

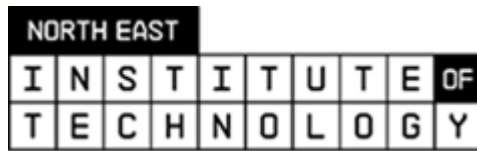


North East Institute of Technology

Newsletter

November 2025





North East Institute of Technology gains significant strength with three major college additions

The North East Institute of Technology has officially welcomed **Bishop Auckland College**, **Derwentside College**, and **Hartlepool College of Further Education** to its growing partnership 🌟

This strengthened alliance marks a major step forward for higher technical skills in our region, bringing enhanced training opportunities, greater employer collaboration and even more cutting-edge facilities for learners across the North East.

Discover how these new partnerships will expand specialist provision, support industry growth and open new pathways into high-value careers below.

 <https://lnkd.in/eQ4GSjnf>

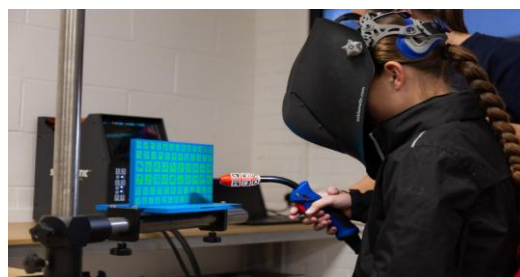


Apprentices Lead Interactive STEM Workshop for Local Schools

Apprentices took the lead in delivering a hands-on STEM activities day involving more than 60 students from three South West Durham secondary schools. Organised by the North East STEM Foundation (NESF) in partnership with South West Durham Training (SWDT), part of the Bishop Auckland College Group, it brought together apprentices from GSK, Cummins, Solartron ISA, Aureos.

Supported by their SWDT lecturers, they not only led the activities but spent time speaking with the Year 9-11 students. The approach was designed to help build their confidence, leadership and communication skills, while giving the students a chance to hear directly from young people already progressing in engineering, science and technical fields. Hosted at SWDT's training centre at Aycliffe Business Park, the workshops covered pneumatics and hydraulics, virtual reality welding, CAD, risk assessment, plumbing buoyancy challenges and wind turbine design.

Harry Munsey, 18, an apprentice at GSK, worked with Cummins apprentice Matthew Miller, 19, and SWDT mechanical engineering lecturer Keith Shepherd to deliver the pneumatics and hydraulics workshop, where students were asked to interpret engineering diagrams and assemble five circuit systems. Harry said: "It's been a brilliant experience as an apprentice. We use pneumatics in our own training but explaining it to others has helped strengthen my own understanding. The students were really engaged and picked up the concepts quickly."



Olivia Lewis, 13, from Whitworth Park Academy, added: "I've always been interested in STEM, but this has given me a wider outlook on future careers. Seeing the apprentices helps you picture what's possible."

NESF runs STEM days for several hundred primary and secondary school pupils across the North East every year. Its Chair, Tania Cooper MBE, said: "This is exactly the kind of real-world engagement we aim to drive, helping young people explore career pathways, develop practical skills and feel inspired by relatable role models. The apprentices did an outstanding job, and their enthusiasm is a great reminder of why STEM education matters."

Jonathan Hall, Executive Director of SWDT, said: "We are incredibly proud of how our apprentices stepped up to lead this event. Giving them the opportunity to teach and mentor not only builds their confidence, leadership and communication skills, but also allows the visiting students to see first-hand what a successful career in STEM looks like."

"Events like this, in partnership with the North East STEM Foundation, are vital for inspiring the engineers and technical experts of the future."

Engineering & Manufacturing

Launching Engineering Futures: Derwentside College unveils Level 4 Apprenticeship

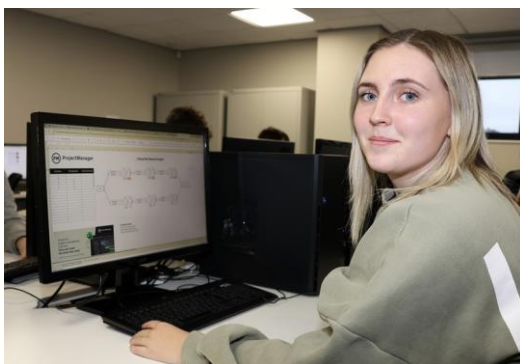
In September 2025 Derwentside College successfully launched our Level 4 Engineering Manufacturing Technician Standard, incorporating a highly respected HNC qualification. This apprenticeship standard creates a clear progression route for learners, enabling them to advance from Level 3 into higher technical education while gaining industry-recognised skills.

