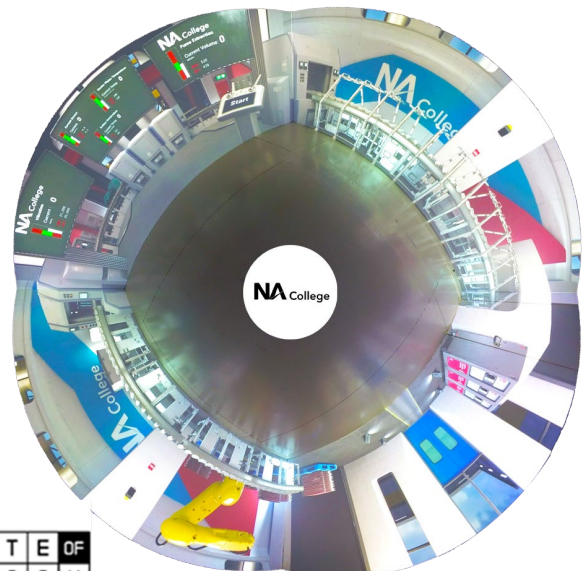
NA College Unveils State-of-the-Art Immersive Training Suite and Curriculum Expansion

NA College proudly introduces its latest addition: the immersive training suite, transcending previous VR limitations to accommodate up to 15 students concurrently. Guided by expert tutors, learners delve into forward-thinking programs like "Vision of Advanced Digital Manufacturing Industry in 5 Years Time," exploring diverse media formats within a panoramic 360-degree field.



Our "Predictive Maintenance" module combines instructional videos with a simulated 3D scenario, fostering collaborative learning and critical observational skills. Looking forward, NA College plans to expand its immersive curriculum by migrating existing VR content and developing new programs like supply chain accident investigation.

With a dedicated team driving innovation, including T-level students, we are committed to enriching immersive learning experiences. This marks NA College's transformative journey towards enhanced student engagement and interactive learning. Anticipate an invigorating year ahead, filled with collaborative discovery and educational excellence.





Future Talent Pipeline

New College Durham proudly participated in the SNG HIP Female Skills Competition, showcasing their commitment to nurturing talent within the plumbing and heating industry. Megan Emerson represented the college at the regional level, securing a commendable runner up position, earning her ticket to the national finals hosted at Stephenson College in Leicester. The competition is aimed at identifying promising talent among female learners in plumbing and heating, spanning various age groups and college affiliations. Megan's enthusiastic endorsement of the event underscores its value in encouraging participation in skills competitions.

The grand finale at Stephenson College witnessed six exceptional finalists vying for the title of HIP Female Skills 2024 Winner, reflecting the high calibre of talent on display. The event garnered praise from industry leaders like Zoë Tanner of HIP and Chris Penney of Grohe, who emphasised the importance of promoting gender diversity within the plumbing industry. New College Durham extends heartfelt gratitude to all participants, sponsors, supporters, and contributors for their invaluable support in making the competition a resounding success.

Constructive Conversations: Industry Insights at New College Durham

New College Durham facilitated an enriching series of industry talks featuring guest speakers from a range of prominent companies. Learners across various construction programs benefitted immensely from these sessions, gaining valuable insights into the rapidly evolving industry landscape.

These talks, tailored to different levels and age groups, served to keep our training curriculum aligned with current industry trends and future transitions.

Notable speakers included Bellway discussing Sustainability during National Careers Week, EDF Energy shedding light on Hinkley Point C, Turner & Townsend focusing on Sustainability, Corehaus exploring Modular & Prefab Construction, and a diverse range of topics covered by Esh's fantastic Digital Ambassador Programme, featuring Turner & Townsend discussing Cost X software, Esh on LinkedIn, Revit & AutoCAD, Arup on Civils Modelling, BIM Academy, and Believe Housing on GIS. These sessions not only motivated learners but also provided invaluable insights into potential career paths and progression routes within the construction industry.