This development is a positive step forward for the college who offer apprenticeships at Level 2 and Level 3, working with employers across the region. The Level 4 apprenticeship delivers higher-level engineering expertise to meet the needs of local employers and strengthen the advanced manufacturing sector. By combining academic learning with hands-on experience, the programme equips learners with the technical knowledge and professional competencies essential for modern industry.

One of our HNC learners, Alix, shared:

“The HNC has been especially valuable, as it gives me practical work experience that I can apply directly to real-world scenarios. It also opens the door to more advanced roles in engineering, and the skills and knowledge I’m gaining are exactly what employers are looking for.”

Learners benefit from access to state-of-the-art workshops equipped with modern engineering technologies, ensuring training reflects the latest industry standards. Early feedback from our first cohort has been overwhelmingly positive, with apprentices praising the opportunity to develop advanced skills in a real-world environment.



EDC STUDENT GOES FULL CIRCLE!

Peter Earl has truly come full circle in his career journey. Beginning at EDC as a T Level student, he has now joined our highly experienced Engineering team as an apprentice lecturer.

Recently, Peter visited the Science Museum in London to attend the All-Party Parliamentary Group session on T Levels. As a former T Level student himself, he proudly represented EDC - sharing his experiences and insights, while highlighting the positive impact T Levels can have on teachers, learners, and addressing skills shortages. We're thrilled to have Peter on board. He's already making significant progress in his career here at EDC, and we look forward to seeing his continued growth and success.



PHASE 2 OF DEVELOPING FUTURES

It's Phase 2 of Developing Futures here at EDC - and the second year welcomes a brand-new cohort of students along with an expanded programme of learning and enrichment, delivered in partnership with Robertson Homes. Building on the success of Year 1, this year's programme offers even more opportunities, including enhanced work experience, specialist masterclasses, interview preparation, and, of course, the potential for apprenticeships and employment at the end of the journey.

We are also currently in discussions with an additional housing provider to join the collaboration — strengthening our commitment to the sector and creating even more opportunities for our students to flourish and thrive. Supporting learners to carve out meaningful careers in high-demand industries remains a core priority for us as a college.

Stay tuned for the next chapter of Developing Futures.





FUTURE FEMALE LEADERS: EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION IN CONSTRUCTION

Hartlepool College hosted the relaunch of the Future Female Leaders programme this year, bringing together female Construction students from Level 1 through Level 4 with industry mentors to build confidence, skills, and professional networks.

Originally developed in collaboration with NAWIC (National Association of Women in Construction), this year's programme kicked off with an energising opening session led by Angela Carney (Carney Consultancy Ltd) and supported by Caitlin Towers and Nichola Harrington, lecturers at Hartlepool College. Students tackled hands-on challenges including paper bridge engineering tests while connecting with women actively shaping the future of the construction industry. The 12-week programme runs through to February 2026 and includes employer site visits, professional networking sessions, skills workshops, collaborative projects, and a celebration event with employer representatives.

"From steel beams to big dreams — night one of our Future Is Female event was great. Surrounded by likeminded professionals who are shaping the future of construction. Each year, this event grows in scale, and we're proud to be part of its upward trend." – Caitlin Towers, Lecturer - School of Construction and Built Environment.



T LEVEL SUCCESS: FROM PLACEMENT TO PERMANENT ROLE

Hartlepool College alumnus Ben Irvine's journey demonstrates the power of T-Level industry placements in action. After completing his two-year Engineering and Manufacturing T-Level this summer, Ben secured a maintenance engineering apprenticeship with Liberty Steel – a direct result of the impression he made during his 45-day placement.

Working as a trainee mechanical engineer at Liberty Steel's Hartlepool facility, Ben quickly proved his potential. Robin Todd, Mechanical Maintenance Engineering Manager, noted: *"Ben has shown great promise. The T-Levels proved to be an excellent preparation for the workplace, providing him with the solid engineering foundation needed to integrate smoothly and start contributing immediately."* Ben's progression pathway continues, with the option to advance to an employer-supported HNC following his apprenticeship – showcasing how T Levels create tangible routes into high-skilled technical careers.