Shell Shock: New College Durham's Mussel Club Networking Triumph



New College Durham recently played host to a Mussel Club networking event at our main campus, providing an invaluable platform for staff members to engage with local and regional businesses. This gathering not only facilitated the expansion of individual networks but also offered a firsthand understanding of current industry dynamics and transitions. The insights gained from these interactions are instrumental in ensuring that our curriculum remains adaptive and responsive to the evolving needs of industry.



The Digital and Creative Department, recognising the significance of this event, made concerted efforts to maximise their participation. They seized the opportunity to troubleshoot issues pertaining to ongoing industry changes, leveraging the expertise of industry leaders to refine their curriculum development and implementation strategies. This proactive engagement underscores our commitment to staying abreast of industry trends and aligning our educational offerings accordingly.

ENGAGING WITH EMPLOYERS

Earlier this year, we hosted very successful engineering and construction advisory groups.

As part of the visit, a range of employers toured our industry-standard facilities, engaged with dedicated teaching staff, and shared invaluable insights on aligning our curriculum with industry needs. Together, we're helping to shape the future of skilled professionals.

We're looking for keen employers to get involved in our next advisory group.

Please get in touch with our Head of Departments for more information.

Construction – Daniel Raw – Daniel.raw@tynecoast.ac.uk

Engineering – Neil Bowen – neil.bowen@tynecoast.ac.uk



BRICKLAYING STUDENTS TRIUMPH IN WORLDSKILLS COMPETITION

In a remarkable showcase of talent and determination, two bricklaying students from TyneMet College have secured top prizes in a prestigious WorldSkills competition. Despite facing intense challenges, the students demonstrated exceptional skill and craftsmanship, securing 1st and 2nd place out of 21 colleges participating.

Level 2 Bricklaying student, Kenzie Gordon and Level 1 student, Steve Wiseman both travelled down to Hartlepool College on Wednesday 13th March to compete in the renowned competition. As part of the competition, students were tasked with creating intricate test models featuring decorative features similar to those in their diploma end-point assessments, but with added complexity.



The victory not only showcases the students' remarkable skills but also serves as a testament to their resilience and adaptability. Despite the intense demands of the competition, they remained focused and determined, delivering exceptional results with Steven scooping 1st place and Kenzie, coming in a close 2nd.

The triumph will have an incredible impact on the Kenzie and Steven's future careers, as their remarkable achievement will undoubtedly enhance their CVs and support their career prospects following completion of their courses. As well as this, it also showcases the value of hands-on training and practical experience in preparing students for real-world challenges in their chosen fields.



The most recent NEIoT Research Advisory Board chaired by Katie Wray was hosted in Newcastle University's most impressive Stephenson Building. Professor Rene Koglbauer, Dean of Lifelong Learning and Professional Practice, provided many ideas for further reflection and future development for the NEIoT collaboration with his presentation 'All things Lifelong Learning: Maximising Collaboration towards Communities of Practice.'



Inspire

BEng Product Design and Development Engineer

Degree Apprenticeship

Develop the skills and expertise needed to drive critical engineering innovation in electrification and advanced manufacturing in your organisation

Higher and Degree Apprenticeships

go.ncl.ac.uk/productdesign

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Members of the North East Institute of Technology were delighted to attend the NEAA Annual Awards event on 28th March 2024 at Ramside Hall Hotel, Durham. What a great event and the NEIoT were proud to present the SME of the Year award to CMYK Business Technology. The award was presented by Andy Broadbent, Principal and CEO of New College Durham, license holder for NEIoT. Congratulations to CMYK Business Technology and all the deserving winners!



CMYK Business Technology:

‘Thank you NEIoT for sponsoring the SME of the Year category, we are delighted to have been named winners. Most importantly thank you for giving us the opportunity to donate much needed funds to support Wardley and Bill Quay Primary Schools’ upcoming trip to Dallas for the Vex World Robotics Championships.’

Daniel Burfield, Computing & Digital Lead, Wardley Primary School, Gateshead:

‘Thank you for sponsoring the category North East Institute of Technology (NEIoT). We are grateful to be one of the schools CMYK Business Technology donated to. We will make sure we keep you all up to date with the next phase of our STEM adventure.’



Pilot Aims to Attract Top Talent to Apprenticeship Roles.



We all want to attract the very best talent to join our organisations but how do we make sure we're getting our job vacancies in front of the right talent and at the right time?

One solution currently being tested is Early Connect, a pilot run by the Department of Education and the University and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) who have teamed up to help employers reach a wider pool of talent in the North East.

Early Connect has been designed to improve visibility of apprenticeships, promoting them as a real alternative for more career focused students through improving information, access and support to apprenticeships across the Year 13 student cohort. Our region is one of three involved in the pilot.

Working with DfE and UCAS, Early Connect aims to get regional apprenticeship vacancies in front of Year 13 students who are thinking about their next steps after sixth form or college. If they express an interest in an apprenticeship when they create their UCAS account or complete a Get An Apprenticeship Advisor request via their school/college, they will have access to all North East apprenticeship vacancies

Kim Smith, Regional Lead (Technical Education & Enterprise), at the North East Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), which is championing the pilot in our region, said:

"This Pilot is specifically aimed at Year 13 students to show them that apprenticeships are a real alternative for those more career focused young people and just 6 months in we are seeing demand outstripping supply of apprenticeships. All of the schools with sixth forms and General Further Education Colleges have signed up and are driving students to the Find an Apprenticeship website.

There has been a 180% increase in students nationally, expressing an interest in apprenticeships, that's 430,000 students since 2021, and in the North East we are already seeing over 40% more young people registered on the Find An Apprenticeship Vacancy website since pre Covid. However, supply is not keeping up with demand.

Recent UCAS research highlights that young people in the North East are more likely to report there being no apprenticeships near them than any other region. 77% of students in the North East who previously applied or have an active application cited lack of availability of Level 4 and above apprenticeships, compared to the South West and East Midlands (68%). Of those currently applying, just under 30% will consider moving out of region to secure an apprenticeship. This is a real concern given our region's demographics in terms of ageing population and businesses citing talent acquisition and higher level skill shortages as key challenges."

What can a business do to make sure their vacancy gets seen by the right potential applicants at the right time?

The number one thing you can do as a business is advertise your vacancy on the [Recruit an Apprentice website - Guide for Employers - North East Ambition](#) website. As part of the pilot, **all** vacancies (Level 2 – 7) on the Recruit An Apprenticeship are being live streamed to the UCAS Apprenticeship Hub, thus increasing the visibility of your vacancy, getting you in front of a new and wider audience.

Additionally, recent research into apprenticeship recruitment found that to attract the top talent to your apprenticeship opportunities, the key is to **advertise your vacancy early**. That's because young people in sixth form or college, are making decisions about their future from Autumn through to late winter before their attention turns to revision. For example, for apprenticeship starts from July 25 onwards, vacancies should be advertised between September 2024 and no later than February 2025.

As part of the Early Connect Pilot we have secured funding to support businesses of any size with their apprenticeship journey.

Please contact jordanstephenson@edt.org on the local employer factsheet.



Find out more about Early Connect on [the UCAS website](#)

A quick guide to Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs)



What are HTQs?

Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs) are a great way to get the skills employers want - a route to well-paid, secure and sustainable jobs.

We know that employers are crying out for more people qualified in these skills to grow their businesses and the economy. HTQs are at the forefront of our drive to have more people qualified at higher technical levels – great jobs such as Nursing Associate, Sports Coach or Network Engineer.

HTQs give employers a voice at the heart of the skills system – developing the standards that qualifications are assessed against. With employers telling us what skills they need and what 'quality' means, students can have confidence that taking an HTQ will be an investment in themselves, and in the future.

Once approved, the HTQ can display the HTQ Quality Mark, meaning that it delivers the skills employers need. Look out for this logo to find an approved HTQ.