Read the full story: <https://www.hartlepoolfe.ac.uk/whats-happening/news/liberty-steel-success-story-highlights-t-level-value>



Scenario Event Returns for TLevel Week 2025



A simulated car crash with multiple casualties, a norovirus outbreak, and a newborn requiring CPR; TLevel Week returned to Middlesbrough College as students tackled lifelike scenarios designed to test their skills.

Over 300 TLevel students showcased their skills with a series of hands-on challenges, designed to highlight real world situations they are likely to face in their future careers.

Both first and second year students participated in the event, which welcomed local employers alongside representatives from the Department for Education and the Association of Colleges. Guests toured the facilities and observed students demonstrating their skills in real-time.

The event began with a warm welcome from Jess Barwell, Assistant Principal for Health, Care and Business,

and Lucy Jones, Head of Teaching and Learning for Health, Childcare and Business. Guests then heard from two TLevel Accounting students, who shared their experiences at college and spoke confidently about their aspirations for the future.

The college tour offered a dynamic glimpse into student life across a range of disciplines. Plumbing students demonstrated their technical skills by designing and installing central heating systems, while first-year Engineering students showcased their understanding of electrical principles by constructing lighting circuits. Meanwhile, Business students engaged with a live industry brief presented by Net Zero Teesside, applying their learning to real-world challenges.

Students enrolled in the TLevel Education and Early Years programme presented their detailed plans for

a school trip, walking employers through each step they would take to ensure the experience was both safe and enriching for primary-aged children.

In the cutting-edge Health Ward, students responded to a simulated major incident; a bus crash involving multiple casualties. Within the immersive suite, some students administered CPR to advanced training manikins, while others performed emergency resuscitation procedures. In the ward area, students treated patients with a variety of conditions, requiring quick thinking and accurate clinical decision-making. The clinical suite challenged students with a norovirus outbreak scenario, and in the maternity suite, they delivered CPR to a newborn manikin while providing emotional and physical support to the mother.

Middlesbrough College is one of the biggest providers of T Levels in the North East, providing courses across various industries.

Find out more and apply to study in September 2025



Construction Festival

Our department recently hosted the Construction and Automotive Festival, designed to give students an exciting opportunity to engage directly with industry leaders. The event featured live demonstrations, career talks, and interactive displays, providing invaluable insights into the latest tools, technologies, and career opportunities in construction and automotive sectors.

Top companies like DeWALT, JT Dove, Arctic Hayes, Crossling, Brewer & Sons, Megger, CEF Electrical, Faithful Tools/Toolbank and Harris Brick Safety Systems showcased innovative products and safety systems, giving students a chance to explore the tools and techniques used in the field. Meanwhile, Nissan, SG Petch, and other industry leaders highlighted career paths in automotive engineering and roadside assistance.

The festival gave our students a fantastic chance to connect with employers, gain practical knowledge, and explore career opportunities, all aimed at supporting their future in these dynamic industries.



Manufacturing Leaders Summit

Manufacturing Leaders Summit - 30th April 2026

We are proud to be partnering with Theo James Recruitment Ltd to host the Manufacturing Leaders Summit at New College Durham on April 30th, 2026.

Mark Bracknall and the teams at both Theo James Recruitment Ltd and NCD are pouring so much thought and effort into creating what promises to be an amazing day.

The mission is simple: to promote and celebrate manufacturing and leadership through engaging panels, speakers, and workshops. Featuring industry-leading professionals from the manufacturing community.

And the best part? We'll be doing it all whilst raising money for the incredible Red Sky Foundation ❤️



Future Welders in Action



Recently, our Level 2 and Level 3 Fabrication & Welding students took part in a high-impact training day delivered by Graham Machinery Sales (GMS) and Messer. Students had the opportunity to develop advanced gas welding techniques while working directly with industry-leading equipment.

This hands-on experience not only strengthened their technical skills but also gave them valuable insight into current industry standards-helping prepare the next generation of skilled welders for the workplace.



Engineering Students Explore Innovation at MENE

Our engineering students recently attended the Manufacturing and Engineering North East (MENE) event, where they had the opportunity to engage directly with over 100 exhibitors showcasing the latest technologies, innovations, and solutions shaping the sector.

The event provided students with valuable industry insights, real-world context, and exposure to emerging trends as they prepare for their future careers in engineering. Experiences like MENE help ensure our learners develop the awareness and industry understanding needed to thrive in the modern engineering workplace.



NEIoT AME Deep Dive

The NEIoT partners are inviting employers from across the North East's advanced manufacturing and engineering sectors to join a short NEIoT deep dive to help us understand why participation in Level 4 and 5 technical training remains far below national ambitions set out in the post-16 white paper.

To design effective solutions, we need to hear directly from the employers who depend on these skills.

We are asking for your insights.

Your input will help us understand:

- The barriers preventing progression into Level 4/5 programmes.
- Whether current qualifications match the skills and technologies you need.
- How recruitment pressures, ageing workforces, and digitalisation shape your needs.
- What would help employers more easily upskill staff or attract new talent.

Together, we want to answer one key question:

What can industry and education do differently to close the higher technical skills gap in the North East—and is the gap the same here as it is nationally?

Your feedback will influence:

- How regional providers shape and deliver curriculum.
- New employer-led pathways from Level 3 to 4/5.
- Stronger collaboration between industry and education.
- A more resilient, work-ready talent pipeline for the region.

We value your expertise and honest perspectives.

Your input will directly contribute to strengthening the North East's productivity, innovation, and green energy transition. If you're willing to get involved, please scan the QR code below or access the Microsoft Form using the link provided.

Just 5–10 minutes of your time will help us make a significant difference for the region.



<https://forms.office.com/e/ZZ31MGQ2kr>



TRANSFORMING LIVES

Skills Bootcamp in Groundworks: Meet the Employers

Join us for a friendly, informal
session to learn more



Wednesday 14th January 2026



1:00 PM – 3:00 PM



Hartlepool College of Further Education

Hartlepool College
of Further Education



TRANSFORMING LIVES

Skills Bootcamp: Support available

No
experience
needed

Guaranteed
job

Support with
costs

Suitable
for 19+

Open to
anyone who is
unemployed

PPE
provided

Hartlepool College
of Further Education



Contact employerservices@hartlepoolfe.ac.uk or
call 01429 857199

**TEES
VALLEY**

ceca

NORTH EAST
INSTITUTE OF
TECHNOLOGY

**SKILLS
FOR LIFE
SKILLS
BOOTCAMPS**



EngineeringUK
INSPIRING FUTURES TOGETHER

The engineering and technology industry is fundamental in providing solutions to climate change and achieving net zero. Up to 725,000 new jobs are needed to support the UK's transition to net zero across a wide range of sectors.

And with 64% of young people interested in climate change issues, there's never been a better time to get involved.

Download our infographic to learn what skills are needed:
<https://lnkd.in/eQ8Anxmf>



The Gift of Education at Christmas

Would your company like to give a gift of education to kids in the Ukraine or Zimbabwe this Christmas? Classroom in a Box provides a Solar Panel, Keyboard & Mouse, Battery, teaching software and Projector Screen for teachers to support Off-grid education for those children struggling to get to mainstream education.

To sponsor a Classroom-in-a-Box™ contact
chris@globalteacher.co

Off-Grid Education Aid - Global Teacher



**Engineering &
Manufacturing
Network**

Semiconductor Skills in Schools Engineering the Future Careers Forum

📅 09:30–12:45 | 9 December 2025
📍 CPI, NETPark, Sedgefield, County Durham TS21 3FD
🎓 For students in years 10–13, studying Physics, Computer Science or interested in a career in engineering
👥 14 students plus 1 adult per school

- Hear fascinating talks from local employers in the Semiconductor sector, including Tridonic, Nascent, and NEAME
- Participate in hands-on activities to help you to develop skills for STEM careers, including VR headset activities, robotic car navigation, and Electrobuzzing dexterity challenge



[Register here](#)

ukesf.org/semiconductor-skills

TRIDONIC



NORTH EAST
INSTITUTE OF
TECHNOLOGY



Pupils will learn about a rewarding career in the Semiconductor industry

Learning outcomes

Pupils will...

- Understand more about the importance of the UK Electronics Industry
- Gain insight into companies in the North East that are driving innovation globally
- Learn about rewarding careers in Electronics, including the variety of roles, the day-to-day responsibilities, and salary expectations
- Gain skills required for STEM careers through hands on activities that encourage critical thinking, creativity and teamwork
- Become familiar with pathways into the Semiconductor sector
- Be equipped with opportunities to further their Electronics and Semiconductor knowledge beyond the careers forum

Useful Information:

- School transport costs will be reimbursed, please let us know before booking. Email info@ukesf.org for details
- Refreshments will be provided, please confirm dietary requirements to info@ukesf.org at least 7 days in advance

[Register here](#)



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