What are the benefits of HTQs?

HTQs give you confidence that you are getting the skills that employers want. They offer a great deal of flexibility for a variety of learners, including the possibility to study full or part time. They are a great way to continue your studies and get a good job, or to retrain or progress in your current career.

When can you start an HTQ?

You have to be at least 18 to undertake an HTQ and they can be taken after a level 3 qualification, such as A-levels, T Levels, BTECs or some advanced apprenticeships.



What HTQs are available?



September 2022	Digital
September 2023	Construction, Design & Build Health & Science
September 2024	Business & Administration Education & Early Years Engineering & Manufacturing Legal, Financial & Accounting
September 2025	Agriculture, Environment & Animal Care Catering & Hospitality Creative & Design Protective Services Sales, Marketing & Procurement

Do you have to pay tuition fees for HTQs?

If an HTQ is undertaken as a standalone qualification, tuition fees will apply, which will vary depending on the course. They're likely to cost from around £7,000 to £9,250 a year for a one-year or two-year course.

Are student finance options available?

HTQs attract the same [student finance](#) as degree study. This means eligible students can access tuition fee and maintenance loans on a part time and full time basis.

How do you apply for an HTQ?

There are two ways to apply for an HTQ.

- Use the [UCAS website](#) to search and apply for HTQ courses
- Apply directly to the training provider

Applications should be made in the autumn term observing the January deadline to have the best chance of securing your first choice for the following September.

You may also be able to find available HTQs during Clearing.

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North East Institute of Technology (NEIoT)

The North East Institute of Technology (NEIoT) is a leading provider of high quality, higher level technical education and training across a range of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) subjects.

The Institute provides students with an excellent education and can supply employers with the skilled workforce they need.

Whatever the objective for your career or your workforce, NEIoT is here to support you.



Partners

The NEIoT is a partnership of further education colleges, universities and businesses committed to supporting higher technical skills development in the North East.

Lead educational partner
New College Durham

Employer partners
Nissan
Esh Group

Research partner
Newcastle University

Partner colleges

East Durham College
NA College Trust
Middlesbrough College
Tyne Coast College



Middlesbrough College

NA College



New College Durham

Tyne Coast College



Facilities

The IoT has a wide range of state-of-the-art facilities across the North East. We have invested in all our partner college campuses creating purpose built training centres and dedicated learning environments equipped with cutting edge technologies in engineering, built environment, advanced manufacturing, motor vehicle and digital sectors. You can choose to study a programme at your local NEIoT campus for the most convenient location for you.



NEIoT for employees

Whether you are starting out in your career or taking a new direction, the Institute has a course to help you achieve your goals. Choose from a range of full or part-time courses or explore our apprenticeships and higher apprenticeships.

All courses are developed and designed with respected industry partners to ensure you get the skills and knowledge that employers need.

Key benefits

Learn the specialist skills needed by employers in the North East.

Get high-quality training from lecturers with extensive industry experience.

Access state-of-the-art equipment and facilities.

Meet and work with employers.

Gain better career prospects and earning potential.

NEIoT for employers

The Institute supports employers to get the skills and talent they need to thrive. We will work with you to fill your skills gaps, attract your next generation of talent, diversify your workforce and make a difference to the local community.

Key benefits

Courses aimed at meeting the needs of employers by developing specialist skills required in industry.

Bespoke training programmes designed to upskill a workforce.

Degree and higher apprenticeship programmes.

Highly competent students to work on short-term, real-life projects set by you.

The chance to network with local, like-minded employers.

Discover how the NEIoT can take your business or career to the next level.

Contact us at neiot.co.uk/contact-us

For a full list of courses available at NEIoT visit neiot.ac.uk and check out the subjects on offer.

Sharon Grant
Director of NEIoT

0191 375 4050
sharon.grant@newdur.ac.uk

Maxine Lee
Administrator
(Principalship & Corporate Services)

0191 375 4336
maxine.lee@newdur.ac.uk

